

1 Introduction

Purpose

This study highlights the most important stages in the history of Western and Chinese cartography of the Kazakh (Qazaq) Khanate. Its purpose is to reassess the European, Russian and Chinese maps from the 16th to 19th centuries showing the Kazakh Khanate, by using archival and historical, etymological, comparative, and linguistic methods to examine the geographical representations of Central Asia produced by Western and Chinese geographers. Specifically, this project examines the place names of Central Asia (including Western Siberia) and the Kazakh Steppe in Qing maps, in imperial gazetteers, and in maps produced in Europe and Russia.

Historical maps provide rich knowledge resources that graphically encode information about the state of some part of the real world at a given point in time. Different place names associated a region with different phases of its history and with the different languages spoken there during those phases. Toponymic information is very important for determining changes of regional objects in different phases of history. Toponyms thus represent enduring linguistic facts that are of great historical and political importance. Aiming to assimilate the toponyms of the newly conquered territories, Russian traders and soldiers who settled in different parts of Kazakhstan at the beginning of the 16th century, and later the Russian authorities, changed previously Turkic place names in various ways. During their advancing west, the Jungars (also written Dzhungar, Zhunghar or Zunghar) encountered various groups in Central Asia: Altishahar (Tarim Basin), Kazakhs, Buruts, Khoqandis, Badakhshanis, and others. Many of the local place names in official use since Jungar times have been changed to new toponyms. Most of the early Qing maps were created for military and administrative purposes. They have been preserved in local archives, regional libraries, the National Central Library and the First Historical Archives of China. To date, many of these are unpublished. By focusing on maps and texts relatively unknown to scholars who are not specialized in the history of cartography, this research will make a material and theoretical contribution to Central Asian studies, historical geography, and the study of colonialism. Historians can use toponym research to uncover historical movements of peoples or to get an indication of cultural exchange patterns in forgotten times.

Cartographical knowledge of Central Asia was still very limited on European maps of the late 16th and early 17th century. Maps such as Anthony Jenkinson's manuscript from 1562 entitled *Nova Absolutaque Russiae, Moscoviae, et Tartariae descriptio* (New and complete Description of Russia, Muscovy, and the Tartary), which provided the basis für Ortelius' map "Russiae, Moscoviae et Tartariae descriptio" (Description of Russia, Moscow and the Tatars), first published in his famous atlas *Theatrum orbis terrarum* (Theatre of the Whole World) in 1570 [Fig. 25], provided a first overview of this region. World maps of the same period, such as the *Kunyu wanguo quantu*, published in Chinese in 1602 by the Italian Jesuit missionary Matteo Ricci's, provide at least a rough picture of Inner Asia.

Apart from using cartographic material, this study will also be based on records of Central Asia in European historico-geographical literature, as e.g. the *Dictionnaire géographique universel* (Universal Geographical Dictionary, published 1701) by the French historian and geographer Michel Antoine Baudrand (1633–1700), which contains rich geographical and historical information about Central Asia during the 17th century.

After the Qing-Jungar war, the Qing sought to expand their empire into Tibet and Jungaria, thereby taking advantage of international changes in Central Asia. The geographical ambitions of the Qing dynasty (1644–1911) in Central Asia led to the redrawing of the frontier boundaries

between Russia and the Qing as well as to the crushing of the vassal state of the Jungar Khanate in 1760 by the Qing armies. The Qing produced important new maps of unprecedented scale and accuracy as political and ideological weapons in their struggle for control of Central Asia. The most important of these are the *Kangxi-Atlas* (also known as the “Jesuit Atlas of China”), the *Yongzheng-Atlas* (1728) and the *Qianlong-Atlas* (1766).

Besides the revision and expansion of its large-format maps, the Qing court commissioned the *Huangyu xiyu tuzhi* (finally published 1782) and also other geographic projects, comprising the *Xichui zongtong shilue* (or *Yili zongtong*) on the Yili region, the *Xiyu shuidao ji* on the river system of the “Western Regions” and the *Xiyu tongwen zhi*, an hexaglot glossary of languages used in the Central Asian parts of the Chinese Empire.

The earliest surviving mentions of Kazakh tribes in European cartography are on maps made by the German orientalist Julius Klaproth (1783–1835), who worked at the turn of the 19th century and was the author of more than forty maps.⁴ Klaproth used Chinese maps, especially those in the Qianlong edition of the *Da-Qing yitong zhi* (1784). Thus, in his work he combined cartography, ethnography, and history.

In order to provide a thorough, multi-source study of the policies and history of the Central Asian Khanate, this study also draws on primary sources from Turkish archives⁵ as well as on some 16th-century-chronicles.⁶

Significance

The scientific novelty of my research is defined by being the first attempt of conducting a complex, systematized historical and linguistic study of Western and Chinese maps. More specifically, the whole corpus of toponymic units of Chinese maps was distinguished for the first time, and the main criteria and classifications were established. On the basis of research of the historical and cultural material a historical and semantic interpretation of toponyms of different classes and groups was carried out. The following factors may be adduced as relevant in this respect:

Firstly, it has always been assumed that geographical names (toponyms), especially with a historical background, are of great importance for the history and culture of every nation. Geographical historical names have a documental character that can help to illuminate some historical events in the history of nations.

Secondly, and no less importantly, the place names of Chinese maps contain material assembled between the 17th and 19th century by Jesuit scholars and travellers whose works are now either lost or have survived only in fragments.

Thirdly, maps can be an important primary source of information for historic investigations. Toponyms such as the names of mountains, rivers, seas, deserts and plains, villages, towns, cities, and also historical sites and places contain ancient historical and cultural information, some of which has not been found in written and oral historical resources.

The theoretical importance of the research is given through the fact that the study of map toponymics is of paramount importance for dealing with problems relating to the etymology of

4 “Carte de l’Asie centrale” (1836). Using Klaproth’s transcription of the map, I have eliminated the peculiarities of French spelling.

5 Genç et al. 2000.

6 The Mühimme Defterleri fond (tasnif) in the Ottoman Archives of the Prime Minister’s Office (Başbakanlık Osmanlı Arşivleri, hereafter BOA) contains 263 *defters* (tax registers and cadastres) covering a period of about 350 years between 1544 and 1905.

place names, a comparative-historical terminology of the Chinese-Arabic-Persian-Turkic languages and sinological studies in general. This research is important for distinguishing various problems of Chinese-Central Asia relations and reveals the history of Silk Road trade. It can provide a basis for conducting similar researches on the material of other written monuments and promote further in-depth description of the features of lexical semantics of toponymics.

Third, the practical importance of this in-depth study is that the materials adduced here and the conclusions drawn from them will be useful for the compilation of dictionaries of Chinese-English toponyms and of textbooks, as well as for the further development of disciplines in higher education institutions. Many Chinese researchers and scholars, as well as Sinologists from various countries, are actively studying these issues. Due to the existence of several geographical historical names of Eurasia, the mentioned activities will require more costs and time, but compiling an encyclopedia of geographical and historical names will be a very important step and will be useful for geographical websites.

Besides, it may be hoped that the results of my study can attribute to a less biased and more balanced picture of the history of the Kazakhs than what was achieved in earlier studies.