
RESEARCH ARTICLE

The Civility of Mandigak is the Heritage of the Ancestors

Hafizullah Rasuly

Professor, History Department, Faculty of Social Sciences, Jawzjan University, Afghanistan

Corresponding Author: Hafizullah Rasuly, **E-mail:** hafizullah.rasouly@yahoo.com

ABSTRACT

Mandigak, the most proud ancient region of Afghanistan, is located 50 kilometers northwest of Kandahar City. Kandahar province, with famous historical sites such as Mandigak Hill, etc., are places that have mostly attracted the attention of archaeologists, tourists and domestic and foreign researchers. Each of these places has a story from the distant past and shows the religious conditions religious, political, social and cultural of this province. In addition to that, the existence of such historical places represents the living conditions of the past people in our minds to some extent; this region had a good climate and fertile land; therefore, it created a very good environment for the life of the old tribes. The purpose of this research is to identify a number of ancient and historical features of Mandigak, which have been less discussed or debated so far. Introducing the real image of the ancient site of Mandigak to consolidate the country's rich history not only for the country's residents; It includes the most important and fundamental goal of this article, and the materials prepared in this article will be considered useful and valuable as a curriculum for improving the scientific capacity of students. In the research method section of this article, considering the library method of authentic domestic and foreign books and materials, authentic journals and internet sites, analyzing historical data using modern methods with methods of analysis and analysis is a research work to prove a large number of desired materials for writing materials.

KEYWORDS

Mandigak, Civilization, Hirmand, Afghanistan, Kandahar and Quetta.

ARTICLE INFORMATION

ACCEPTED: 25 July 2023

PUBLISHED: 01 August 2023

DOI: 10.32996/jhsss.2023.5.8.5

1. Introduction

The ancient and proud area of Afghanistan's Mandigak is located northwest of Kandahar City. The history of human settlement in Mendigak Hill is 3000 years before Christ. This region is considered one of the oldest regions of Afghanistan, and over time, precious cultural and historical treasures have appeared in it, which reflect the historical process and economic-social life of that time. The existence of every historical monument in Mendigak tells a part of the angles and dimensions of the life of the people of this region.

The purpose of this research is to investigate the ancient and historical area of Mandigak in Kandahar province of Afghanistan and also the influence of this ancient area on the social and economic trends of the people of that era.

The method used in this research is the library, and an effort has been made to use the best and most up-to-date sources. The ancient and proud area of Mandigak is located 50 kilometers northwest of Kandahar city; according to archaeological excavations, it is related to the Bronze and Bronze Ages. Therefore, between 1000 and 3000 BC, tourists from the Indus Valley, Iran and Mesopotamia used to pass through this historical center. (Ansari, 1394, 991)

This region had a good climate and fertile land; therefore, it created a very good environment for the life of the old tribes. The mountains near Mandigak had many deposits of copper; people extracted it and made various tools from it. Analyzes show that the history of human settlement in Mendigak hill reaches 3000 years before Christ.

Copyright: © 2023 the Author(s). This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC-BY) 4.0 license (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>). Published by Al-Kindi Centre for Research and Development, London, United Kingdom.

This region is considered one of the oldest regions of Afghanistan, and over time, precious cultural and historical treasures have appeared in it, which represent its historical process and economic-social life, and the existence of any historical monuments in Mendigak is a part of it. It tells the angles and dimensions of the life of the people of this region. (Sermiento, 2016, 76).

Archaeologists consider this region to be 30 centuries BC, and historians believe that for 5000 years, people who had a civilization similar to "Harpa" and "Mohenjodaro" lived on this hill and developed their own civilization step by step.

The height of this hill, which was actually built from the density of clay, mud and stone and the sequence of settlements and ruins, reached 31 meters. A number of primary habitats have been established in this place, where the center is Mandigak. Between 1951 and 1959 AD, this hill was discovered by the French archaeologist Monsieur Quezal by carrying out 11 stages of excavations of 15 settlements of different periods, one after the other, in this area. It is assumed that they were built on top of each other during 3 thousand years BC (Ansari (1380, 59).

The obtained evidence showed that Mandigak was initially led from a small agricultural village with half a dozen people to an urban society. A city with an area of one kilometer whose buildings were protected by strong walls. Inside this fence, there are two large mansions. The first building can be called a palace in terms of its size. Its north side is 35 meters long. There is another building on the east side of the palace where religious ceremonies are held. The preliminary excavations in Mendigak indicate seven periods of human life in this area, which span from the end of the fourth millennium to the beginning of the first millennium BC.

Many artifacts have been found on Mandigak Hill, which indicates the five thousand year old civilization of Afghanistan. Copper tools, knives, axes, women's and men's ornaments, handwheels for spinning webs and weaving tools made of stone and clay were obtained from the first floor of Mendigak. It belongs to the primitive bronze tools and tools, as well as a number of graves in the shape of a wide square, which was surrounded by raw clay, along with a number of corpses. In addition to these, colored and painted clay vessels were also obtained from this region, which is similar to the vessels of Quetta, Sistan and Central Asia (Bavar, 2015, 102).

In the book "History of Afghanistan" from the earliest days to the departure of Genghis, Abdul Hai Habibi writes about Mandigak architecture: "The different layers of Mandigak hill are as follows from the bottom to the top: from the ground up to nine floors, there are works of semi-nomadic life and the buildings of their houses which it was also a Pakhseh, after these raw clays, there are up to three floors of building materials, and their earthenware is simple and basic in the bottom floors, and after that, the Tikri ware becomes more beautiful and better until the patterned clay ware appears and on the cups. The shapes of animals, birds, and flowers can be seen from a ram with long horns, a golden partridge, an elephant, a chicken, and twisted love leaves. There are a lot of these patterned clay vessels from the eighth floor onwards, which are similar to the exposed vessels around Quetta. Bronze and copper metals start from the sixth layer, and when they placed the coals of the fifth layer under the radius of fourteen, they determined the date of this layer around 2625 A.H. It is more than five thousand years old, and therefore, it will be older than Mohan Jodiro in Sindh (Habibi, 1389, 16). Here we need to make a short comparison between the historical tradition of Mandigak in Kandahar and the civility of Mohenjo Daro in Sindh. Because in his book, Mr Habibi compared the civility between Mohenjo-Daro and Quetta with the extent of the civility of Egypt and Babylon and came to the conclusion that this civility is four times the civility of Babylon and twice the civility of Egypt. However, the open lines of Mohenjo Daro have not been read, and it is possible that they are related to civilizations before the invasion of Aryans in this part of the earth. The calculations made by Mr Habibi are considered a suitable guide to compare the extent of the Mandigak civilization with other ancient civilizations. One of the advantages of this Mandigak is its location on the route of trade caravans whose architecture has gone through different stages, from the cave stage to the advanced stage of house building, and until three thousand years ago when humans settled in this area. It has reached the end point and put an end point in the architecture. In the architecture of this place, we have developed the stages of development from the use of plaster to the use of clay in regular and irregular shapes, regular and irregular rooms and small and large rooms for different uses and finally, the use of decorative pillars in a larger building. We can see, along with the samples of white color (at the time of the ancient discovery of this area), that connected India and Mohenjo Daro with Pars. This situation makes the social life of the people to be affected by significant growth and development, which is noticeable in all areas of social life. Anyway, Mandigak is one of the southern districts of the country.

Studies show that clay pots in Mandegak were made with Kalali wheels and baked in special ovens. The occurrence of clay and bronze seals in Mandigak indicates that private property was found there, and it means that Mandigak tribes had just entered the period of slavery at the end of the 3rd millennium BC, and the vessels found in Mandigak were obtained from other places. Afghanistan has also been discovered. This shows cultural diversity. The dishes have geometrical shapes and colors; from other areas of Afghanistan, the dishes obtained are Said Kala, Deh Morasi in Kandahar, Farah, around the Kunar Sea, Logar, etc. (Azizi, 1391, 76).

The civilization before the history of Mandigak Hill in Kandahar is entirely related to the Bronze Age (Mfargh) because, in the last phase of its occupation, which shows the evidence of settlement and life on the hill, very small and insignificant things were obtained from the Iron Age artifacts and the settlement style. The walls are flat; Therefore, against the people who gradually lived in Mandigak hill one after another, they all lived before the Iron Age, and Mandigak hill generally represents the stages of transformation of the inhabitants of this area in the period (Kusha, 1390, 478).

In the report of archaeological excavations by French Monsieur Quezal, it is stated: "The people who abandoned cave dwelling and descended from caves like (Shamsher Ghar) southeast of Panjavai to the plains, little by little by domesticating animals in the vicinity of Rahal River. They have started their residence in Afgandeh and with a kind of chapari of bushes and branches of living trees in (Deh Merasi Ghandi) and (Mandigak) (Ghulam Ali, (Bita), 28).

There is no doubt that today there is less agricultural land in these areas, and what is there is irrigated with kariz water; But in those distant times when Mandigak was settled and inhabited, the needed water was taken from the river. Unfortunately, with the present state of excavations, determining the original identity of the building is not without problems because the artifacts that have been found so far in the said building are knives with bronze blades and beautiful tikri fabrics; however, it is so much guessed for what military purpose the said building was built. It has not been a normal place of refuge if the presence of a broken cloth of the Tikri statue of the Mother of God is invoked; Therefore, to which place of worship can the mentioned be attributed? But this judgment is still premature. Of course, this small broken structure is similar to similar works found in (Baluchistan) and further away from the Indus region.

This big mansion was gradually destroyed in the future periods, and the newly arrived people settled on the hill, whose warehouses can be seen on three floors up to the upper parts of Mandigak hill, and in this way, Mandigak hill is a settlement that consists of five 1,000 to 2,000 years ago shows the life of the Bronze Age (Mafrag) with its implicit developments in the Arghandab area (Kehzad, 1385, 145).

Also, in Mandigak, Mr Kezel discovered a large building with pillars and an entrance gate that was decorated in red, while in Demorai De Ghondi, he came across temple buildings and a place of worship. This temple is made of baked clay and contains. There were many objects of different types, all of which indicate the organization of religious ceremonies and rituals in the area; the mentioned objects include goat horns, the shoulder bone of a goat, a drinking cup, a copper seal, copper pipes, a small cup. Marble and a small Tikri statue in the classic style of Zahob Valley, which represents the Mother of God. (Sermiento, 2016, 57).

After the preliminary excavations that Monsieur Girshman, the former director of the French Excavation Board, conducted in Nad Ali, Sistan, Afghanistan in 1936, The above concept (Mother Shahi period) was strengthened and after 1950, it was studied in Kandahar province in terms of the survey of prehistoric sites. Of course, important artifacts have been discovered from the mentioned hill, which has been completed as a result of the four scientific research stages of its excavation work. (Lucas, 1382, 19)

It should be noted that the religious beliefs of the people living in Mandigak have many similarities with other peoples, tribes, groups and societies such as Turkmenistan that lived before history. Their ideas about death are extremely important; In the beginning, there was no separation between the other worlds. The fear of the dead and the afterlife gradually arose as a result of the indoctrination of religious ceremonies. The purpose of this ceremony was to appease the dead and protect the living from them.

Most of our knowledge about the religious beliefs of the Mandigak people comes from the findings that were obtained from the graves. The way of burial and construction of graves in Mendigak and South Turkmenistan is surprising. These tombs had a dome made of clay, and they buried the dead in them. At the present time, the cemetery of South Turkmenistan and Mandigak is famous in all the ancient lands of Asia.

According to the theory of A Kazhdan, a great former Soviet researcher and scientist, the female statue obtained from Mandigak may illustrate some of the religious concepts or characteristics of the social evolution of the people of this region.

A. Kazhdan writes in this context: "From the small figures of women of the modern Paleolithic age found in Europe and southern Siberia, it appears that the belief in the virtues of female witchcraft has existed since the same era. These figures, while It shows that witchcraft is reserved for women, it is based on the question of Jeddah (grandmother) as the founder of the clan.

This side of Mandigak hill has been abandoned for two thousand years; According to some researchers and historians, the fall of Mandigak may have been caused by the invasion of Aryans, and in this case, former Soviet Union scientist Karglikova writes in her report: "At the beginning of 2000 BC, the period of the fall of Mandigak culture is definitely considered, and archaeologists say that These will be attacked by the residents of Ferghana, Uzbekistan, and at this time, the residents of Ferghana were called Chusti..."

Probably, from the time of the fall, Mandigak Hill remained abandoned and uninhabited, and its ruins became a shelter for nomads and herdsmen (Bavor, 1395, 133).

2. Conclusion

Based on the studies and research of the library, which has been done in relation to the ancient and historical area of Mandigak, the proud ancient region of Afghanistan, we come to the conclusion that this region, with its good climate and fertile land, has created a very good environment for the life of the ancient tribes. It shows that the tribes of Mandigak were agriculturalists and farmers; they easily irrigated their lands by the seas of Helmand and Arghandab and their rivers; the people extracted large deposits of copper from the mountains near Mandigak and made various tools from it. This shows the skill and tact of that person.

Many works have been obtained from Mendigak Hill, which indicates the five-thousand-year old civilization of Afghanistan. Archaeologists' research shows that copper tools, knives, axes, women's and men's jewelry, hand wheels for spinning yarn, and tools made of stone and mud were obtained from the first floor of Mendigak.

The obtained evidence showed that Mendigak was initially led from a small agricultural village with half a dozen inhabitants to an urban society. A city with an area of one kilometer whose buildings were protected by strong walls. Inside this fence, there are two large mansions. The first building can be called a palace in terms of its size. Having a strategic location, fertile land and plenty of water has provided the environment for life and business in this ancient region.

This side of Mandigak hill has been abandoned for two thousand years; According to some researchers and historians, the fall of Mandigak may have been caused by the invasion of Aryans, and in this case, former Soviet Union scientist Karglikova writes in her report: "At the beginning of 2000 BC, the period of the fall of Mendigak culture is definitely considered, and archaeologists They say that they will be attacked by the residents of Ferghana, Uzbekistan, and at this time the residents of Ferghana were called Chusti.

Probably since the time of the fall, Mandigak Hill has remained abandoned and uninhabited, and its ruins have become a camp and shelter for nomads and herdsmen.

Funding: This research received no external funding.

Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

Publisher's Note: All claims expressed in this article are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of their affiliated organizations, or those of the publisher, the editors and the reviewers.

References

- [1] Ansari, S. (1394) *General Geography of Afghanistan Provinces*, Kabul, Sarwar Saadat
- [2] Ansari, F. (1380) *Social situation and historical geography of Kandahar*, Kabul, Majlisi
- [3] Anwar, F.M. (1394). *Journal of Archeology of Afghanistan*. Number 15, round three. Kabul: Bhair.
- [4] Azizi, M.A. (1391). *Acquaintance with historical monuments of Afghanistan*. Tehran: Danesh.
- [5] Baur, M. R. (1395). *Archeology of Afghanistan*. Kabul: Bahar.
- [6] Dupri, N.H. (1377). *Historical monuments of Afghanistan*. Peshawar: Eric Publishing.
- [7] Ghulam A, (Bita) *History of Ancient Afghanistan*, Kabul, Tarbiat Moalem Institute Publishing.
- [8] Hagen, J and Jean C (1959). *Various archaeological research in Afghanistan*, volume three, Dafa memories. Kabul: Shamshad.
- [9] Habibi, A. (1389) *History of Afghanistan from the earliest days to the departure of Genghis*, Tehran, Dina Kitab
- [10] Jholio B and Rasouli M N. (1396). *Archeology of Afghanistan from Prehistory to the Early Islamic Period, French Archeology Commission in Afghanistan (DAFA)*. Kabul: Shamshad Press.
- [11] Kezel, J.M. (1961). *Mandigak Excavations*. Volume 17, Dafa Memories. Kabul: Shamshad.
- [12] Kohzad, A. (1385). *Afghanistan in the light of history*. Tehran: World Book.
- [13] Kosha, F. (1390) *Civility, the heritage of humanity (illustrated)*, Jahan, Jawzjan.
- [14] Lucas, H. (1382) *History of Civilization, translated by Abdul Hossein Azarang*, Tehran, Sokhon.
- [15] Noori, N. (1397). *Afghan Cultural Heritage Journal*. Kabul: Culture Information.