

Chemurchek (Qiemuerqieke) phenomenon as result of western migration and its impact on cultures of South Siberia and Kazakhstan

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Abstract

Not later than the 2700-2600 years BCE, in the western foothills of the Mongolian Altai, funerary and ritual constructions begin to be erected, having no earlier analogies in the Eurasian steppes («Chemurchek phenomenon»). Most of these structures were excavated by our expeditions over the past 20 years. Collective burials were committed in huge stone boxes built of vertical stone slabs surrounded by stone and earthen cairns, overlapping each other like “onion skin”. Tombs were accompanied by portals and stone statue-menhirs depicting a naked man with a crook and a bow, with a girdle with triangles. From the inside, stone boxes were decorated by red okhra geometric patterns. Ritual stone fences with steles and portals were discovered in the highest mountainous region of the Mongolian Altai. On the walls of these fences there are images of “deities” with parabolic bodies and antennas, but without a head, and one-leg demons. Inside ritual fences, engraved anthropomorphic shale plaques of “Iberian type” were found.

All of these features and form and ornamentation of excavated vessels are presented in the context of Western European megalithic cultures of 4th -beginning 3rd mill. BCE. Ritual structures and geometric okhra paintings of "Chemurchek type" appear on the Okunevo culture. Engraved anthropomorphic plaques and “Chemurchek” stone vessels were found in the Russian Altai and Tuva. Petroglyphs depicting same "deities" and one-leg demons were discovered in Southern Kazakhstan. It shows a wide connection of a people who came from the West and its impact on surrounding cultures.