



Ahmad Donish: Geograph and Traveller

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Abstract

In recent studies, Ahmad Donish, a versatile scholar from Bukhara, has been recognized as the “First Jadid”, the spiritual and ideological leader of the Central Asian Jadids. Ahmad Donish was well known in his time as a poet, painter, geographer, astronomer, philosopher, and politician. His life and artistic heritage have been studied and analyzed by many scientists. However, a comprehensive approach to Donish’s work has not been implemented, and his multifaceted work has not been fully evaluated. In particular, the travelogues, geography and astronomy of Ahmad Donish's work are almost unexplored. The geographical views embedded in the content of almost all of his works must be studied from today's point of view. This article seeks to analyze the works, activities and geographical views of Ahmad Donish, an encyclopedic scholar born and raised in Bukhara, the ideological leader of modern Central Asian geographers.

Keywords: *Ahmad Donish; “First Jadid”; Jadids, Sun “Rare Events”; Diplomat; Tourist; Geographical Views; Bukhara; Idea*

Introduction

At the end of the XIX century, as in various parts of Central Asia, the period of awakening began in almost all spheres of life in Bukhara. Signs of this can be seen in the rich scientific and creative heritage of enlightened intellectuals such as Ahmad Donish, Abdurauf Fitrat, Fayzulla Khodjaev, Usmon Khodja (Usmonkhoja Pulatkhodjaev), Abdulvahid Burhanov, Sadriddin Aini, Abdulkadir Muhitdinov.

Among the scholars of Bukhara, Ahmad Donish is distinguished by his unique character, great interest in the achievements and innovations of modern secular science, his efforts to promote them and the diversity of his scientific and creative heritage. Therefore, the work of Ahmad Donish is reflected not only in his time, but also today in the works of researchers from Uzbekistan, Russia, Tajikistan, India, Turkey [Azimov, Ayniy, Jumaev, Khan, Qosimov: 2002, Qosimov: 2004, Ma'sumī, Muminov, Rajabov, Uluzoda, Khaidarov, Haqulov, Hodzoda].

The life and scientific work of Ahmad Donish have been studied by many researchers in the field. In these studies, his socio-political, literary, philological, philosophical, religious, enlightenment and pedagogical views were revealed. However, in some studies it can be seen that his ideas and views were

not interpreted objectively [Akhmedova]. In particular, in many works, Donish's views on the Earth are interpreted as astronomical views.

Throughout our research, we have found no work other than one or two studies in which geography textbooks, journals, or collections express opinions about Donish's geographical views, ideas, and teachings [Hasanov, p. 232-233; Egamov p. 45-48]. This shows that the study of the geographical aspects of the scientific and creative heritage of Donish is a topical issue.

The Main Findings and Results

Ahmad Donish, the ideological founder and leader of the Central Asian Jadids, has created in many fields as a versatile artist. When we study his scientific and creative heritage and areas of activity, we can see that many of his works and travelogues are rich in geographical ideas and views.

In his works, A. Donish, *who put forward the idea that we were born to make the world prosperous, to explore rivers and seas, to find underground treasures, to know all its continents and inhabitants, the meaning and significance of his creative heritage* has not been fully revealed. He is a scientist who is lagging behind, who is able to correctly assess the education, economy, politics, social life, formed on the basis of old and traditional values, and express his ideas on how to improve them.

Ahmad Donish's treatises served as the main source in the formation of the socio-political views of the enlighteners of the late nineteenth century, whose progressive ideas and views influenced the activities of Jadids and antiquities throughout Central Asia in a sense [Jamolova, p.14; Qosimov: 2004, p.27; Mirsaidov, p.1; Olimova, p.52; Turson]. Many of his works contributed to the development of the geographical worldview and the formation of geographical creativity of such advanced Jadids as Behbudi, Munavvarqori.

Uzbek scientist I. Muminov, A. Donish in his treatises critically analyzed the geocentric theory that prevailed not only in Bukhara, but also in the East at that time, and scientifically proved that it was wrong and heliocentric theory was correct [Muminov, p.13-14].

Ahmad Donish conducted natural geographical observations and scientific research in the history of geography of Uzbekistan, wrote textbooks on geography and related sciences, and saw the world as a tourist and wrote travel memoirs during his diplomatic trips.

Works of Ahmad Donish on natural geography, astronomy and natural sciences. According to the information, A. Donish's manuscripts in the Manuscripts Fund of the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Uzbek Academy of Sciences include "*Rare events*", "*Biographies of Bukhara emirs*", "*History of Mangit amirs*", "*Diaries*", "*Brochure on culture and public order*", Ahmad Kalla, there are 16 manuscripts, such as "*A collection of stories*", "*Advice on the reconciliation of Shiites and Sunnis*" [Muminov, p. 12; Qosimov: 2004, p. 27; Niyozov]. The fact that most of the available manuscripts are related to geography and related sciences show that A. Donish is a scholar and propagandist of modern geography, natural sciences and astronomy. In this regard, it can be seen that the idea of Professor H. Hasanov that Donish's entire creative activity is related to the science of geography was correctly applied [Hasanov, p.233].

"Rare Events" is a royal work that reflects the rich scientific and various views of A. Donish [Muminov, p.16; Qosimov: 2004, p.28; Azimov, p.213-217; Shøev, p.306-314]. The work has been completed for 15 years and has not been fully studied and analyzed to date. This work consists of 23 chapters and promotes geographical, philosophical, Islamic, literary, pedagogical, political, journalistic

issues. Some chapters and a part of “Rare Events” were published in Uzbek and Tajik languages [Donish: 1964, Donish: 2017, Donish: 2017].

Table 1: List of works by Ahmad Donish on natural geography, astronomy and natural sciences

№	The original name of the manuscript	Today's translation of the title of the manuscript (pamphlet)	Year of writing
1	Manozir ul-Kavokib	The location of the planets	1865
2	Risola -fi- amol- ul- kura	Ways to use the globe	1871
3	Taoduli hamsai mutaxayira	About the five planets	1883
4	Navodirul-vaqoe	Rare Events	1870-1885
5	Iztigroji bul and arzi balat	Measure the length and width of the seats	?

“Rare Events” are very rich in geographical ideas and teachings. The author tries to explain in many chapters and topics through the ideas of rational use of nature and natural resources in solving social problems in the life of society, clarifying the actions of sultans and officials in governance. A clear example of this is the opinion of the English governor and the tourist about the discovery of mineral resources for the development of countries, the extraction of various natural resources, the development of new lands, land reclamation. While describing the great circulation of water in nature through the story of a tourist from Bukhara, he encourages that the socio-political processes in the life of society be the same as the circulation of water [Donish: 1964, p.83, 281].

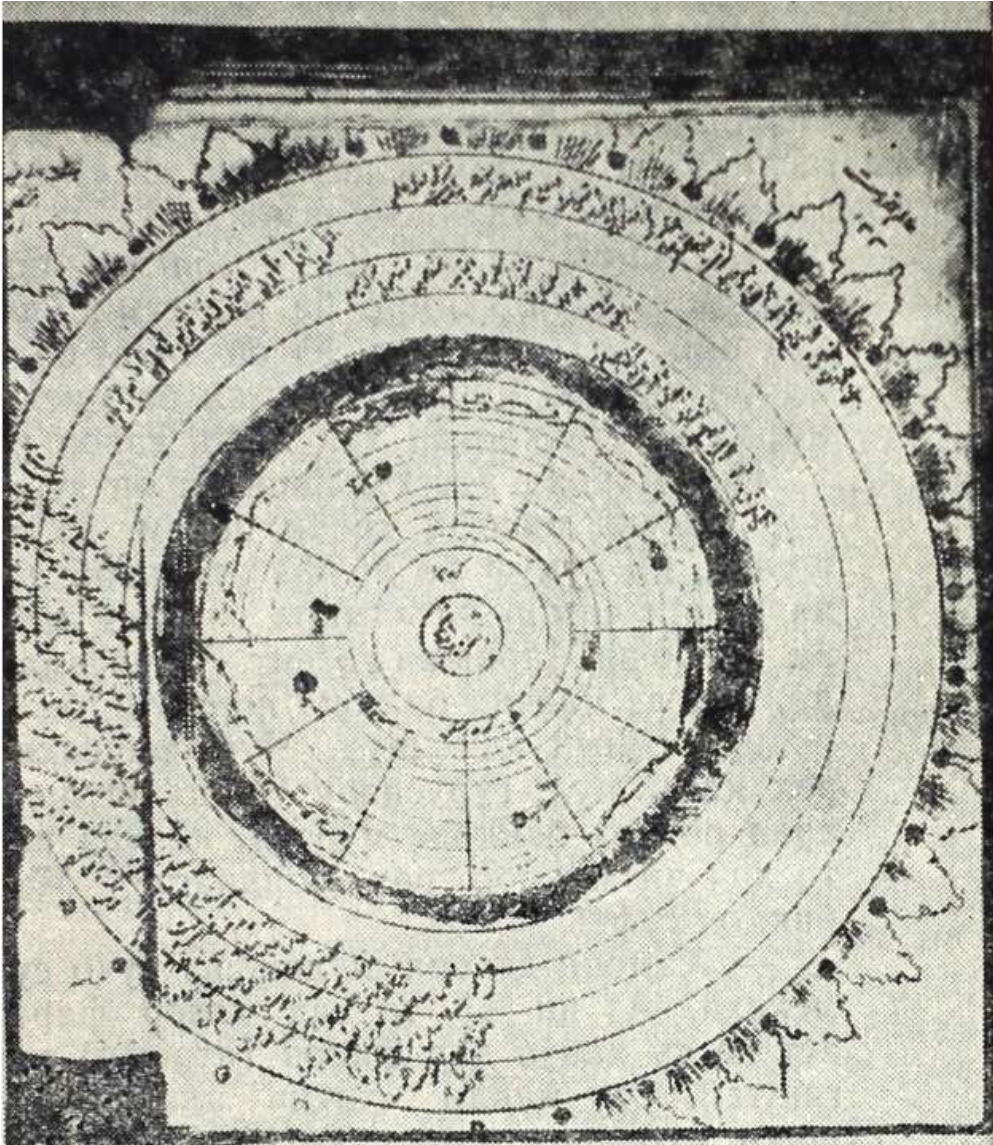


Figure 1. Prepared by A. Donish on the basis of Oriental science

An image of the earth and the sky

Source: Khodizoda R.Ahmadi Donish: Biography and literary and scientific heritage. - Dushanbe: Irfon, 1976. - p. 293.

The chapter entitled “*On the History of the World and Its Antiquity*” discusses the periods of development of the universe and the periodic motions of celestial bodies. It is stated that celestial bodies move in a rhythm, that there is no impetus for their movement, and that celestial bodies are in constant periodic motion according to their own laws [Donish: 1964, p.93].

Chapter 16 of “Rare Events” deals with the composition of the Earth, the formation of underground minerals, and related concepts. In this chapter, which reflects the basic natural geographical knowledge, the components of nature are divided into four: *Sun, air, water and soil* [Donish: 1964, p.97]. In the chapter on the internal structure of the Earth, the Earth has three layers: the first layer is dry soil (Earth's crust - B.E.); the second layer is composed of sticky clay (Earth's mantle - B.E.) and the third

layer is a rock-like hard layer (Earth's core - B.E.) [Donish: 1964, p.99]. Metamorphic processes, the rotational motion of matter in the Earth's interior, the tectonic cycle (Cycle), the phenomenon of convection are described [Donish: 1964, p.98-100]. This chapter describes the laws of spring water, the formation of mountains, volcanic processes, and the formation of minerals. He claims that the reason for the formation of terrestrial and submarine mountains is the result of the continuous movement of the element of grass (rocks - B.E.) from the surface of the earth to the center of the earth and vice versa [Donish: 1964, p.99]. He believes that the formation of minerals is not due to the influence of sunlight, but to magmatic rocks and the process of metamorphism. According to Donish, an earthquake occurs as a result of the movement of existing vapor masses in the interior of the earth [Donish: 1964, p.101].

During his visit to St. Petersburg in 1869, Donish PN Stremoukhov, Director of the Asian Department of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, presented him with two globes and a globe. Delighted by this, Donish expresses a poem of gratitude for the globe presented to Stremoukhov [Donish: 1964, p. 279-280; Arutyunov, p.704].

Inspired by seeing the globe, the scientist will conduct serious research on the globe upon his return from the trip. Learns the function, size, types, methods and ways of using the globe. Shortly afterwards, in 1871, he published a pamphlet, *Ways to Use the Globe*. This booklet provides knowledge about the content, structure of the globe, its function, importance for scientific research, its practical use. Through this work, knowledge provides scientific discoveries, new scientific information about space [Hodzoda, p.72-73].

The booklet "*Measurement of the Length and Width of Places*" consists of 12 chapters and is devoted to the methods and techniques of determining the length of places, time zones, width, coordinates of geographical objects, calculation of distances between objects [Rustamov, 35].

The brochure "The Location of the Planets" provides information about celestial bodies, that is, planets. This pamphlet, written in 1865, consists of 7 chapters. It tells about the constellations, the calendar, the position of the stars, their geographical location, and many events and phenomena related to them [Hodzoda, pp. 68-71].

The pamphlet "*On the Five Planets*" contains information about the planets in the solar system: Otorus (Mercury), Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn. The sequence of movements, movements, individual characteristics of these planets are explained. This treatise was written by A. Donish in 1883 in Guzar [Hodzoda, P.74-75].

According to S.Aini, a contemporary and ideological follower of the scientist, A.Donish conducted scientific observations and research on solar and lunar eclipses. He predicted the lunar eclipse in Bukhara and observed this lunar eclipse on the roof of the madrasa [Ayniy, vol.5, 205-209]. In S. Ayni's memoirs, it is written that world maps, hemisphere maps were mounted on the wall in the hotel building of Donish's courtyard in Bukhara, and that there were globes and globes on the table [Ayniy, vol.5, 212].

It is clear from the above that A. Donish's treatises are an important source in the field of natural geography, astronomy, geodesy, cartography, topography, as well as in conducting research, measurement and observation in this field. Almost all of his pamphlets contain information about the Earth, natural geographical processes, and space geography.

Ahmad Donish Travels. A. Donish loved to travel. According to S.Aini, a contemporary and ideological follower of the scientist, A.Donish used to travel around Bukhara every year [Ayniy, vol.6, p.36].

The tourist visited Russia three times as an envoy of the Emir of Bukhara - in 1856, 1869, 1873-74. Along with the work, the diplomat described what he saw and experienced during the trip in his works and diaries in a subtle style, in travel-adventure genres.



Figure 2. Admiralty Fortress and Winter Palace, St. Petersburg

Source: yadi.sk/a/nkOP1URw3ZS9iL/5b540fd89acdef6239e7dda5

A. Donish carefully observed, studied and imaginatively compared the places he visited during the business trip. Donish not only traveled, but also studied the nature of Russia, the rich cultural heritage of its peoples, made observations. In his spare time he was not given to meaningless work, instead he visited the museums of agriculture, geology, transport in St. Petersburg, the famous Kronstadt fortress, as well as factories, mills, observatories, banks. During his visit to Russia in 1874, A. Donish met with the Russian emperor, gained his respect and esteem, and was endowed with geographical and natural research tools such as astronomical tubes, compasses, binoculars, globes [Hodizoda].

Such professional travels have made a huge contribution to the enrichment of Donish knowledge, the development of a just and nationalist philosophy, a new worldview. He recorded in his works the events, information, and realities he saw, knew, heard, and discovered during his travels. His travel memoirs were published in Dushanbe in 1960 as a major work “Travels from Bukhara to St. Petersburg”.

The topography of Bukhara in the eyes of A. Donish. According to the data, A. Donish had a good understanding of topography, cartography, and was quite skilled in the fine arts. The knowledgeable and clever geographer of the emirate A. Donish drew a scheme of Bukhara. The plan shows all the gates, streets, canals, neighborhoods and various facilities of the city (Figure 3). This scheme-plan served as an important source in improving the reclamation and irrigation system of Bukhara. This plan-scheme was

discovered by Doctor of Science A.Muhammadjanov and in 1965 he published a scientific article on its analysis [Mukhamedzhanov, p.31-42].

The scheme of Bukhara and its environs includes more than 300 geographical objects and names. Examples are 31 mahallas, 11 gates, 4 gardens, 4 chorsuk, 78 pools, 12 caravanserais, 11 swamps and springs, 12 canals and others.

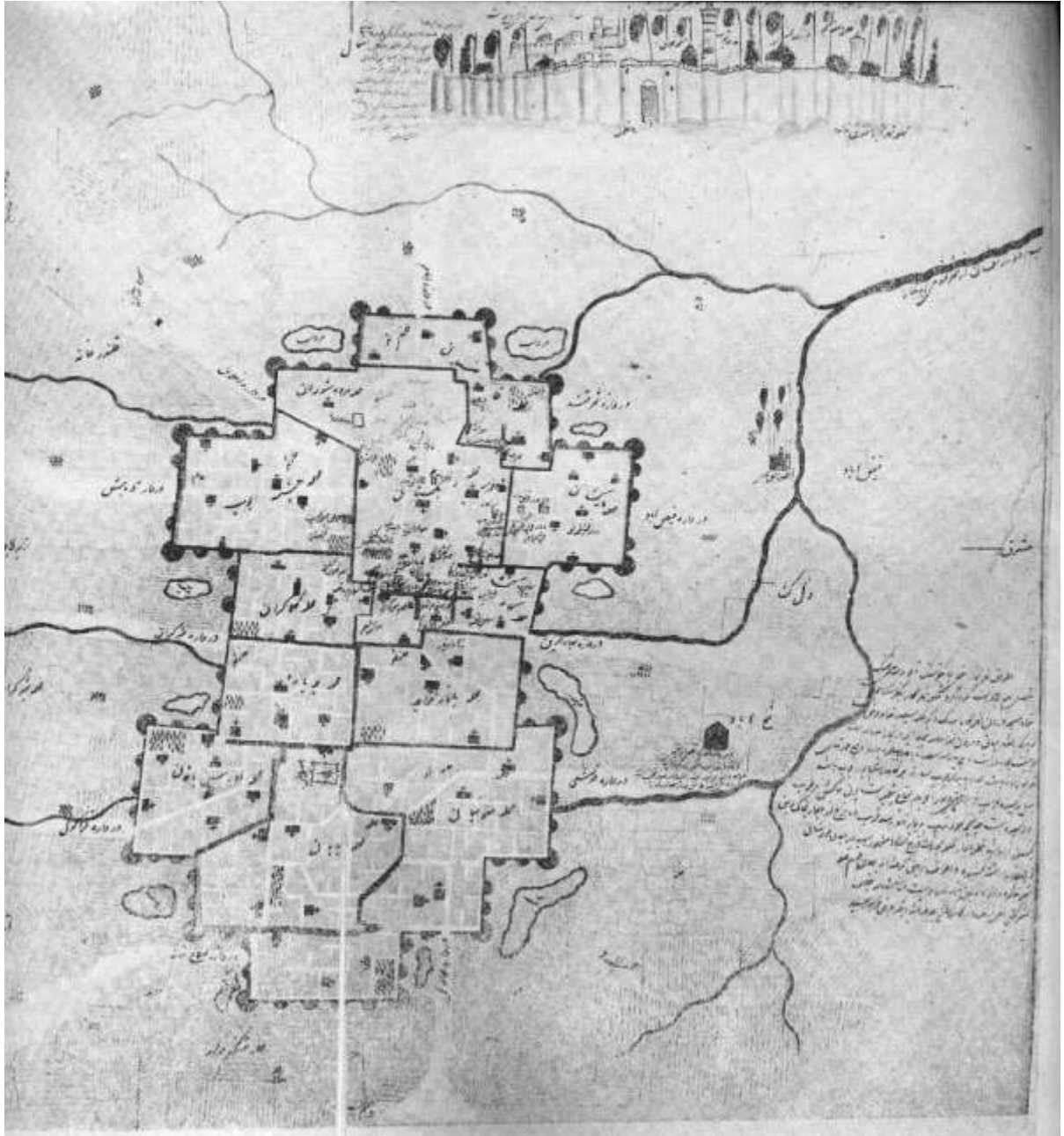


Figure 3. Schematic plan of Bukhara city drawn by Ahmad Donish

Source: <http://www.vostlit.info/texts/rus5/donish/karten.phtml?id=12051>

In 1880, Tsarist Russia began large-scale work to expand the Caspian railway network. In 1886 he arrived in Chorjoi (now Turkmenabad). In May 1888, a wooden bridge over the Amudarya opened the

way to Bukhara. Meanwhile, Tsarist Russian experts prepared plans for the construction of a railway from Krasnovodsk (now Turkmenbashi) from Bukhara to Tashkent and submitted it to the Emir of Bukhara, Nasrullo. According to this plan, the railway will pass through the city of Bukhara. Amir Nasrullo consults with Ahmad Donish on the railway plan. Donish Tsar says the government plan is flawed, and if the railway passes through the city, it will lead to the loss of many historic architectural monuments, streets and parks, some of which could cause serious damage. Then Amir Nasrullo ordered A. Donish to prepare a new plan. Eventually, the railway bypassed the city of Bukhara, creating the current situation.

Conclusion

The scientist's views on the Sun, the solar system, the planets, the Earth, its structure, natural geographical processes and events, natural geographical laws, along with his fame, also led to his unjust accusations. Local fanatics and ignorant believers considered such new ideas and laws to be contrary to the rules of Islam. 36]. Contemporary intellectuals who saw the globe and maps hanging on the wall kept in Donish's house considered him a fool, an atheist, and a builder [Ayniy, vol.5, pp. 212-213]. However, Donish did not back down from his goal of loving science, assimilating and widely disseminating new and modern knowledge in the field.

Ahmad Donish's modern geographical ideas and knowledge were developed in Bukhara by such scientists as Sadriddin Ayni, Abdurauf Fitrat, Fayzulla Khodjaev. Haji Yusuf Hayati, a naturalist from Khojand, was probably inspired by the ideas of Donish, made a modern globe, gave lectures on earthquakes, lunar eclipses, and celestial bodies [Hasanov, p.236-239]. Mahmudhoja Behbudi from Samarkand further enriched his ideas about the Earth, wrote a number of geography textbooks [Kholboev: 2012, pp. 260-269]. Munavvarqori Abdurashidkhonov from Tashkent collected rich information about the regional natural geographical units of the world [Kholboev: 2010, pp. 38-52].

Ahmad Donish is a great figure who has made a worthy contribution to Uzbek natural science and geography, along with his literary work, scientific heritage and extensive socio-political activities, along with Uzbek literature, history, art and culture. Almost all of his works are imbued with geographical ideas, ideas, and propaganda of natural sciences.

This article, which is devoted to our Donish activities, especially its geographical views, is superficial and general in nature. We believe that the study of their scientific creativity will play an important role in the knowledge of new thoughts, ideas and views in the field of geography, in solving some problems in modern geography.

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