

## ON THE ORIGIN OF THE CH'IN-HAI SALARS

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The Salars are one of the minority peoples of China, and they live mainly at Hsün-hua, south of Sining, in the mountainous district of the Ch'ing-hai Province, on the south bank of the Huang-ho (the Yellow River), and some live at Hua-lung north of the Huang-ho and at Ling-hsia (or Ho-chou) in the Kansu Province. In Chinese sources the Salars are firstly reported in the early eighteenth century (in 1707)<sup>1</sup>, but the *Tā'rikh-i Rashīdi* of Mīrzā Haidar Dūghlāt (compiled in 1547) already mentions of the Ho-chou Salars<sup>2</sup>. According to G. N. POTANIN<sup>3</sup> and W. W. ROCKHILL<sup>4</sup>, who visited the Salar district to investigate their language and ethnographical features at the end of the nineteenth century, the Ch'ing-hai Salars were reported for the first time as Turkic-speaking Muslims. A number of linguistic materials show that the Ch'ing-hai Salars speak the Salar dialect, one of the Turkic languages<sup>5</sup>. The present-day Ch'ing-hai Salars are Muslims, and have their own mosques, and they are engaged in farming, handicraft and commerce, their total popu-

1 Kuo Chao-tso and others, *Ho-chou-chih*, compiled in 1707.

2 N. Elias (ed.), *A history of the Moghuls of Central Asia, being the Tarikh-i-Rashidi of Mirza Muhammad Haidar, Dughlāt*, an English version, edited with commentary, notes and map, the translation by E. D. Ross, London, 1898, p. 404.

3 G. N. Potanin, *Tangutsko-tibetskaya okraina kitaya i tsentral'naya mongoliya. Puteshestvie G. N. Potanina 1884-1886*, tom I-II, SPb., 1893.

4 W. W. Rockhill, *Diary of a journey through Mongolia and Tibet in 1891 and 1892*, City of Washington, 1894.

5 K. Thomsen, "Die Sprache der Gelben Uiguren und das Salarische", *Philologiae Turcicae Fundamenta*, Wiesbaden, 1959, pp. 564-568; S. Kakuk, "Textes salares", *Acta Orientalia*, vol. XIII (1961), pp. 95-117; S. Kakuk, "Une vocabulaire salar", *Acta Orientalia*, vol. XIV (1962), pp. 173-196; S. Kakuk, "Sur la phonétique de la langue salare", *Acta Orientalia*, vol. XV (1962), pp. 161-172; E. R. Tenishev, "Sur le folklore et la langue des Salars", *Acta Orientalia*, vol. XIV (1962), pp. 253-272; E. R. Tenishev, *Salarskij yazyk*, Moskva, 1963; E. R. Tenishev, *Salarskie teksty*, Moskva, 1964.

lation (including those of Kansu) being about 31,923<sup>6</sup>. In 1781, originated from religious frictions between the New and Old Sects, the Ch'ing-hai Salars made rebellions against the Ch'ing dynasty but were soon suppressed<sup>7</sup>. They also broke up in 1862-74 and in 1895-96, but in vain. In Chinese historical materials the Salars are always reported to have been a ferocious and fighting people. Rebellions of the Salars were not only due to religious antagonism among themselves but also to the Ch'ing policy of suppressing minority peoples of the Chinese frontiers. In 1954, by the minority people policy of the Chinese People's Republic, the Salar Autonomous Prefecture has been established for the sake of the Ch'ing-hai Salars.

The ethnic history of the Ch'ing-hai Salars has not yet been made clear owing to lack of written materials that show exactly their origin and lineage, but, linguistic and ethnological materials have recently been considerably accumulated by Western scholars, so it is not so difficult to elucidate the origin of the Ch'ing hai Salars to a great extent. T. SHIBATA, who investigated language of the Salar merchants staying at Peking and Sui-yüan in 1943, pointed out that the Salars could be considered to have migrated from Western Turkistan<sup>8</sup>. P. PELLIOU suggested that the Salar (< Salghur), a part of the Guzz-Turkmens might be ancestors of the Ch'ing-hai Salars<sup>9</sup>, and in the opinion of E. R. TENISHEV the ethnic name of the Salar ~ Salar, a tribe of the Turkmens, has common with the Ch'ing-hai Salars<sup>10</sup>. N. POPPE who studied linguistic materials gathered by G. N. POTANIN came to the following conclusion: "Salar belongs, beyond doubt, to what is generally known as East Turki. East Turki is the common name for the Turkic dialects spoken in East Turkistan. . . . . On the other hand, Salar differs from East Turki as explored by ROQUETTE and JARRING. . . . . Thus, although Salar differs from the remaining dialects of East Turki, it is only one of its dialects and is not an independent language<sup>11</sup>." But, N. POPPE

6 *Narody Vostochnoj Azii*, Moskva, 1965, str. 641-645 (Salary).

7 T. Saguchi, *Juhachi-jükyü seiki Higashi Torukisutan shakaishi kenkyü* (The social history of Eastern Turkistan in the 18th-19th century), Tokyo, 1963, pp. 559-581.

8 T. Shibata, "Seikaisho no Junka no Sararugo ni tsuite" (On the Salar language of Hsün-hua, Ch'ing-hai), *The Töyögo Kenkyü*, No. 1 (1946), pp. 25-77.

9 P. Pelliot, *Notes sur l'histoire de la Horde d'Or, suivi de quelques noms turcs d'hommes et de peuples finissant en "ar"*. Oeuvres posthumes de Paul Pelliot. II, Paris, 1950, pp. 198-202.

10 E. R. Tenishev, *Salarskij yazyk*, str. 46-48.

11 N. Poppe, "Remarks on the Salar language", *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies*, vol. 16, Nr. 3/4 (1953), pp. 438-477.

does not accord special attention to the problem of the historical origin of the Ch'ing-hai Salars<sup>12</sup>.

The most important material concerning the origin of the Ch'ing-hai Salars is the emigration legend prevalent among them. W. ROCKHILL recorded a tradition that the Salars had migrated from Samarqand to Hsün-hua in 1370 (the 1st year of *Hung-wu* or the 3rd year of the foundation of the Ming dynasty)<sup>13</sup>, and G. F. ANDREW also recorded a tale that the Salars had migrated formerly from Samarqand to Hsün-hua<sup>14</sup>. This emigration legend was minutely recorded by E. R. TENISHEV, who calls this legend *Salarnigi li-shi* (*li-shi* means "history" in Chinese)<sup>15</sup>. The main point of this tale is as follows: Qaraman and Akhman, ancestors of the Salars, started from Samarqand for East as result of political disturbances in Western Turkistan, and by way of Central Asia, emigrated to the Province of Ch'ing-hai in 1370, and settled themselves in the district of Hsün-hua. According to the *Hsün-hua-t'ing-chih* which seems to contain some portions of the *Tzū-pu* (Family Chronicle) of the Han Family, Han Pao and Kuan-tzū, aboriginal officials (*t'u-szū*) of the Ch'ing-hai Salars were both hereditary governors (*daruγači*) under the Yüan dynasty (1260-1367), and submitted themselves to the Ming dynasty in 1370<sup>16</sup>. It is not sure whether they were *daruγači* under the Yüan dynasty, but the very year of their submission to the Ming in 1370 is clearly indicated here as well as cases of other materials. Though it is not known when this version of the emigration legend was formed, and, moreover, the chronology of the year 1370 is too distinct to believe it without hesitation, yet this legend suggests the probability of western origin of the Ch'ing-hai Salars, because Qaraman still remains a clan name among the Salor tribes of the Turkmen people, and the Salor or Salur has been existing as ethnic names long years among the Turkmen people in Western Turkistan.

12 V. Drimba is of opinion that the Salar dialect is not related to the Oghuz-Qipchaq dialect, but to East Turki or the Chaghatai language, and he partly agrees with N. Poppe. See, V. Drimba, "Sur a classification de la langue salare", *Ural-Altäische Jahrbücher*, Band 40, Heft 3-4 (1968), pp. 200-213.

13 W. W. Rockhill, *Ibid.*, pp. 39-40.

14 G. F. Andrew, *The crescent in North-West China*, London, 1921.

15 E. R. Tenishev, *Salarskie teksty*, str. 119-125

16 On the *Tzū-pu* of the Han Family see J. Trippner, "Die Salaren, ihre ersten Glaubensstreitigkeiten und ihr Aufstand 1781", *Central Asiatic Journal*, vol. IX, No. 4 (1964), pp. 241-276. J. Trippner stayed in Kansu and Ch'ing-hai in the years 1941-1951, and, consequently, this article contains important accounts on the present-day Ch'ing-hai Salars.

According to Chinese source materials of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries<sup>17</sup>, the Ch'ing-hai Salars consisted of the Inner *Kung* (*Nei-kung*) and the Outer Five *Kung* (*Wai-wu-kung*): the Inner *kung* were originally divided into twelve *kung* and the Outer Five *Kung* were composed of five *kung*. The meaning of the term *kung* (usually pronounced *gung*) is not yet made clear, but it is doubtful whether the term *kung* may mean "colony" or "agricultural works" in Chinese as generally regarded<sup>18</sup>. In my opinion the term *kung* may be identified with arabic word "*quam*", namely "tribe"<sup>19</sup>. *Kung* is a special term showing the tribal unit of the Ch'ing-hai Salars. In the followings we enumerate the names of the Twelve *Kung* belonging to the Inner *Kung* and of the Outer *Kung* by Ch'ing materials, such as the *Ho-chou-chih*, the *Lan-chou chi-lüeh* and the *Hsün-hua-t'ing-chih*.

The *Nei-kung* consisted of the parts, that is to say, the Western Section or Upper Six *Kung* and the Eastern Section or Lower Six *Kung*. The Upper Six *Kung* situated east of Hsün-hua consisted of Chie-tzu (or Kai-tzu) *Kung*, Tsao-t'an *Kung*, Ch'a-chia *Kung*, Su-chih *Kung*, Pieh-lieh *Kung*, Ch'a-hanta-ssü *Kung*; the Lower Six *Kung* situated west of Hsün-hua consisted of Ch'ing-shui *Kung*, Ta-su-ku *Kung*, Meng-ta *Kung*, Chang-ha *Kung*, Ya-man (or Nai-man) *Kung* and Hsieh-ch'ang *Kung*. Kai-tzū *Kung* was center of them. The *Wai-wu-kung* consisted of Tsa-pa *Kung*, Kan-tou (or Gan-dou) *Kung*, Ch'ün-ke-*Kung*, Ka-er-kang *Kung* and Nan-su-tuo *Kung*. After the suppression of the Salar rebellion of 1781, the above-mentioned twelve *kung* were reduced to eight *kung* (the so-called *Sa-la p'a-kung*). The *Nei-kung* was located to the south bank of the Yellow River, while the *Wai-wu-kung* was settled to the north bank of the River<sup>20</sup>. They were all six thousands families<sup>21</sup>. The fact that the Ch'ing-hai Salars consisted of the Inner and Outer *Kung* deserves special attention, because the Salor (or Salur) tribe of the Khwarazm region are reported to have been divided into the Inner Salor

17 Yang Ying-chü, *Hsi-ning-fu hsin-chih*, compiled in 1747; Kung Ching-han, *Hsün-hua-t'ing-chih*, manuscript of 1844; A-kuei and others, *Ch-in-ting Lan-chou-chi-lüeh*, compiled in 1782; Tso Ts'ung-t'ang, *Tso Wen hsiang kung tsou-kao*, published in 1890.

18 P. Pelliot, *Ibid.*

19 Chou Chen-hao pointed out that *kung* would mean "race" or "tribe" (Chou Chen-hao, *Ch'ing-hai*, Shanghai, 1928).

20 J. Trippner, *Ibid.*

21 *Lan-chou-chi-lüeh*, chapter VI.

(*Ichki-Salar*) and the Outer Salar (*Tashqy-Salar*)<sup>22</sup>. W. ROCKHILL reports that the Ch'ing-hai Salars consisted of *Salar ges* (Upper Salar) and *Salar mes* (Lower Salar)<sup>23</sup>, which coincides with Chinese materials concerning the Upper and Lower *kung*. The fact that the Upper *Kung* Salars consisted of *Han* family (or the *Han* clan) and the Lower *Kung* Salars consisted of *Ma*-family is worth noticing<sup>24</sup>. These facts suggest that the Khwarazmian Salars and Ch'ing-hai Salars have dual organization of tribal structure in common. Judging from the facts that the Salar dialect is presumably reckoned as a dialect of the Turkmen or Chaghataian language, and that the Ch'ing-hai Salars have a tradition of their western origin (namely, migration from Samarqand), it may be quite probable that some of the Turkmen-Salars have migrated from Central Asia to North-west China in the latter half of the fourteenth century under the Mongolian Empire, if the date of their appearance in Ch'ing-hai in 1370 could be authentic.

As is the case of the the Sarigh Uyghurs distributed in the mountainous districts of Kanchou<sup>25</sup>, it is no wonder that the Salars have continued to exist over several centuries as an isolated groups of Turkic stock in the borderlands of North-west China: they have been able to survive about six hundreds years, because they were located in the mountainous districts of Ch'ing-hai, North-west China<sup>26</sup>.

22 V. V. Barthold, "A history of the Turkmen people", *Four studies on the history of Central Asia*, translated by V. and T. Minorsky, vol III, Leiden, 1962, pp. 132-3. Emigration of the Turkmen-Salars took place in the middle of the fourteenth century, and some of them migrated to Asia Minor.

23 W. W. Rockhill, *Ibid.*, p. 80.

24 *Hsün-hua-t'ing-chih*, and J. Trippner, *Ibid.*

25 T. Saguchi, "On the ethnic history of the Sarigh Uyghurs" (To be published in *Oriental Studies presented to Professor Dr. T. Yamamoto*).

26 This paper is supplement to the present author's articles contributed to *Philologiae Turicae Fundamenta*, vol. III (in preparation).