

Abstract:

Primarily based on the archaeological evidence, the aim of the proposed thesis is to present an image of a settlement situation in the region of Bactria (Central Asia) during the Hellenistic period. The main subject of the study is a comparison of settlement patterns of the Achaemenid and Hellenistic periods, as well as a characterization of settlement transformation, which occurred after the conquest of Alexander the Great, after almost two hundred years of Greek rule in the area.

In this thesis, the individual settlement-sites are classified according to their size and their hypothetical function in the whole settlement structure. Besides the morphology of the site, their position was examined, as well as a distribution and mutual relations within the context of the natural landscape. Attention was paid to larger sites (cities, fortified settlements), and minor ones (rural settlements) and their agglomerations, as well as specific settlement forms, such as fortresses or sanctuaries. All the studied settlements are presented in form of catalogue and maps.

Data analysis shows that a huge decrease in settlement structure and a break in development can be observed in relatively large part of Bactria, at the end of Achaemenid period, what follows traditions of earlier periods. Remarkable transformation took place not only in the intensity of the occupation, but also in its structure. Comparatively equal settlement density of Achaemenid period, is in the Hellenistic period replaced by great differences between densely settled south-eastern Bactria, with Ai Khanoum as a centre, and the regions on north and west, where sparsely distributed occupations or its clusters predominated. The collected database offers manifold applications for the future research of settlement dynamics in the area.