

## THE VOLGA BULGARS– SCIENCE

### OVERVIEW

The Socio-economic, political and cultural developments in Volga Bulgaria had a profound effect on the growth of scientific centers. Volga Bulgaria came to be known for its cultural and educational centers, as well as its highly developed educational system and well-known scientists educated in maktab and madrasahs. These scientists also conducted their studies in other countries such as Baghdad, Samarkand, Merv, Bukhara, etc.

The largest scientific centers were located in Suvar, Bolgar and Saksin. There were significant advances in sciences such as mathematics, astronomy, chemistry, medicine, geography, ethics, history, etc.

### SCIENCE

In the 11<sup>th</sup> century, one of the first scientists of the Volga Bulgarian state was Burkhan-ad-din al-Bulgari who was known for his works on medicine, rhetoric, and theology.

Suleyman ibn Daud al-Saksini-Suvari who lived in the city of Saksin was a well-known scientist, theologian and writer not only in Volga Bulgaria, but also in the Near East and Middle East. He authored a didactic book titled *Light of Rays – the Truthfulness of Mysteries* written in Persian.

One of the well-known representatives of Volga Bulgar historians was qadi Yakub ibn-Noman. His was the author of the book titled *History of the Bulgar* (Tevarih-i Bulgar).

Many Volga Bulgarian scientists of the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries were well-known beyond the lands of the Volga and Kama. One scientist whose fame reached other countries was Burhaneddin Ibrahim ibn-Yusuf who wrote famous books on rhetoric, medicine, and religious commentaries. There were also prominent



ulema and scholars such as Hamid ibn-Idris, Ahmed al-Bulghari, Muhammed Sadr ibn-Alaeddin, Hasan ibn-Omer, and Muhammed al-Bulgari who contributed to the development of scientific studies in Volga Bulgaria.

Archaeological excavations revealed that medicine and medical practices existed in Volga Bulgaria. Medical instruments have been discovered that provide information on the level of medical culture in Volga Bulgaria. In Volga Bulgaria there were magicians and healers helping the ill in the 9<sup>th</sup> century.

By the 11<sup>th</sup> century, in the capital of Bulgaria, Bilyar, there were professional doctors practicing medicine. One of the Volga Bulgarian scientists was Burhaneddin Ibrahim Yusuf el-Bulgari wrote a book on *Simple Medicines*.

### Discussion/Questions

1- Why were Volga Bulgar scholars and scientists able to influence studies in other countries?

### Readings

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