### NATIVE AMERICANS (NA-DENE) ARE PART OF THE ALTAI CIVILIZATION

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During the last year and a half, we had the opportunity to visit the US states of Arizona, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, Nevada, New York, New Mexico, and Utah as part of the scientific research project "Kyrgyz-Native American Commonalities".<sup>2</sup> We went to reservations where Native Americans live and collected information from the local population.

According to statistics for 2021 in the United States, the number of Native Americans will reach 9.7 million and make up 2.9 percent of the country's population.<sup>3</sup> Some sources estimate that the number of Native Americans who claim to be Native is between 4-7 million.<sup>4</sup> It should be emphasized here that some mestizos, whose father or mother is a Native American, consider themselves to be Native Americans, while others do not consider themselves to be Indians.

Native Americans share many similarities with populations belonging to the Altai family. This report talks about the Native Americans being a part of the Altai civilization.

#### Native Americans are part of the Altai civilization

#### A brief history of the study of the problem

Several works have been published on the relationship and kinship of the Native Americans, including the tribes belonging to the Na-Dene language group and the people belonging to the Altai family. Adil Akhmedov<sup>5</sup> from Kazakhstan, Reha Oğuz Türkkan,<sup>6</sup> Ahmet Ali Arslan,<sup>7</sup> and Ismail Doğan<sup>8</sup> from Turkey, Abrar Karimullin<sup>9</sup> from Tatarstan have published voluminous

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> American Indians and Alaska Natives: Key Demographics and Characteristics. *NCOA*. <u>https://www.ncoa.org/article/american-indians-and-alaska-natives-key-demographics-and-characteristics</u>, (Date received: 10.02.2023).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The Indigenous World 2022: United States of America. *IWGIA*. <u>https://www.iwgia.org/en/usa/4684-iw-2022-united-states-of-america.html</u>, (Date received: 02.01.2023).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Адил Ахметов. Колумб дәуірінен бұрынғы америка «үндістерінің» алтайлық тегі. Алматы 2020.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Reha Oğuz Türkkan, Kızılderililer ve Türkler, Kızılderililer Türk Mü?, Pegasus, İstanbul 2008.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Ahmet Ali Arslan, *Kızılderili ve Türk Şamanizmi*. Berikan Yay., Ankara 2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> İsmail Doğan, *Mayalar ve Türklük*. Ankara 2007.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> А.Г. Каримуллин. Прототюрки и индейцы Америки. По следам одной гипотезы. Инсан. Москва 1995.

scientific and popular books on the parallels and kinship ties of their nations with Native Americans. There are dozens of scientific articles published on this topic.

## Native Americans migrated from Asia to America

The idea that Native American tribes crossed from Siberia to North America through the Bering Strait was first written about by the Jesuit missionary Joseph de Acosta in 1589.<sup>10</sup> In the following centuries, such opinions began to be expressed frequently.<sup>11</sup>

Scholars generally believe that American Indian ancestors came to America in two ways. The first is the idea that ancient people walked along the coast and crossed the Bering Strait to the American continent. The second is the opinion that people migrated from the interior of Asia to America through Siberia. Since the American continent is large and the local population is diverse, we can say that both opinions are close to the truth.

Scientists report that there were several migrations from Siberia to America. In some works, it is stated that these migrations existed 50,000-10,000 years ago.<sup>12</sup> According to some information, these migrations took place in the 40-35, 28-25, and 14-10 centuries BC.<sup>13</sup> Some claim that the last migrations from Siberia to America were made by people of Altai origin in the Middle Ages.<sup>14</sup>

A.F. Nazarova notes that due to climatic changes, reindeer (caribou) and bison, which inhabited southern Siberia, moved from Siberia to the American continent, and people followed them to

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> A.J. Jaffe. *The First Immigrants from Asia. A Population History of the North American Indians.* Springer Science+ Business Media, LLC. New York 1992, p. 20; Ahmet Ali Aslan, "Amerika Yerli Kızılderili ve Türk Halk Kültüründe Destanlaşmış Şamanlar, Gün Ana ve Toprak Ana", *Belgü*, 2, 2015, s. 63.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Jaffe. *Ibid*, p. 20; С.А. Васильев, Ю.Е. Березкин, А.Г. Козинцев, *Сибирь и первые американцы*. СПб: СПбГУ. 2011. С. 5; Olivia Vlahos. *New World Beginnings. Indian Cultures in the Americas*. The Viking Press. New York 1973, p. 15.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Steve J. Langdon. *The Native People of Alaska*. Greatland Graphics Anchorage, Alaska 1993, p. 6; Carl Waldman. Prehistoric Indians. *Encyclopedia of Native American Tribes*. Facts On File, Inc. New York 1988, p. 202; *America's Fascinating Indian Heritage*, New York 1978, p. 5; Tea Chumburidze. Theories about Turkic vs. European Roots of Native Americans. *Journal in Humanities*. Vol. 3(1), 2014, p. 23-25; Jon E. Lewis. *Myths and Legends of the North American Indians*. Running Press Book. Philadelphia 2013, p. 13.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Васильев, Березкин, Козинцев, Сибирь и первые американцы..., С. 105.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Ethel G. Stewart, *Dene ve Na-Dene Kızılderilileri, Cengiz Han'dan Amerika'ya Kaçan Türkler 1233 MS*, Çeviren: Eşref Bengi Özbilen, Türk Dünyası Araştırmaları Vakfı Yayınları, İstanbul 2000.

the new continent.<sup>15</sup> According to one study, 48 of the 54 animals that live in the Americas are Asian.<sup>16</sup>

Some Native Americans believed they came from the land of the "White Spirits" in the West (Asia).<sup>17</sup> There are other legends about this.

According to Olivia Vlahosun, the Athabaskan tribes were the last to settle in America from Asia.<sup>18</sup>

## Migration from Asia to America

Scientists like Mark A. Sicoli, Gary Holton, Christophe Began, Pascal Bailly, Jacques Chiaroni, and Stephane Mazieres hypothesized that people migrated from North America to Siberia after examining the linguistic characteristics of the Yenisei and Na-Dene language groups.<sup>19</sup>

The DNA of 3 people found in the archaeological excavations in Kamchatka proved that there were migrations between the two named continents.<sup>20</sup>

# Altai is the common homeland of the Native Americans and peoples of Altai origin in Asia

In the past, the Siberian region was a place where humanity spread in various directions. V.G. Volkov stated that the first people belonging to haplogroup Q1a3 (ancestors of the Native Americans) may have reached South Siberia through the Pamir and Tien-Shan Mountain ranges.<sup>21</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> А.Ф. Назарова. Генетические, антропологические и культурологические доказательства палеоазиатского происхождения северных монголоидов и американских индейцев // Вестник Нижегородского университети. *Сер. Биология.* 1, 2005, С. 136 (135-141); Ruth M. Underhill. *Red Man's Religion*. The University of Chicago Press. Chicago London 1965, p. 10.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Adil Ahmedov, Kolomb Dönemi Öncesi 'Amerikan Kızılderilileri'nin Altay Kökenleri, Ankara 2021, s. 20.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Ahmet Ali Aslan, "Orta Asya Türk ve Amerika Kızılderili Şamanlarının Giysileri", *Yaşayan Eski Türk İnançları Bilgi Şöleni: Bildiriler*, 16-17 Nisan Ankara 2007, s. 79.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Vlahos. *Ibid*, p. 20; Trudy Griffin-Pierce. *Earth Is My Mother, Sky Is My Father: Space, Time, and Astronomy in Navajo Sandpainting*, University of New Mexico. Albuquerque 1998, p. 13.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Mark A. Sicoli, Gary Holton. Linguistic Phylogenies Support Back-Migration from Beringia to Asia. *PLOS ONE*. Vol. 9(3). March 2014, p. 1-8; Christophe Began, Pascal Bailly, Jacques Chiaroni, Stephane Mazieres. Revisiting the Diego Blood Group System in Amerinfians. Evidence for Gene-Culture Comigration. *PLoS ONE*, 10(7). 2015, p. 9 (1-14).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Michael Price. Native Americans- and their genes- traveled back to Siberia, new genomes reveal. *Science*, <u>https://www.science.org/content/article/native-americans-and-their-genes-traveled-back-siberia-new-genomes-reveal</u> (Date received: 23.01.2023)

<sup>, (</sup>Date received: 23.01.2023) <sup>21</sup> В.Г. Волков. Древние миграции самодийцев и енисейцев в свете генетических данных// *Томский журнал ЛИНГ и АНТР*. 1(1). 2013. С. 83.

A tooth of a man who lived 14,000 years ago was found during excavations in the Lake Baikal oasis. DNA analysis of the tooth confirmed that the man was of Native American, East Asian, and Eurasian ancestry.<sup>22</sup>

Many genetic studies prove that some Native Americans lived in the Altai region in ancient times. In the genes of modern Native Americans included in the "qpAdm outgroup list", genetic features related to Altai hunter-gatherer communities have been confirmed.<sup>23</sup>

Professor Reha Oğuz Türkkan expressed the opinion that the ancestors of Native Americans lived together with Turks twice in history, during the Sumerian and Hunan periods, and because of that, a kinship relationship arose between them.<sup>24</sup> The well-known historian Lev Gumilev also stated that the ancestors of the Dakotas and Turkic people lived in the same region in Asia during the Hun era.<sup>25</sup>

Traces of Native Americans can be seen in the Kets living in Siberia and the Sagai, a tribe of the Khakas.<sup>26</sup> Among the Siberian populations, the Kets and Sakhas are genetically related to the Athabaskans.<sup>27</sup>

I.A. Zakharova said that the Native Americans left Sayan for the Bering Strait; 70 percent of the Tiwa people were there, and almost all Native Americans descended from women named Anay, Borbak, Chachyi, and Daryi.<sup>28</sup> The Turkish scientist Reha Oğuz Türkkan also suggested that the Tiwa people may be related to the Native Americans.<sup>29</sup>

According to the research led by Theodore Schurr from the USA and Lyudmila Osipova from the Russian Federation, a similar Y chromosome was identified in the DNA of 500 people living in the present Altai region and 2500 people from the USA, Canada, and Mexico. Scientists have

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> Michael Price. Oldest cousin of Native Americans found in Russia. *Science*. <u>https://www.science.org/content/article/oldest-cousin-native-americans-found-russia</u>, (Date received: 05.02.2023); He Yu, Maria A. Spyrou, Marina Karapetian, etc., Paleolithic Bronze Age Siberians Reveal Connections with First Americans and across Eurasia. *Cell*. 6(181). 2020, p. 1232-1245.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> Ke Wang, He Rita Radzeviciute et al. Middle Holocene Siberian genomen reveal highly connected gene pools throughout North Asia. *Current Biology*. 33. 2023, p. 3 (1-11).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> Türkkan, *Ibid*, s. 32-34, 78, 90.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> Л.Н. Гумилёв. Дакоты и зунны (к статье А.Г. Кариуллина "К вопросу о генетическом родстве отдельных языков индейцев Америки с тюрками")// Вопросы географии США. Л. 1976. С. 123-125.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> Васильев, Березкин, Козинцев, Сибирь и первые американцы.., С. 139.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> Edward Vajda. *Yeniseian peoples and languages: a history of their study, with an annotated bibliography and a source guide*, Curzon Press, London 2001, p. xiii.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> Ibid, C. 147.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> Türkkan, *Ibid*, s. 91, 92.

discovered a mutation in a paternal line that appeared 18,000 years ago in the Altai people. This genetic marker is also found in modern Native Americans. Professor Schurr, based on this study, said that the ancient homeland of Native Americans could be the Altai region.<sup>30</sup> Other investigations have also been published that confirm that the populations of Siberia are cousins (Y chromosome) to the Native Americans.<sup>31</sup>

#### Athapaskans

Another factor that connects Native Americans to Altai is the linguistic affinity of the populations living in the two regions. The Athapaskan (Athabascan) language of the Native Americans is a language related to the Siberian Kets.

The Na-Dene language group of Native Americans includes the Atabascan, Tlingit, Eyak, and Haida languages. Athabaskan-speaking Indians live mainly in the United States, Canada, and Mexico.<sup>32</sup> Athabaskan is the most widely spoken indigenous language in North America.<sup>33</sup>

Merritt Ruhlen compared and studied the main words (plants, animals, body parts, cultural heritage, etc.) belonging to the Enesey and Na-Dene language groups and determined that these words all have the same root. According to Ruhlen, tribes speaking the Enesey and Na-dene language groups lived together in Eurasia in ancient times.<sup>34</sup>

## Some elements confirming the Native Americans' belonging to the Altai civilization

#### Legends

The legend of the Incas, "KAPAKTOKON" is 95 percent similar to the legend of Ergenekon of the Altai people.<sup>35</sup> According to Navajo understanding, White Mountain (Sísnaj-n) is in the east; Blue Mountain (Tsótz-lh) is in the south; Yellow Mountain (Dokóöslit) is in the west, and the Black Mountain (Dpénsa) was created in the north.<sup>36</sup> The Navajo land of "Dine bi Keyah" is

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> Christine Dellamore. Is This Russian Landscape the Birthplace of Native Americans? *National Geographic*. <u>https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/article/120203-native-americans-siberia-genes-dna-science</u>, (Date received: 06.02.2023).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> Matthew C. Dulik, Sergey I. Zhadanov, Ludmila P. Osipova, Ayken Askapuli, Lydia Gau, Omer Gokcumen, Samara Rubinstein, and Theodore G. Schurr. Mitochondrial DNA and Y Chromosome Variation Provides Evidence for a Recent Common Ancestry between Native Americans and Indigenous Altaians. *The American Journal of Human Genetics*. 90. February 10, 2012. p. 229 (229-246).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> R.G. Matson and M. P. R. Magne. 43 North America: Na Dene/Athapaskan archaeology and linguistics. *The Encyclopedia of Global Human Migration*, Blackwell Publishing Ltd. 2013, p. 1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> Carl Waldman. Athapascan. Encyclopedia of Native American Tribes. Facts On File, Inc. New York 1988, p. 25.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> Merritt Ruhlen. The Origin of the Dene. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America (PNAC)*, 95(23). 1998, p. 13994-96.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>35</sup> Türkkan, *Ibid*, s. 99-100, 173, 185.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> Edward S. Curtis. *The North American Indian*. Gutenberg EBook. 2006, p. 122.

surrounded by four mountain ranges that are the largest in the world. These holy places are called the four holy mountains. In the legend of Eregenekon, Turko-Mongol people spread out from the land surrounded by mountains on four sides and spread out into the world.

The Kachins have a legend that the bird god created the world from the mud he brought up from the bottom of the ocean. The myth that the world was created by mud from the bottom of the ocean is preserved in many Native American tribes.<sup>37</sup>

# Calendar

Some Native Americans, like the Altai peoples, have animal mythology that discusses how the calendar should be and who is included in the years. In Native American mythology, unlike Turko-Mongolian mythology, animals also discuss what the seasons and months should be like. However, the mythology that discusses the nature of the months and seasons of the animals, the main characters of which are the bear and the mouse, exists among the Altai, Khakas, and Yakuts, as well as the Kazakhs.<sup>38</sup>

Professor Turkkan proved that the Mayans, Toltecs, and Aztecs used a calendar with the names of 12 animals. Their calendar is depicted in a 24-ton stone carving kept at the Archeology Museum in Mexico City. Four of the animals shown in this calendar are also on the calendar of the Altai people. The other three consist of similar animals.<sup>39</sup>

# Directions

The directions were important to the nomadic Turko-Mongols and Navajo people. Therefore, the Turko-Mongols and Navajos knew the directions well, regardless of the day and night and the bad weather and attached different meanings to the directions. Among the Native Americans, the east meant blue, the south yellow, the west white, and the north black.<sup>40</sup> Directions and colors also had a symbolic meaning for the Altai people.

## Tamgas

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup> Каримуллин. Прототюрки и индейцы..,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup> Васильев, Березкин, Козинцев, Сибирь и первые американцы..., С. 88-89.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> Türkkan, *Ibid*, s. 109, 110, 165-169, 187-188.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>40</sup> Aslan, "Orta Asya Türk ve Amerika..., s. 79.

The oldest trouser tamgas found on the Turpan were also found on Native Americans in the United States. Mustafa Aksoy published articles on similarities in tamgas.<sup>41</sup>

## Mongoloid

Some scientists say that Native Americans were proto-Mongoloid.<sup>42</sup> Anthropologist W.W. Howells and other scientists expressed the opinion that the Native Americans may belong to an unspecified type of Mongoloid race.<sup>43</sup> Investigations have been published on whether the Native Americans belong to the Mongoloids of the three major races.<sup>44</sup> Indeed, the native population of North America is like the Asian Mongoloids. Native Americans were mostly beardless, rarely having beards like Asians belonging to the Mongoloid race.<sup>45</sup>

### Mongolian spot

Among Native Americans and Asian peoples, the blue mark, scientifically known as the "Mongolian spot", is common in newborns.<sup>46</sup> According to the results of a study, 80 percent of Asian babies and 80-85 percent of Native American babies have Mongolian spots.<sup>47</sup>

## Yurt (Ger)

It should be noted that Native Americans mostly lived in conical houses. Adil Akhmetov says that the houses of the people of Siberia are similar to the houses of the Native Americans named "tipi", "vighvam", and "hogan", which proves that the origins of the Native Americans are in Altai.<sup>48</sup>

https://www.archaeology.org/issues/146-1409/trenches/2381-china-worlds-oldest-pants, (Date received: 23.05.2023); Mustafa Aksoy. "Amerika Yerlilerinde Kilimler Giyimler Damgalar", *Türk Dünyası Tarih Kültür Dergisi*, 380, İstanbul 2018, s. 24-31; Donald N. Yates. Admixture in Rima includes Greek and Sardinian. *DNA Consultants*. https://dnaconsultants.com/admixture-in-pima-includes-greek-and-sardinian/, (Date received: 23.05.2023).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup> Eric A. Powell. World's Oldest Pants. Archaeology.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>42</sup> American Indian Life. University of Nebraska Press. Lincoln 1986, p. 7.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>43</sup> Vlahos. *Ibid*, p. 16; William W. Howells. *Mankind in the Making: The Story of Human Evolution*. Doubleday and Co., Inc., 1959; Underhill. *Red Man's Religion*..., p. 10.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>44</sup> A.K. Roychoudhury. Genetic Distance Between the American Indians and the Three Major Races of man. *Hum Hered.* 28(5). 1978, p. 380-385.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>45</sup> Türkkan, *Ibid*, s. 25.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>46</sup> Ahmedov, Kolomb Dönemi Öncesi..., s. 83.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>47</sup> Joyce Newman Giger. *Transcultural Nursing: Assessment and Intervention*. E-Book. Elsevier Health Sciences. 2016, p. 176.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>48</sup> Ahmedov, Kolomb Dönemi Öncesi..., s. 151.

The doors of Navajo houses always face east. They believe that they receive the blessings of the Holy Spirit every morning from the east-facing door.<sup>49</sup> The doors of the nomads in Eurasia, including the Khakas, faced the east.<sup>50</sup>

### Avoiding the in-law's kinship

"Hiding from your in-laws" was a Navajo tradition. Among the Navajos, the son-in-law ran away from his mother-in-law. He tries not to face him or talk. There is a belief that if the son-in-law talks face-to-face with his mother-in-law, his eyes may not look good.<sup>51</sup> If the mother-in-law and the son-in-law want to talk to each other, they must first share the smoke of the sacred mountain herbs. After these herbs are wrapped in corn leaves and burned, the mother-in-law and the son-in-law pass each other four times through the hole in the deerskin curtain. After that, the curtain is removed, and they greet each other by shaking hands.<sup>52</sup>

### Rainmaking

Native Americans also had the art of making rain. Rainfall is not only used in times of drought. It can be said that even during the war, the medicine man used this advantage against their enemies.

#### Death

The Navajos carried the belongings of the deceased with them to the funeral and buried them.<sup>53</sup> This custom also applies to the Altai population. The Navajo tried to hide the location of the dead man's grave. A few people went and hid the funeral.<sup>54</sup> We know very well that the Mongols had such a tradition.

## Warrior people

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>49</sup> Peter Iverson, Jennifer Nez Denetdale, *The Navajo*. Chelsea House Publishers. 2006, p. 16.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>50</sup> Виктор Я. Бутанаев. Хакасы// Народы и религии мира. Энциклопедия. Москва 1999. С. 591 (590-592).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>51</sup> America's Fascinating..., p. 238.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>52</sup> John Holiday and Robert S. McPherson, *A Navajo Legasy. The Life and Teachings of John Holiday*. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman 2005, p. 35, 314.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>53</sup> Curtis. *The North American...*, p. 76.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>54</sup> Curtis. The North American..., p. 76, 195.

During the war, Native Americans went into battle saying, "Today is a very good day to die." The souls of the Navajo dead are somewhere in heaven. Those who died in the war were believed to live in heaven as a separate group.<sup>55</sup> This feature also applies to the Altai population.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>55</sup> Curtis. The North American..., p. 76.

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