

## THE SIGNIFICANCE OF WORKS ON MILITARY CAMPAIGNS IN MEDIEVAL MUSLIM HISTORIOGRAPHY

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**Annotation.** This article discusses the significance of historical works on military campaigns written by Muslim historians during the Middle Ages. These works are invaluable sources for studying Islamic history, providing insights into the socio-political context of the time and the events surrounding the spread of Islam. The article examines the works of historians such as al-Baladhuri, al-Waqidi, Abu Ubayda, and al-Madaini, who chronicled military campaigns and actions of the Arabs across various regions and territories. These works are important resources for understanding the military and political aspects of the early Arab caliphate.

**Аннотация:** В статье рассматривается значение исторических трудов, посвященных военным походам, написанных мусульманскими историками в Средние века. Эти работы играют важную роль в изучении исламской истории, предоставляя информацию о социально-политической ситуации того времени и событиях, которые сопровождали распространение ислама. В статье анализируются работы таких историков, как аль-Балазури, аль-Вакиди, Абу Убайда и аль-Мадиний, которые описывают военные походы и военные действия арабов в различных странах и регионах. Эти труды являются ценным источником информации о военных и политических аспектах раннего арабского халифата.

**Keywords:** History of the First Islam, works of futuh, "Kashf az-zunun", Waqidi, Madoini, ibn Asam al-Kufi, Yaqut al-Hamawi, al-Baladhuri, Iraq, Sham, Futuh al-buldan.

**Ключевые слова:** Ранняя исламская история, Труды Футуха, «Кашф аз-Зунун», Вакиди, Мадаини, Ибн Асама аль-Куфи, Якут аль-Хамави, ал-Балазурий, Ирак, Шам (Сирия), Футуха аль-Булдана.

### Introduction.

The sacred religion of Islam plays a special role in the development stages of the culture and spirituality of the peoples of Central Asia. Historical works written in the early Middle Ages serve as primary sources for studying the history of Islam. At the same time, the socio-political conditions that emerged during this period contributed

to the development of all fields of science. In the 9th–10th centuries, during the rule of the Abbasid Caliphate in the Middle East, the Arabic language and Islamic doctrine held dominance.

Most of the works on the history of Islam written in the early Middle Ages were authored by hadith scholars. These works mainly focused on the life and activities of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) and were known under the titles *Maghazi* and *Sira*. These works served as a foundation for later books written on topics such as *Futuh* (conquests), *Tabaqat* (biographies), *Tazkira* (memorials), and *Ansab* (genealogies). Although Al-Baladhuri's *Futuh al-Buldan* is a conquest-themed work, it drew upon *Maghazi* and *Sira* texts. Thus, even though early medieval historians wrote sources belonging to a particular genre, these works often included features of other genres as well. This article discusses conquest-themed works that provide information about military campaigns.

### **Main Body.**

Some works written in the 8th–9th centuries were dedicated to recording the history of military operations. These works, alongside the accounts of historical events, provide information about the cities and regions visited during these campaigns, including their pre-Islamic history, system of governance, population, natural environment, religious beliefs, customs, and traditions.

Writing works in this genre developed particularly from the 9th–10th centuries. Notable authors who wrote about the history of military campaigns include Muhammad ibn Umar al-Waqidi (747–823), Muhammad ibn A'ith al-Dimashqi (767–847), Ahmad ibn Yahya al-Baladhuri (d. 892), Ahmad ibn A'tham al-Kufi (d. 926), among others.

Khatib Chalabi's *Kashf al-Zunun* mentions the following works on Arab military conquests:

- **Muhammad ibn Umar al-Waqidi's *Futuh al-Sham*.** This work was translated into Turkish in verse form by Muhammad ibn Mahmud ibn Ajo (d. 925/1519), consisting of 12,000 lines. It is written in rhymed prose (*saj'*) and covers the conquests of Damascus, Homs, Qinnasrin, Aleppo, and Palestine during the caliphates of Abu Bakr and Umar ibn al-Khattab. It was published in Beirut in 1997. Al-Waqidi also wrote *Futuh al-Amsar*.

- **Abu Ubayda Mu'awiyah ibn al-Muthanna al-Basri's *Futuh Urminiya* and *Futuh Ahwaz*.** These works are mentioned in Ibn al-Nadim's *al-Fihrist* and Shams al-Din ibn Khallikan's *Wafayat al-A'yan*.

- **Ahmad ibn A'tham al-Kufi's *Kitab al-Futuh*.** This work was translated into Persian in 1199 under the orders of Khwarazmshah Tekish by Muhammad ibn Ahmad al-Mustawfi. Despite its importance, it is rarely mentioned in medieval sources. Some brief references are found in Yaqut al-Hamawi's *Mu'jam al-Udaba* and Ibn Hajar al-Asqalani's *Lisan al-Mizan*. The first part of the book was discovered in the Gotha

Library in Germany in 1881. The Arabic original is held in the Topkapi Palace Library in Istanbul (No. 2956, two volumes). It was published in Beirut in 1991.

• **Abu Huzaifa Ishaq ibn Bashar al-Bukhari's Futuh al-Bayt al-Maqdis.** Ishaq was born in Balkh and later moved to Bukhara, hence the title "al-Bukhari." This work is referred to as Kitab al-Futuh in sources like Khatib al-Baghdadi's Tarikh Baghdad, Yaqut al-Hamawi's Mu'jam al-Udaba, and Salah al-Din al-Safadi's al-Wafi bi'l-Wafayat. However, Ibn al-Nadim's al-Fihrist does not mention this work but lists others like Kitab al-Mubtada, Kitab al-Ridda, Kitab al-Jamal, Kitab Siffin, and Kitab Hufu Zamzam.

• **Abul Qasim Abd al-Rahman ibn Abdallah ibn Abd al-Hakam al-Misri's Futuh Misr wa al-Maghrib.** The author divided the book into seven parts; the first six focus on Egypt's ancient history, the arrival of Islam, administration under Amr ibn al-As, legal matters, and the companions who arrived in Egypt. The sixth part discusses the conquests of North Africa and the Iberian Peninsula. Several manuscripts have survived, and the book was published in Cairo in 1922, 1961, 1974, and 1995.

• **Ahmad ibn Yahya al-Baladhuri's Kitab al-Buldan wa Futuhuha,** better known as Futuh al-Buldan ("The Conquests of the Lands"). It is the earliest comprehensive work specifically dedicated to Arab conquests. Historian al-Mas'udi in the 10th century highly praised this book, stating: "This book describes the lands of the East and the West, the North and the South. We know of no better book on the conquests." It is a vital source for studying the early political, social, and economic history of the Arab Caliphate. The work was published in 1866 with a modern introduction by Michael Jan de Goeje (1836–1909), including details about the author's life and manuscripts.

Although not mentioned in Khatib Chalabi's work, other significant military histories also exist. These include works by Abul Hasan al-Mada'ini (135/752–225/840) and Abu Abdallah Muhammad ibn A'ith. According to al-Nadim, al-Mada'ini wrote 47 such works, and Yaqut al-Hamawi mentions 34. These texts cover Arab military campaigns in regions like Syria, Iraq, Basra, Khurasan, Sijistan, Tabaristan, and Egypt, as well as the biographies of governors like Mughira ibn Shu'ba, Abu Musa al-Ash'ari, Qutayba ibn Muslim, Junayd ibn Abd al-Rahman, Asad ibn Abdallah al-Qasri, and Nasr ibn Sayyar.

Both Khatib al-Baghdadi's Tarikh Baghdad and Shams al-Din al-Dhahabi's Siyar A'lam al-Nubala confirm that al-Mada'ini wrote on military campaigns. Al-Baladhuri frequently relied on his information in Futuh al-Buldan.

**Muhammad ibn A'ith's Kitab al-Futuh** is referenced in works like Ali ibn Husayn ibn Asakir's Tarikh Dimashq, Jamal al-Din al-Mizzi's Tahdhib al-Kamal, Salah al-Din al-Safadi's al-Wafi bi'l-Wafayat, and al-Dhahabi's Siyar A'lam al-Nubala. Al-Safadi refers to this work as Kitab al-Maghazi wa al-Futuh, suggesting it

might be a single combined book. However, al-Dhahabi treats them as separate works, distinguishing between al-Maghazi and al-Futuh. No manuscript or scholarly edition of this work has yet been found.

**Abu Mikhnaf Lut ibn Yahya (110/728–170/787)** also wrote works on military history, including Futuh al-Iraq and Futuh al-Sham. However, his use of weak reports led later historians to disregard him. His works are cited in sources like al-Fihrist, Mu‘jam al-Udaba, Muhammad ibn Shakir al-Kutubi’s Fawat al-Wafayat, Ahmad ibn Ali al-Najashi’s Rijal al-Najashi, and Inayatullah al-Qahbani’s Majma‘ al-Rijal. The latter also mentions his Futuh Khurasan.

### **Conclusion.**

Most of the works mentioned in Tazkira literature on the history of military campaigns were authored by early medieval historians. This indicates that writing in this genre was widespread among historians of the period. These works are valuable sources for studying the history of the regions and peoples under the Arab Caliphate.

The literature on Islamic history in the early Middle Ages was not limited to military campaigns. During this period, works were also written in genres such as Sira, Tabaqat, Ansab, and Akhbar. Studying these historical works and their authors helps determine which sources provide the most reliable information.

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