

Eureka Journal of Humanities and Social Research (EJHSR)

ISSN 2760-4934 (Online) Volume 2, Issue 5, May 2026



This article/work is licensed under CC by 4.0 Attribution

<https://eurekaopenaccess.com/index.php/4>

SPECIFIC HISTORICAL ASPECTS OF STATE BORDER GUARDING

Malikov Jahongir Mirzamurotovich

Lecturer at the University of Military Security and
Defense of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Abstract

This article systemically analyzes the emergence, historical development stages, and specific evolutionary aspects of the border guarding system. It explores ancient natural barriers and magnificent defense walls (The Great Wall of China, Kanpirak Wall), Amir Temur's advanced border security strategy during the Middle Ages, as well as the delimitation and demarcation processes of the Modern era. Furthermore, the role of digital technologies, artificial intelligence, drones, and biometric control systems in contemporary border defense is highlighted. The article aims to study the historical experience and modern trends of the border protection system.

Keywords: State border, defense system, historical evolution, Great Wall of China, Kanpirak wall, Amir Temur, guardhouse, delimitation, demarcation, digitalization, artificial intelligence, drones, national security.

Introduction

A state border is not merely a conventional line that geographically separates the territory of one state from another, but it is the physical expression of national independence. Historically speaking, ancient Egypt, Babylon, China, or the Greek city-states had their own walls, border posts, and protected territories. By defending these areas, they preserved their economic, cultural, and political systems.

Eureka Journal of Humanities and Social Research (EJHSR)

ISSN 2760-4934 (Online) Volume 2, Issue 5, May 2026



This article/work is licensed under CC by 4.0 Attribution

<https://eurekaoa.com/index.php/4>

The state border is the most crucial political-legal criterion that defines the independence, territorial integrity, and national security of each sovereign state. Along with the formation of human civilization, the need arose to protect one's living territory from external threats, preserve resources, and ensure security. Over the centuries, this need laid the foundation for border guarding systems to undergo a complex evolutionary path, ranging from simple visual observation methods to the most modern intelligent systems. Studying the historical experience of guarding state borders plays an important role in shaping an effective defense system against contemporary geopolitical threats.

In the most ancient times, the concept of borders was mainly associated with natural-geographic objects (rivers, mountain ranges, deserts, and forests). However, with the formation of statehood and the intensification of conflicts between sedentary and nomadic peoples, artificial defense structures began to be built.

- **The Great Wall of China:** Considered the largest border fortification in world history, it was built over centuries to protect against attacks by nomadic tribes and to demarcate the country's unified economic and cultural territory. This grand structure served not only as a barrier but also functioned as a major system for transmitting information and conducting customs control.
- **The Kanpirak Wall:** Unique and rare examples of border defense also existed within the territory of Central Asia. The Kanpirak (Kampirak) Wall, built to protect the Bukhara oasis from nomadic tribes invading from the north and east, is a clear example of this. Reinforced with numerous fortresses and watchtowers, this wall was considered a strategic border line that ensured the peaceful life and security of the oasis population.

Eureka Journal of Humanities and Social Research (EJHSR)

ISSN 2760-4934 (Online) Volume 2, Issue 5, May 2026



This article/work is licensed under CC by 4.0 Attribution

<https://eurekaopenaccess.com/index.php/4>

The border ensures the following aspects:

1. **Guarantee of sovereignty** - a state has the right to legislate, govern, and utilize resources within its territory.
2. **Symbol of security** - aggression, smuggling, illegal migration, and terrorism are prevented through borders.
3. **National identity** - the border serves as an important psychological boundary for a nation in understanding the concept of “us” and “them.”
4. **Economic protection** - customs duties, taxes, and trade policies are regulated through the border.

Even in today’s era of globalization, the importance of borders has not diminished. Visa regimes, passport systems, border troops, and technical surveillance tools play a pivotal role in relations between states. In this sense, the concept of a "world without borders" is often utopian; in practice, every sovereign state has the right to protect the inviolability of its borders through law and force. The state border is one of the primary attributes of sovereignty, territorial integrity, and national security. Historically, every socio-political system has developed mechanisms to protect its living space from external threats. From this perspective, the institution of border guarding is considered one of the oldest state institutions.

The state border is the foundation of security, sovereignty, and development. It will remain one of the core institutions of human civilization, not only in the past but also in the future.

The state border is not just a line on a map, but a living history that has shaped the destinies of nations and civilizations. From the primitive communal system to the present day, humanity has employed various methods and forms to protect its territory. This article analyzes the main historical stages and specific aspects of state border guarding.

History shows that states unable to protect their borders either ceased to exist or lost their independence. For this reason, modern Uzbekistan pays immense

Eureka Journal of Humanities and Social Research (EJHSR)

ISSN 2760-4934 (Online) Volume 2, Issue 5, May 2026



This article/work is licensed under CC by 4.0 Attribution

<https://eurekaopenaccess.com/index.php/4>

attention to guarding its borders, which serves as the primary guarantee of the country's sovereignty and security.

Although the legal definition of the concept of borders formally took shape after the Peace of Westphalia (1648), its practical aspects have evolved over thousands of years.

During the period of the emergence of the first states (4th–3rd millennia BC), primitive forms of border guarding consisted of natural geographical barriers and rudimentary fortifications.

The Natural Border Factor. Rivers like the Nile, Tigris, Euphrates, Amu Darya, and Syr Darya, along with mountain ranges and deserts, served two functions: on one hand, they acted as barriers against invaders; on the other hand, they served as clear boundary markers. In ancient Egypt, the concept of a "wall of sand" existed, and although the border between the eastern and western banks of the Nile was fluid, strong fortifications were constructed in the eastern part of the delta.

Artificial Defense Structures. As early as the 7th century BC in ancient China, various kingdoms (Chu, Qin, Zhao) built walls to protect themselves from internal wars and nomadic incursions. In the 3rd century BC, Qin Shi Huang unified these walls, giving rise to the initial version of the Great Wall of China. Watchtowers, signaling systems (smoke, beacons), and garrisons were stationed along the wall. In scientific literature, this wall is interpreted not only as a defense mechanism but also as a means to control migration and collect taxes.

The Ancient Era: Natural Barriers and the First Fortifications. With the emergence of the earliest states (Egypt, Sumer, Indus Valley Civilization), protecting territory became an urgent issue. Initially, natural barriers – rivers (Nile, Amu Darya), mountains (Hindu Kush, Caucasus), and deserts (Sahara,

Eureka Journal of Humanities and Social Research (EJHSR)

ISSN 2760-4934 (Online) Volume 2, Issue 5, May 2026



This article/work is licensed under CC by 4.0 Attribution

<https://eurekaopenaccess.com/index.php/4>

Kyzylkum) – functioned as borders. Later, artificial structures such as fortresses and walls began to be constructed. The famous Great Wall of China (3rd century BC) was not only a defense against nomads but also a clear symbol of the empire's northern border.

In Central Asia as well, defense walls and border posts known as “ribats” existed around Sogdian and Khwarazmian cities. They served to control trade routes and prevent invasions. In the oases of Sogdia, Bactria, and Khwarazm, border outposts called “qariyo” had existed since the Zoroastrian era. Archaeological evidence (from Southern Turkmenistan, Varakhsha, Ayritom) indicates that these posts maintained permanent garrisons, and their primary duty was to monitor caravan routes.

The Antiquity: Borders and Law. The ancient Roman Empire created the first comprehensive model of border guarding. In Rome, the border (limes) developed as a linear system consisting of military fortifications (castra, towers), roads, and observation posts. Rome perfected the concept of borders from both legal and military perspectives. The limes was a fortified border line along which fortresses, towers, and camps were stationed.

Typology of the Limes. The Roman border system was divided into two types:

- Limes imperii – the external border of the empire (e.g., the Rhine–Danube limes, Hadrian's Wall in Britain).
- Limes provinciarum – internal boundaries between provinces.

Physically, the limes consisted of forests, ramparts, ditches, roads, and barriers. For instance, the limes in Germania and Raetia stretched 550 km and included around 900 towers and 120 camps.

In Roman law, the concept of terminus (boundary) was legally established for the first time. The Law of the Twelve Tables declared shifting a boundary stone (de termino moto) a severe crime. During the reign of Emperor Diocletian (284–305

Eureka Journal of Humanities and Social Research (EJHSR)

ISSN 2760-4934 (Online) Volume 2, Issue 5, May 2026



This article/work is licensed under CC by 4.0 Attribution

<https://eurekaopenaccess.com/index.php/4>

AD), riparienses and limitanei – specialized border troops – were established. They were allowed to engage in farming while simultaneously fulfilling defense duties.

As historian B. Isaac noted, the Roman limes simultaneously performed military, economic (customs), and demographic control functions. For the first time in Roman law, crossing the border unlawfully (peregrinus, hostis) was defined as a crime. Guarding the border was assigned to entire legions. From this period onward, the border service began to take shape as a “military and legal institution.”

The Middle Ages: Feudal Barriers and Trade Borders. With the weakening of centralized states in medieval Europe, the concept of borders became blurred. Authority was primarily in the hands of landowners – feudal lords. In medieval Europe, the notion of a border was fluid; focus was chiefly directed toward protecting the areas surrounding cities and castles. However, clearly defined border lines and control points did exist in the Byzantine Empire, the Arab Caliphate, and the Mongol Empire.

Border Models in Byzantium and the Arab Caliphate. Byzantium utilized the kleisoura system – a network of frontier districts covering narrow passes and strategic routes. Meanwhile, the Arab Caliphate developed the thughur and awasim systems – a chain of fortified cities located along the “war line” of the Islamic world (such as Tarsus and Malatya). These points served as permanent bases for frontier garrison troops (al-murabitun).

Border Service in the Mongol Empire. To govern their vast territories, the Mongols utilized the “yam” system – a network of postal and intelligence stations. Located at intervals of 20–30 km in frontier zones, these posts allowed for rapid intelligence transmission and early detection of invaders.

Eureka Journal of Humanities and Social Research (EJHSR)

ISSN 2760-4934 (Online) Volume 2, Issue 5, May 2026



This article/work is licensed under CC by 4.0 Attribution

<https://eurekaoa.com/index.php/4>

The Timurids and Uzbek Khanates. During the Timurid era (14th–15th centuries), the systems of “qorovulxona” (watchtowers) and “rahdar” (road guards) were highly perfected. In the Emirate of Bukhara (16th–19th centuries), fortresses (Nurata, Jizzakh, Karshi) and frontier outposts known as “sarhad” and “chegara qo‘rg‘onlari” operated along the border lines. Their primary task was to prevent raids by neighboring khanates (Khiva, Kokand) and nomadic tribes, as well as to monitor trade caravans arriving from Iran and Russia. Within the territory of Uzbekistan during the Timurid period, the duty of the “qorovulxona” and “rahdar” outposts was to prevent not only military attacks but also smuggling and espionage.

According to Academician B. Ahmedov, border guards in the Emirate of Bukhara were called “tovuqchilar” (scouts) and “sarbozlar” (soldiers), and they were rewarded by the emir with special privileges - land allocations and tax exemptions.

The Modern Era: National States and Border Lines. The Peace of Westphalia in 1648 established the principles of national sovereignty and border inviolability in Europe. This was a historical turning point - borders began to be defined by precise geodetic lines on maps. The Peace of Westphalia (1648) firmly established the system of sovereign national states in Europe. As a result:

1. Borders began to be marked with precise lines on maps.
2. Border violations were accepted as a casus bello (justification for war) for interstate conflicts.
3. Permanent border troops and customs services were established.

In the 18th-19th centuries, border guarding developed in the following directions:

- The establishment of specialized border troops (such as the "border guards" in the Russian Empire in the 1830s).
- The introduction of formal customs and passport systems.

Eureka Journal of Humanities and Social Research (EJHSR)

ISSN 2760-4934 (Online) Volume 2, Issue 5, May 2026



This article/work is licensed under CC by 4.0 Attribution

<https://eurekaopenaccess.com/index.php/4>

- The execution of systematic demarcation and delimitation work.

In France, during the reign of Louis XIV (1661-1715), a royal decree on the "inviolability of the state border" was issued. For the first time, an early passport system (*laissez-passer*) was introduced.

In the Russian Empire, Nicholas I approved the "Regulations on Border Guards" in 1832. Later in 1893, a separate "Border Guard Corps" was formed. Its primary duties included the prevention of smuggling, espionage, and public unrest.

Demarcation and Delimitation Processes. In the 19th century, the concepts of delimitation (defining borders through treaties) and demarcation (installing posts, markers, or barriers directly on the ground) took shape in international law. Examples include the Anglo-American Oregon Boundary Treaty of 1846 and the Pamir border delimitation of 1895 (involving Russia, Bukhara, and Afghanistan). Empires such as Great Britain, France, and Russia constructed advanced engineering facilities (fortresses, modern fortifications, telegraph, and railway communications) to fortify their frontiers.

The 20th century brought two significant changes to border guarding:

- **Technological means:** Wire fences, minefields, radar, and electronic surveillance.
- **Ideological borders:** The Berlin Wall and the Korean Demilitarized Zone.

Between the First and Second World Wars. In the 1920s-1930s, a trend for "fortified lines" emerged in European border defense (the Maginot Line in France, the Siegfried Line in Germany, and the Mannerheim Line in Finland). These consisted of massive reinforced concrete fortifications, artillery forts, and extensive tunnel systems.

The Cold War Era. The Berlin Wall (1961-1989) was a 155 km long barrier of concrete and wire, heavily equipped with electronic signaling, minefields, and

Eureka Journal of Humanities and Social Research (EJHSR)

ISSN 2760-4934 (Online) Volume 2, Issue 5, May 2026



This article/work is licensed under CC by 4.0 Attribution

<https://eurekaopenaccess.com/index.php/4>

automatic firing devices. In historiography, this wall is evaluated not just as a physical barrier, but as an ideological border between the “socialist camp” and the “West.”

The Korean Demilitarized Zone (since 1953) is a buffer zone 4 km wide and 250 km long. It possesses some of the world's densest minefields, intense electronic surveillance, and heavy border troop deployments. In international law, this zone is regarded as a de facto border.

Technological Evolution. In the 1960s-1980s, technical advancements included:

- Seismic and infrared sensors,
- Watchtowers ranging from 20 to 30 meters high,
- Night vision equipment,
- Patrolling via helicopters and light aircraft.

Border guarding became increasingly integrated with intelligence, special operations, and rapid response capabilities.

The 20th Century: From the Ideological Iron Curtain to a Global Guarding System. After World War II, border guarding developed in two main directions:

- During the Cold War, the Berlin Wall in Germany and the Demilitarized Zone on the Korean Peninsula became physical manifestations of ideological divisions. In this period, border security grew technologically complex, incorporating electronic systems, automatic alarms, and minefields.
- In the era of globalization, fighting terrorism, illegal migration, drug trafficking, and trans-border crime became the primary new tasks of border protection.

Border troops evolved into complex structures combining not only military forces but also intelligence, special operations, customs, and migration services.

Eureka Journal of Humanities and Social Research (EJHSR)

ISSN 2760-4934 (Online) Volume 2, Issue 5, May 2026



This article/work is licensed under CC by 4.0 Attribution

<https://eurekaoa.com/index.php/4>

The Historical Experience of Border Guarding: The Case of Uzbekistan.

After Uzbekistan gained independence in 1991, guarding state borders became a priority of national security, raising the entire system to a completely new level. Uzbekistan's complex geography, consisting of desert, mountain, and river zones, demands high mobility from the border service as well as equipment with modern technical means.

In ancient times and the Middle Ages, defining borders relied not on precise international legal treaties like today, but primarily on natural barriers (mountains, rivers, deserts) and military power.

- **Historical Fortifications and Defense Walls:** In ancient Bactria, Sogdiana, and Khwarazm, massive defense walls were built to protect against attacks by external forces (mainly nomadic tribes). Examples include the “Devori qiyomat” (Kampirak Wall) surrounding the Bukhara oasis, or riverfront border-customs fortresses like Kampirtepa.
- **The System of Watchtowers and Outposts:** Located at the crossroads of the Great Silk Road, watchtowers (observation towers) were erected on strategic heights across our land to ensure the safety of trade caravans and prevent unexpected attacks. They warned the capital and the main army of danger using fire at night and smoke during the day.

Historical Fact: During the reign of Amir Temur and the Timurids, border security was viewed as the cornerstone of imperial stability. As noted in the “Tuzuklar” (Institutes), a specialized “yofat” (border guard) service was established along the state frontiers; they monitored every traveler and received wages directly from the state treasury.

Historically, the border guarding methods of ancient Khwarazm, Sogdia, and the Emirate of Bukhara have today been integrated with new technologies. These historical methods (watchtowers, road guards, targeted patrol services) serve as one of the theoretical foundations for modern training programs and tactical

Eureka Journal of Humanities and Social Research (EJHSR)

ISSN 2760-4934 (Online) Volume 2, Issue 5, May 2026



This article/work is licensed under CC by 4.0 Attribution

<https://eurekaopenaccess.com/index.php/4>

schemes today. Developing border regions in cooperation with neighboring states, alongside ongoing demarcation and delimitation efforts, represents a vital step in this direction.

The history of guarding the state border is the history of humanity's struggle from ancient times to the present day to protect its homeland, preserve national identity, and ensure security. Ancient walls, Roman limes, medieval watchtowers, modern electronic surveillance systems, and drones - all of these have served a single purpose: to keep the state border inviolable.

After the Republic of Uzbekistan gained independence in 1991, one of the very first and most crucial steps in building the foundation of the state was the creation of an independent border guarding system. The borders, which were previously merely an "administrative line" between union republics, now transformed into state borders with international legal status.

- **Establishment of Legal Bases:** On March 24, 1992, the Border Troops of the Republic of Uzbekistan were established. Subsequently, the Law "On the State Border" and other conceptual documents were adopted, reinforcing the legal mechanisms of border protection.
- **Delimitation and Demarcation Processes:** Uzbekistan achieved monumental historical success in clarifying (delimitation) and establishing on-site (demarcation) its borders with neighboring states (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Afghanistan) through peace, mutual trust, and diplomacy.

In 1999, the Law "On the State Border of the Republic of Uzbekistan" was adopted. According to it, border guarding is based on the following principles:

- Inviolability,
- Equal relations with neighboring states,
- Compliance with the norms of international law.

Uzbekistan has a state border spanning over 6,800 km. Geographically diverse, it includes desert zones (Karakalpakstan, Navoiy region), mountainous regions

Eureka Journal of Humanities and Social Research (EJHSR)

ISSN 2760-4934 (Online) Volume 2, Issue 5, May 2026



This article/work is licensed under CC by 4.0 Attribution

<https://eurekaoa.com/index.php/4>

(Tashkent, Namangan, Andijan, Fergana), as well as river and irrigated zones. Each zone requires a distinct guarding tactic.

Today, the border troops of Uzbekistan are equipped with:

- Drones (unmanned aerial vehicles),
- Thermal imagers,
- Automated surveillance systems,
- Mobile rapid response groups.

Concurrently, efforts to delimit and demarcate borders with neighboring nations (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, and Afghanistan) are being carried out within the frameworks of the CIS and the SCO.

Historical analysis reveals the following fundamental patterns:

1. The institution of border guarding emerged alongside statehood, and its developmental stages are closely linked to shifts in socio-economic formations.
2. Technological evolution (from natural barriers to artificial walls; from fortifications to electronic surveillance and drones) has been one of the primary driving forces of this process.
3. The formation of the legal framework - the path tracing from Roman law to the Westphalian system and modern international treaties - demonstrates a continuous effort toward the codification of border protection.
4. Central Asia, specifically the territory of Uzbekistan, possesses a rich historical legacy of border guarding, an experience that is being enriched today with modern technologies and strategies.

Legal Status of Borders in the Modern Era: Delimitation and Demarcation.

With the Industrial Revolution and modern international relations, the concept of borders shifted from physical walls to the realm of legal documents. Defining borders between states was split into two main phases:

Eureka Journal of Humanities and Social Research (EJHSR)

ISSN 2760-4934 (Online) Volume 2, Issue 5, May 2026



This article/work is licensed under CC by 4.0 Attribution

<https://eurekaopenaccess.com/index.php/4>

- **Delimitation:** The process of legally defining the general direction and location of the boundary line between neighboring states in international treaties and maps.
- **Demarcation:** The process of physically marking and establishing the border line directly on the ground using special boundary markers (posts, wire fences, ditches) in accordance with the treaty.

These processes laid the groundwork for international legal norms regarding the inviolability of borders and created a mechanism for the peaceful resolution of territorial disputes.

Contemporary History: Digitalization and Intelligent Border Defense. By the 21st century, with changing patterns of global threats (international terrorism, smuggling, illegal migration), guarding borders through traditional methods proved insufficient. Consequently, the concept of the “Smart Border” (Smart Border) emerged in contemporary history.

Today, modern nations, particularly the Republic of Uzbekistan, are integrating the following innovative technologies into border defense:

- **Drones (UAVs):** Unmanned aerial vehicles enable round-the-clock aerial monitoring of hard-to-reach mountainous and desert regions, transmitting any violations to headquarters in real-time.
- **Artificial Intelligence and Neural Networks:** Intelligent camera and sensor systems along border lines operate using artificial intelligence. They analyze human or animal movements, detect suspicious objects, and autonomously assess threat levels.
- **Biometric Control Systems:** Systems verifying identity via facial recognition, fingerprints, and iris scanners have been implemented at Border Crossing Points (BCPs). This effectively restricts the movement of smugglers and individuals on wanted lists.

Eureka Journal of Humanities and Social Research (EJHSR)

ISSN 2760-4934 (Online) Volume 2, Issue 5, May 2026



This article/work is licensed under CC by 4.0 Attribution

<https://eurekaoa.com/index.php/4>

The state border guarding system started with simple natural barriers and has evolved into a high-tech intelligent ecosystem today. Historical experience (the Great Wall of China, the Kanpirak Wall, and Amir Temur's strategy) demonstrates that the power of any era was measured by how well a state could control its frontiers. Today, superb border security relies not only on military might but also on legal foundations such as delimitation and demarcation, as well as the harmony of digital technologies, artificial intelligence, and drones. This modern approach, built on rich historical traditions, is the most reliable guarantee for ensuring national security.

The state border protection system has undergone a complex historical evolution, advancing from standard military routine to the level of intelligent and geopolitical governance. The strength of a border is ensured not merely by weaponry or tall walls, but by a wise foreign policy, good relations with neighbors, and the deep patriotic devotion of border guards. Relying on its historical traditions, modern Uzbekistan is boldly moving forward on a path to turn its frontiers into a "bridge of friendship and security."

References

1. O‘zbekiston Respublikasining “Davlat chegarasi to‘g‘risida”gi Qonuni: 1999-yil 20-avgust, 863-XII-son (o‘zgartirish va qo‘shimchalar bilan). – Toshkent: Adolat, 1999. – 32 b.
2. Ahmedov, B. Temuriylar davlati va huquq tizimi / B. Ahmedov. – Toshkent: O‘zbekiston, 2001. – 240 b.
3. G‘afurov, B. G. O‘rta Osiyo tarixi / B. G. G‘afurov. – Toshkent: Sharq, 2019. – 528 b.
4. Raxmonov, M. Chegara qo‘riqlash tarixi (O‘zbekiston misolida) / M. Raxmonov. – Toshkent: Akadernashr, 2020. – 196 b.

Eureka Journal of Humanities and Social Research (EJHSR)

ISSN 2760-4934 (Online) Volume 2, Issue 5, May 2026



This article/work is licensed under CC by 4.0 Attribution

<https://eurekaopenaccess.com/index.php/4>

5. Xalqaro huquq asoslari / mualliflar jamoasi ; mas'ul muharrir Sh. R. Rahimov. – Toshkent: TDYU nashriyoti, 2018. – 412 b.
6. Harrison, H. Driving the Soviets up the Wall: Soviet-East German Relations, 1953–1961 / H. Harrison. – Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2003. – 345 p.
7. Isaac, B. The Limits of Empire: The Roman Army in the East / B. Isaac. – Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1990. – 492 p.
8. Lattimore, O. Inner Asian Frontiers of China / O. Lattimore. – New York: American Geographical Society, 1940. – 585 p.
9. Parker, G. The Grand Strategy of the Roman Empire / G. Parker. – London: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2008. – 280 p.
10. Waldron, A. The Great Wall of China: From History to Myth / A. Waldron. – Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1990. – 296 p.