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ETHNIC COMPOSITION AND SOCIAL STRUCTURE OF THE POPULATION OF EAST KAZAKHSTAN IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE 19TH CENTURY

N.A. Makhmetova

Shakarim University (Semey, Kazakhstan)

E-mail: nadira_95_@mail.ru

<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6701-8019>

Abstract. This article provides a comprehensive historical and demographic analysis of the social and economic transformation of East Kazakhstan during the nineteenth century. Using a multi-disciplinary approach, the study examines the evolution of the region's ethnic composition, focusing on the complex dynamics of population growth and large-scale migration processes. A significant portion of the research is dedicated to the socio-cultural and economic contributions of the Tatar, German, and Polish diasporas, evaluating their pivotal role in institutionalizing trade networks, urban culture, and scientific exploration within the region.

The paper critically investigates the strategic impact of the Russian Empire's resettlement policy on the shifting demographic landscape of the Irtysh basin and the Altai foothills. Based on rigorous analysis of primary statistical sources and census data, the study reconstructs the social stratification and religious diversity of the population. Furthermore, it explores the structural changes in the traditional Kazakh nomadic economy, highlighting the gradual transition from extensive pastoralism to market-oriented livestock breeding and sedentary agriculture under the influence of settler-migrant interactions. The research concludes that by the late nineteenth century, East Kazakhstan had emerged as a unique multiethnic and frontier social space, where inter-ethnic integration and economic modernization laid the groundwork for the region's long-term developmental trajectory.

Keywords: nation, region, Russian Empire, diaspora, resettlement, census, ethnic composition.

Introduction

The pressing issues of socio-economic development are closely linked to the demographic situation of the population of a particular region and their social conditions. The economic structure of a region, its production potential, as well as the ethnic and social composition of the population are among the key factors determining the overall direction of societal development. From this perspective, a comprehensive examination of the demographic processes and socio-economic changes in the East Kazakhstan region in the nineteenth century is of considerable scholarly importance.

In the nineteenth century, large-scale socio-economic and demographic transformations took place in the eastern territories of the Russian Empire. These changes were closely connected with the imperial colonial policy and with administrative and economic measures aimed at the economic development of newly incorporated territories. These processes also had a significant impact on the size and ethnic composition of the population inhabiting the eastern part of Kazakhstan. During this period, changes in the demographic situation of the region were primarily associated with the implementation of the resettlement policy of the Russian Empire and the formation of new economic relations.

The growth of the population in the East Kazakhstan region was largely influenced by the policy pursued by the imperial authorities aimed at the deeper development of the territory and its integration into the economic space of the Russian Empire. The imperial administration paid particular attention to the development of trade and industry in order to accelerate the economic exploitation of the region.

As a result, trade relations expanded, and new industrial enterprises and economic centers began to emerge in the region. In particular, the development of mining, agriculture, and trade relations contributed significantly to the economic revitalization of the region.

During this period, the traditional economy of the local population—the Kazakhs—gradually came under the influence of emerging market relations. The commercial character of livestock products strengthened, and livestock and livestock products began to play an important role in interregional trade. Such changes led to the transformation of the local economic structure and introduced new directions in the socio-economic development of Kazakh society. At the same time, the expansion of economic opportunities in the region created favorable conditions for migrants from other parts of the Russian Empire to settle there.

Materials and methods

As a result of the resettlement policy pursued by the tsarist government, representatives of various ethnic groups—including Russians, Ukrainians, and others—from the internal provinces of the Russian Empire began to move to the East Kazakhstan region. This process led to significant changes in the ethnic composition of the population. The transformation of the demographic structure of the region contributed to increased ethnic diversity and stimulated the emergence of new phenomena in its social and cultural life.

Information about the mineral resources of East Kazakhstan had been known to the Russian state since an earlier period. Reports about the abundance of natural resources in the Altai region attracted the attention of the imperial administration and raised the issue of the economic development and political consolidation of this territory. Evidence of this can be found in the statement of Empress Elizabeth, who emphasized the importance of obtaining control over the region's "gold, silver, lead, and other underground mineral resources." This statement indicates that the interest of the imperial authorities in the Altai and Upper Irtysh regions was motivated not only by political considerations but also, and above all, by economic interests.

In this regard, in 1791 a decree was issued on the resettlement of the Russian population to the territories extending from the Uba and Ulba rivers through the Bukhtarma region to Lake Teletskoye. It is known that Lake Teletskoye was called "Altynkol" in ancient Turkic and Altai languages. This decree became one of the important stages in the policy of the Russian Empire aimed at developing frontier regions and maintaining stable control over them. The resettlement policy not only facilitated the economic development of the region but also laid the foundation for its gradual incorporation into the colonial administrative system of the empire (Bronevsky, S. B. 2007).

The construction of military fortifications along the Upper Irtysh not only strengthened the influence of the Russian Empire in the region but also created favorable conditions for the systematic exploration of the Altai area. Through the network of fortresses, the imperial administration exercised military and administrative control over the territory and facilitated the development of mining activities. During this period, the Altai Mining Administration, which was responsible for organizing mining operations in the Altai Mountain District, expanded its activities and intensified the exploitation of natural resources.

The expansion of mining enterprises also affected the traditional migration routes and settlement patterns of the local Kazakh population. As lands required for mining operations were developed, Kazakhs were gradually displaced from the pastures and migration areas they had traditionally used. The Cabinet of His Imperial Majesty played an active role in implementing this policy. In order to protect industrial facilities and mineral deposits located on Cabinet lands and ensure their stable operation, restrictions were imposed on the movement of Kazakhs into these territories.

At the same time, measures were taken to relocate Russian peasants from the internal provinces of the empire to these regions. In many cases, this migration process was compulsory. Although peasants suffering from land shortages were encouraged or required to resettle in new territories, archival documents indicate that some of them opposed such policies (Complete Collection of Laws of the Russian Empire (PSZ), Vol. 38, No. 29127).

The imperial decree adopted in 1798, entitled “On Providing Shelter to Those Crossing from the Middle Kirghiz-Kaisak Horde and to Sultans and Elders Who Have Accepted Russian Citizenship with Their Property,” allowed the Kazakhs of the Middle Zhuz to cross beyond the Irtysh River to a certain extent. This document contributed to the gradual incorporation of a part of Kazakh society into the administrative system of the Russian Empire and influenced the transformation of socio-political relations in the frontier regions (PSZ, Vol. XXII, No. 18596).

Following the incorporation of the Upper Irtysh region into the Russian Empire, the first peasant settlements began to emerge in the territory of present-day East Kazakhstan. Among those who settled in the Altai region independently were representatives of various social groups. These included Old Believers-known as *Kerzhaks*-who had fled religious persecution. The tsarist government registered such settlers and limited its control mainly to the collection of the *yasak* tax from them. The emergence of these settlements facilitated the economic development of the headwaters of the Irtysh River and the Altai region (Egorina,2000).

The resettlement policy of the Russian Empire was aimed at relocating peasants from among Russians, Ukrainians, and other ethnic groups who possessed little or no land to new territories. As a result of these migration processes, representatives of various nationalities began to settle in the territory of East Kazakhstan. This development directly influenced the growth of the region’s population and led to changes in its ethnic composition.

At the same time, the development of mining in East Kazakhstan, the establishment of metallurgical enterprises, and the emergence of industries processing agricultural products also contributed to population growth. The formation of industrial centers increased the demand for labor and encouraged the establishment of new settlements and populated areas. As a result, the region was gradually integrated into the economic space of the Russian Empire and began to occupy an important place in its industrial and economic structure.

Discussion

It is well known that the regions of Kazakhstan differed in their ethnic and social composition. Particularly in the nineteenth century, the demographic structure of these regions underwent significant changes as a result of imperial administrative policies, migration processes, and the expansion of economic relations. In this regard, the East Kazakhstan region became one of the areas distinguished by its ethnic diversity and complex social composition. Although the indigenous Kazakh population constituted the majority, representatives of various ethnic groups who migrated from the internal provinces of the Russian Empire and neighboring regions also lived there.

According to Professor E. Bekmakhanov, the population of the East Kazakhstan region steadily increased during the second half of the nineteenth century. This growth was the result of both natural demographic processes and the arrival of migrants from outside the region. The increase in the region’s population was significantly influenced by the resettlement policy of the Russian Empire, the establishment of new industrial enterprises, and the development of trade relations. As a result, the ethnic structure of the region became more complex, and a multiethnic society gradually began to take shape.

Among these ethnic groups, the Tatars were one of the communities that had settled in the East Kazakhstan region relatively early. They constituted a considerable proportion of the urban population and made a significant contribution to the socio-cultural development of the region. The Tatar community played an especially active role in trade and entrepreneurship in urban centers. Their activities were not limited to economic life alone; they also contributed substantially to the development of cultural and educational initiatives in the region.

The well-known Turkologist V. V. Radlov, while studying the history of the Tatars living along the Irtysh River, noted that some of them had migrated to this region as early as the fifteenth century from the khanates of Central Asia and the Volga region for various reasons. According to him, during the initial stage this migration was sometimes forced, whereas in later periods it occurred voluntarily. Some Tatars arrived with trade caravans and gradually settled permanently in the region.

In his travel notes written in 1862, V. V. Radlov described the socio-economic situation of the city of Semey and provided information about its ethnic composition. He wrote: “Semey is quite a large city. The population is about six thousand people. Russians make up no more than one-third of the inhabitants; the rest are Tatars and Kazakhs. At present, Semey has become a trade center connecting the Kazakh steppe of Western Siberia with Western China. This trade is mainly conducted by the local Tatars.” These observations indicate that by the mid-nineteenth century the Tatar community played an important role in the economic life of the region.

Most of the Tatars of Semey belonged to the merchant estate. They actively contributed to the development of both internal and external trade relations and played a significant role in the economic life of the region. Tatar merchants established trade connections with Central Asia, China, and other regions of the Russian Empire, which contributed to the transformation of the city into a major commercial center. In addition, some of them were involved in industrial development and successfully engaged in entrepreneurial activities.

Among such entrepreneurial families were well-known Tatar merchant dynasties such as the Musin brothers, the Khalitov family, and the Rafikov family. These families were active not only in trade and industrial activities but also played an important role in public life. They directed a portion of their financial resources obtained through entrepreneurial activities toward the development of urban infrastructure, the construction of public buildings, and the support of educational institutions.

For example, the construction of the elegant double-minaret and single-minaret mosques in the city of Semey, which have been preserved to this day, was carried out with the financial support of these Tatar merchants. These mosques served not only as religious centers but also as important centers of cultural and educational life in the city. Religious education was conducted there, and madrasas aimed at improving the literacy of the local population functioned within these institutions.

Thus, the activities of the Tatar community in the East Kazakhstan region were not limited to the economic sphere; they also had a significant influence on the development of the cultural and spiritual life of the region. Through their involvement in trade, entrepreneurship, and educational initiatives, they made a considerable contribution to the formation of the socio-cultural environment of the region and played an important role in the urban development of cities in East Kazakhstan (Egorina, 2000).

Among the multiethnic diasporas of East Kazakhstan, although not very numerous, Germans and Poles occupied a special place due to their significant contribution to the socio-economic and cultural development of the region. In the nineteenth century, representatives of various ethnic groups migrated to the territory of Kazakhstan, which had become part of the Russian Empire, as a result of diverse historical circumstances and social factors. Among them, the German and Polish diasporas stood out as communities that made a notable impact on the scientific, cultural, and economic life of the region.

Representatives of the German ethnic group began arriving in the Kazakh steppe from the mid-eighteenth century. Their presence was closely connected with the state service system of the Russian Empire, the military-administrative governance structure, and various scientific research expeditions. Among the Germans were military officers, physicians, church officials, engineers, administrative officials, and scholars. These specialists were involved in exploring the eastern territories of the empire, developing their natural resources, and participating in the administrative management of newly incorporated regions.

Among them were prominent representatives of German origin such as the traveler and researcher Karl Miller, Georg Gerhard von Gens, and the educator and military figure Lieutenant General Johann von Springer. These individuals conducted scientific research and contributed to the study of the region's natural and geographical features, ethnography, and economic potential. Such studies provided an important scientific basis for the comprehensive development of Kazakhstan's territories within the Russian Empire.

Results

According to the data of the first general census of the Russian Empire conducted at the end of the nineteenth century, about 100 Germans lived in the territory of the Semey region in 1897. They were mainly settled in the village of Peremenovskoye, located near the city of Semey. Although the number of German settlers was relatively small, their professional qualifications and economic activity played a significant role in the economic life of the region.

German entrepreneurs and traders were mainly engaged in the supply and sale of industrial and manufactured goods. They imported machinery and industrial products from Central Asian regions and sold metal goods, pharmaceutical products, canned meat, and locally produced goods. In addition, German entrepreneurs were involved in the exploration and development of natural resources, participating in the discovery of oil and other mineral deposits in the Kazakh steppe, as well as in the processing of gold and metal ores.

One of the notable industrial initiatives of German scientists and entrepreneurs was associated with the chemist Wilhelm Pfaff. On his initiative, in 1883 a special partnership was established for the production of the medicinal substance santonin. This enterprise later laid the foundation for the santonin factory opened in the city of Chernyaev (present-day Shymkent). The establishment of such enterprises contributed, to a certain extent, to the development of the pharmaceutical industry in the territory of Kazakhstan.

Another German entrepreneur was Yuliy Karlovich von Schmedel, who was engaged in gold mining and contributed to the development of the region's mining industry by establishing a gold-processing factory. The activities of such enterprises promoted the exploitation of natural resources in Kazakhstan and facilitated the formation of industrial infrastructure in the region.

The scientific and cultural development of East Kazakhstan was influenced not only by representatives of the German community but also by members of the intelligentsia who had been politically exiled to the region. One of them was the Russian scholar, public figure, and educator E. P. Michaelis. He maintained close relations with the great Kazakh poet Abai Kunanbayev and played an important role in spreading educational ideas in the Kazakh steppe, promoting the development of scientific knowledge, and contributing to the formation of the local intellectual community.

Thus, despite their relatively small numbers, the German and Polish diasporas occupied an important place in the socio-economic and cultural life of the East Kazakhstan region. Their scientific research, entrepreneurial activities, and educational initiatives contributed to the industrial development of the region, the expansion of cultural connections, and the renewal of public thought. On September 20, 1883, the first regional museum of the area was opened in the city of Semey. The establishment of this cultural and educational institution became one of the most significant events in the scientific and cultural life of East Kazakhstan. Local intellectuals and members of the politically exiled intelligentsia made a considerable contribution to the creation of the museum. In particular, the activities of public figures such as N. Ya. Konshin and E. P. Michaelis deserve special mention. They actively participated in the study and collection of the historical, ethnographic, and natural heritage of the region.

Local historians and researchers were widely involved in the process of expanding the museum's collections. The first exhibitions mainly consisted of zoological collections, archaeological and ethnographic artifacts, as well as various ancient objects and household items. E. P. Michaelis, who served as the secretary of the Statistical Committee, donated to the museum rare historical and cultural items that he had personally collected, thereby making a significant contribution to the development of the museum's scientific orientation. Through the activities of the museum, systematic research on the natural resources, historical monuments, and everyday life of the local population began to be conducted.

The Polish diaspora also played a distinctive role in the formation of the multiethnic society of the East Kazakhstan region. The formation of the Polish community in Kazakhstan was a complex and long-term process shaped by various historical and political circumstances. One of the main stages of Polish migration to the Kazakh lands is associated with the second half of the nineteenth

century. After the defeat of the national liberation uprising in Poland in 1863, the Russian Empire exiled many participants of the uprising to Siberia and the territories of Kazakhstan.

As a result of these events, many representatives of the Polish nation were resettled to the peripheral regions of the Russian Empire, including the East Kazakhstan region. According to archival data, in 1865 there were 65 Poles living in exile in the Semey region. Over time, their number gradually increased, and according to the results of the first general census of the Russian Empire conducted in 1897, 195 Poles were registered in the Semey region.

Among the politically exiled Poles there were many well-educated individuals with a high level of cultural development. They included doctors, teachers, engineers, researchers, and other representatives of the intelligentsia. For this reason, the Polish intelligentsia had a certain influence on the development of the scientific and cultural life of the region.

Many representatives of the Polish community worked in local administrative institutions, educational establishments, medical services, and scientific research activities. This circumstance enabled them to establish close contacts with representatives of the Kazakh population. Polish intellectuals actively interacted with the local population and showed great interest in studying the everyday life, traditions, culture, and spiritual world of Kazakh society.

As a result, some of them produced valuable scholarly works on the ethnography, folklore, lifestyle, and culture of the Kazakh people. These works remain important sources for later researchers. Thus, representatives of the Polish diaspora occupied a special place in history not only as political exiles but also as intellectuals who contributed to the scientific study of the Kazakh steppe and to the development of its cultural life.

Among such works are Adolf Januszkevič's "*Diaries and Letters from a Journey to the Kazakh Steppe*," Bronisław Zaleski's "*Journey to the Kazakh Steppe*," and Severin Gross's "*Materials for the Study of the Legal Customs of the Kyrgyz (Kazakhs)*." These works represent valuable sources that comprehensively describe the social life of the Kazakh people in the nineteenth century, their traditional legal system, way of life, customs, and spiritual culture. In their writings, these authors analyzed the social structure of Kazakh society, the characteristics of nomadic pastoralism, and the everyday life of the steppe population based on direct observations and empirical data. Therefore, these works are important not only as historical evidence but also as significant scholarly materials for ethnographic and cultural studies. Even today, their research has not lost its relevance and continues to be widely used by the academic community in the study of the history and culture of the Kazakh people (Kassymbaev, 1998).

The scientific study of the territory of Kazakhstan, including the East Kazakhstan region, began to take on a systematic character in the nineteenth century, largely due to the growing interest of the Russian Empire in its eastern territories. During this period, numerous scientific expeditions were organized with the aim of investigating natural resources, geographical features, and the socio-economic conditions of the local population. The works of these researchers contributed to the identification of the region's natural wealth, the assessment of its economic potential, and the establishment of a scientific foundation for the colonial policy of the Russian Empire.

The research activities mentioned above involved travelers, scholars, and researchers representing various nationalities. As a result of their scientific observations and expeditionary studies, extensive information was collected about the region's nature, geography, climate, flora, and fauna. In addition, their works preserved valuable data on the everyday life of the local population, their economic system, social structure, and cultural life.

Among these researchers were well-known travelers and scholars such as P. S. Pallas, F. A. Gebler, C. F. Ledebour, G. N. Potanin, P. A. Chikhachev, V. V. Sapozhnikov, V. A. Obruchev, and N. M. Przhevalsky, among others. They organized several scientific expeditions to Kazakhstan and the Altai region, conducting comprehensive studies of the region's natural and geographical features, mineral resources, and ethnographic characteristics.

The works of these researchers made it possible not only to provide a scientific description of the natural resources of the East Kazakhstan region but also to study the socio-economic conditions,

cultural life, and traditional economic system of the local population. As a result, in the second half of the nineteenth century the volume of scientific information about the region expanded considerably, marking the beginning of a new stage in the study of Kazakhstan (Bronevsky, S. B. 2007).

According to the statistical census of 1880, the population of the Semey region totaled 530,720 people, including 285,994 men and 244,726 women. These figures indicate that the demographic situation in the region was relatively stable and that the population gradually increased in line with the region's economic and social development. At the same time, the census data clearly reflect the diversity of the religious and social-estate composition of the population of the region.

In terms of religious affiliation, the majority of the population of the region adhered to Islam. According to census data, the number of Muslims amounted to 490,257 people, representing 92.38% of the total population. In contrast, the number of residents belonging to Christian denominations was 40,149 people, or 7.56% of the total population. Among the Christian population, adherents of the Orthodox Church predominated. However, there were also 65 Old Believers (Raskolniks), 73 Roman Catholics, and 10 Protestants. In addition, 163 representatives of the Jewish population lived within the region. These data indicate that although the religious structure of the region was predominantly Muslim, representatives of various religious communities were also present.

In terms of social estate structure, the population of the region was divided into several social groups. According to census data, the number of nobles and officials amounted to 1,358 people, while Orthodox clergy numbered 181 individuals. The number of Muslim clergy (excluding volost-level Kyrgyz-Kazakh-mullahs) was 140. In addition, honorary citizens and merchants in the cities numbered 1,040, townspeople (*meshchane*) 9,224, and peasants 4,224. Among the military estates, Cossacks (excluding officers and officials) numbered 23,146, while lower-ranking military personnel and their families totaled 4,551 people. The reserve military personnel and their families accounted for 1,739 individuals.

The majority of the population consisted of Kazakhs (referred to as "Kirghiz" in official documents of that period). Their number amounted to 484,155 people, including 51 sultans and 1,612 representatives of sultan families. The number of inhabitants belonging to other social groups totaled 962 people. In terms of the ethnic composition within the estate structure, Kazakhs constituted 91.23%, Cossacks 4.36%, townspeople (*meshchane*) 1.70%, and lower-ranking military personnel 0.86%. These data indicate that the Kazakh population constituted the overwhelming majority in the region and played a leading role in its ethnodemographic structure.

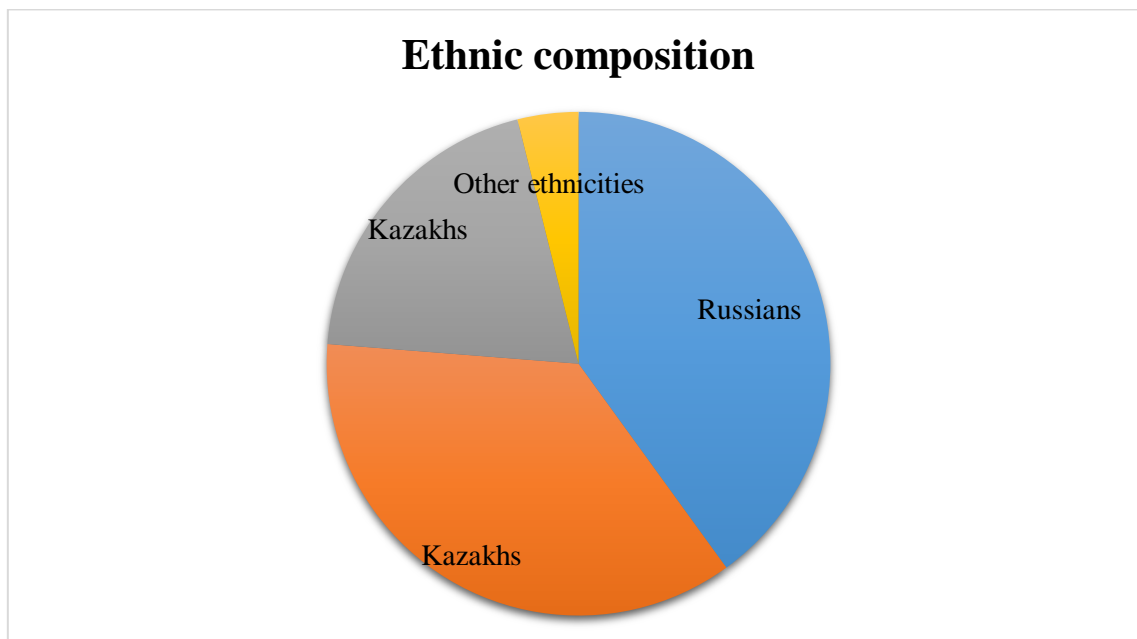
Information regarding the lifestyle of the region's inhabitants is also significant. According to statistical data, the majority of the population maintained a nomadic way of life. Census results indicate that 475,800 people, or 89.65% of the region's population, were nomadic. Approximately one-third of them were fully nomadic, possessing no permanent dwellings other than yurts. The remaining portion practiced a semi-nomadic lifestyle, residing in permanent winter settlements during the colder months.

The number of sedentary inhabitants amounted to 51,920 people, or 10.34% of the total population. Among them, 31,512 people lived in urban areas, while 23,408 people resided in rural settlements within the districts. These data show that the majority of the region's population was engaged in traditional nomadic livestock breeding, whereas sedentary inhabitants were mainly concentrated in urban trade, handicrafts, and administrative services. On the basis of these data, important conclusions can be drawn about the religious beliefs, social structure, and lifestyle of the population of the region (Kassymbaev, Zh. K., 1998).

In addition, the first population census conducted by the regional statistical committee on March 15, 1882, demonstrates the diverse ethnic composition of the city of Semey. According to the census results, representatives of 12 nationalities lived in the city. Among them were 7,342 Russians, 6,647 Kazakhs, and 3,642 Tatars. Other groups included 509 Sarts, 115 Jews, 47 Poles, 10 Germans, 31 Bashkirs, 1 Chinese, and 3 Armenians (Diagram 1).

These data indicate that by the end of the nineteenth century the city of Semey had become a multiethnic center of trade and culture. Although the majority of the city's inhabitants lived in an urban environment, some of them were also engaged in agriculture and farming during the summer months. This situation reflects the diversity of the economic activities of urban residents and indicates the close economic ties that developed between the city and the surrounding rural areas.

Diagram 1. Ethnic composition according to the statistical data of 1882
(Levshin, 1996)



According to census data from the end of 1887, the total population of the Semey region amounted to 576,578 people (Materials on Kyrgyz (Kazakh) Land Use Collected and Processed by the Expedition for the Study of the Steppe Regions: Semipalatinsk Region, Ust-Kamenogorsk District. ,1905). This figure clearly demonstrates the gradual growth of the region's population. In the second half of the nineteenth century, demographic growth in the region was associated not only with natural population increase but also with migration processes. The resettlement policy of the Russian Empire, the establishment of new industrial enterprises, and the expansion of trade relations all contributed to the growth of the population. As a result, the Semey region became one of the multiethnic areas with a complex social structure.

At the same time, the socio-economic conditions of the Kazakh population in the region were generally at a moderate level. Kazakhs maintained relations based on mutual understanding with representatives of various ethnic groups who had settled in the region. This situation contributed to the formation of a multiethnic society and strengthened social interactions within the region. The primary economic activity of Kazakh society was traditional livestock breeding. Animal husbandry was closely connected with the nomadic and semi-nomadic way of life and formed the basis of the population's economic existence.

Valuable information about the economic system of the Kazakh people can also be found in the works of the prominent scholar and educator Shokan Valikhanov, written between 1860 and 1864. In his writings, he noted that the main occupation of the Kazakhs living in the Semey region was livestock breeding. According to the scholar: *“The Kirghiz (Kazakhs) of the Semey region live entirely by livestock breeding. In the northern areas they raise horses in large herds, while in the southern areas they combine camel breeding with a strong emphasis on sheep farming.”* These observations indicate that different forms of livestock breeding developed in the region in accordance with its natural and geographical conditions.

In addition, Sh. Valikhanov, describing the nomadic lifestyle of the Kazakhs based on livestock breeding, wrote: “...Among the Kirghiz (Kazakhs), livestock graze in the steppe both in winter and summer; even in winter they find their food in the open steppe just as they do in summer” (Review of the Semipalatinsk Region for the Year 1880). These observations demonstrate the traditional economic practices of the Kazakh people, which were well adapted to natural conditions. The year-round grazing of livestock on natural pastures increased the efficiency of nomadic pastoralism and served as the main source of livelihood for the population.

Based on these data, it can be concluded that in the nineteenth century the principal economic activity in the territory of the former Semey region was livestock breeding. Animal husbandry not only formed the basis of the economic life of the Kazakh population but also had a direct influence on their social structure, lifestyle, and cultural traditions. Moreover, livestock breeding contributed to the development of trade relations in the region, as livestock and livestock products gradually became important commodities in both domestic and external markets.

Thus, in the second half of the nineteenth century, the demographic growth of the East Kazakhstan region, the increasing complexity of its ethnic composition, and the preservation of the traditional economic system became the main features characterizing the socio-economic development of the region.

By the end of the nineteenth century, the traditional pastoral economy of the Kazakhs gradually came under the influence of market relations and developed in an extensive form. The growth of livestock numbers and the increasing involvement of livestock products in trade circulation indicate significant changes in the economic life of Kazakh society. Livestock breeding was no longer merely a means of subsistence but was gradually transforming into a major sector of commodity production. This process was closely connected with the expansion of both internal and external trade relations in the region.

In the works of nineteenth-century researchers, the characteristics of Kazakh livestock breeding were described in considerable detail. One of them, G. Bronevsky, wrote about the wealth and economic structure of the Kazakh people: “*All the wealth of the Kirghiz (Kazakhs - A.Q.) consists of thousands of herds of horses, camels, cattle, and flocks of sheep and goats. Their horses are large and swift. Their camels are all two-humped animals capable of carrying loads of twelve to twenty poods and are highly resistant to desert conditions. Russian merchants purchase large numbers of their white-headed cattle and transport them to Yekaterinburg and even as far as Moscow. Their sheep are large, weighing eighty to one hundred kilograms*” (Review of the Semipalatinsk Region for the Year 1887).

These data clearly demonstrate the highly developed nature of Kazakh pastoralism and its importance in trade circulation. Livestock and livestock products were exported to various regions of Russia, contributing to the development of interregional trade relations. As a result, the Kazakh steppe was gradually integrated into the economic space of the Russian Empire, and livestock products became an important commodity.

At the same time, the arrival of Russian settlers in the East Kazakhstan region led to certain changes in the economic structure of Kazakh society. In particular, this process had a significant influence on the spread of agricultural practices. Through close interaction with Russians and familiarity with their lifestyle and farming methods, Kazakhs gradually began to adopt agricultural techniques.

Several factors contributed to the adoption of agriculture among the Kazakhs. First, in some areas the reduction of pasturelands encouraged the population to develop additional forms of economic activity. Second, the experience and agricultural practices of Russian settlers served as an example for the Kazakh population. As a result, Kazakhs gradually learned land cultivation and began to engage in farming activities.

Kazakhs mainly cultivated crops along the banks of rivers and lakes. Such areas were suitable for agriculture due to their proximity to water sources. This situation indicates that alongside the

traditional nomadic economy, elements of sedentary or semi-sedentary economic practices gradually began to emerge among the Kazakhs.

The researcher V. Dedlov also noted that Kazakhs had begun to engage in agriculture: *“Like the Russian settlers, the Kazakhs also began to dig the land and practice agriculture. In my opinion, not much time has passed since peasants from Russia began to settle here, yet many Kazakhs have already learned how to plow the land and cultivate crops”* (Seisenuly, 2012).

These data indicate that by the end of the nineteenth century the economic structure of Kazakh society had begun to undergo gradual changes. Although livestock breeding remained the principal occupation, agriculture also developed as an additional form of economic activity and began to occupy an important place in the economic life of the region. At the same time, these changes contributed to the socio-economic development of Kazakh society and to the gradual emergence of sedentary tendencies.

Conclusion

The demographic, social, and economic transformations that occurred in the East Kazakhstan region during the nineteenth century constituted one of the important stages in the historical development of the region. The colonial policies of the Russian Empire, resettlement processes, and measures aimed at the exploitation of natural resources contributed to the growth of the population, the increasing complexity of the ethnic composition, and the transformation of the economic structure of the region.

As demonstrated in the study, during the second half of the nineteenth century the population of the Semey region gradually increased, and the region developed into a multiethnic area. Although Kazakhs constituted the majority of the population, representatives of other ethnic groups-including Russians, Tatars, Germans, Poles, Jews, and others-also settled in the region. These ethnic communities made their own contributions to the economic, cultural, and scientific life of the region. In particular, Tatar merchants played an important role in the development of trade and entrepreneurship, while German and Polish intellectuals influenced the region’s social development through their scientific research, educational activities, and cultural initiatives.

At the same time, the scientific exploration of the East Kazakhstan region intensified during the nineteenth century. Travelers and scholars representing various nationalities studied the natural resources, geographical characteristics, and everyday life of the local population, producing valuable scholarly works. Their research contributed to a deeper scientific understanding of the territory of Kazakhstan and laid the groundwork for further academic studies.

In the socio-economic life of the region, traditional livestock breeding remained the principal occupation. Animal husbandry formed the basis of the livelihood of the Kazakh population and was closely connected with their nomadic and semi-nomadic way of life. However, by the end of the nineteenth century, under the influence of market relations, livestock breeding gradually acquired a commodity-oriented character. Livestock and livestock products became integrated into interregional trade networks and were exported to various cities of the Russian Empire.

At the same time, the arrival of Russian settlers led to certain changes in the economic structure of Kazakh society. Kazakhs gradually began to adopt agricultural practices and started cultivating crops along river and lake banks. This phenomenon reflected the adaptation of the traditional economic system to new economic conditions.

Thus, in the second half of the nineteenth century, the East Kazakhstan region experienced significant socio-economic and demographic transformations. The interaction of its multiethnic population, the development of its economic system, and the expansion of scientific research contributed to the formation of the region’s socio-cultural environment. These processes laid the foundations for the subsequent historical development of East Kazakhstan and contributed to its emergence as one of the important regions in the history of Kazakhstan.

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Н.А. Махметова

Шәкәрім университеті (Семей, Қазақстан)

XIX ҒАСЫРДЫҢ ЕКІНШІ ЖАРТЫСЫНДАҒЫ ШЫҒЫС ҚАЗАҚСТАН ХАЛҚЫНЫҢ ЭТНИКАЛЫҚ ҚҰРАМЫ МЕН ӘЛЕУМЕТТІК ҚҰРЫЛЫМЫ

Андатпа. Бұл мақалада XIX ғасырдағы Шығыс Қазақстан өңірінің демографиялық, әлеуметтік және экономикалық дамуы қарастырылады. Зерттеуде аймақ халқының этникалық құрамы, халық саны өсімінің динамикасы, көші-қон процестері және түрлі этникалық топтардың өңірдің қоғамдық өміріндегі рөліне талдау жасалған. Соның ішінде татар, неміс және поляк диаспораларының аймақтың сауда, мәдени және ғылыми өмірінің қалыптасуы мен дамуына қосқан үлесіне ерекше назар аударылған.

Мақалада Ресей империясының қоныс аудару саясатының Шығыс Қазақстанның демографиялық құрылымына тигізген әсері де қарастырылады. Статистикалық мәліметтер негізінде өңір халқының сословиелік және діни құрамы сипатталған. Сонымен қатар, зерттеуде қазақ халқының дәстүрлі шаруашылық жүйесі, атап айтқанда, көшпелі мал шаруашылығының ерекшеліктері және оның XIX ғасырдың соңына қарай нарыққа бағытталған қызметке біртіндеп ауысуы зерделенеді. Орыс қоныс аударушыларының қазақ халқының егіншілік дағдыларын меңгеруіне тигізген ықпалы да талданған.

Зерттеу нәтижелері XIX ғасырдың екінші жартысында Шығыс Қазақстан өңірінің көпұлтты әлеуметтік кеңістікке айналғанын, онда түрлі этникалық топтар өкілдерінің аймақтың экономикалық, мәдени және ғылыми дамуында маңызды рөл атқарғанын көрсетеді.

Түйін сөздер: ұлт, аймақ, Ресей империясы, диаспора, қоныс аудару, халық санағы, этникалық құрам.

Н.А. Махметова

Университет Шакарима (Семей, Қазақстан)

ЭТНИЧЕСКИЙ СОСТАВ И СОЦИАЛЬНАЯ СТРУКТУРА НАСЕЛЕНИЯ ВОСТОЧНОГО КАЗАХСТАНА ВО ВТОРОЙ ПОЛОВИНЕ XIX ВЕКА

Аннотация. В данной статье рассматриваются демографические, социальные и экономические аспекты развития Восточно-Казахстанского региона в XIX веке. В исследовании анализируются этнический состав населения региона, динамика роста численности, миграционные процессы и роль различных этнических групп в общественной жизни края. Особое внимание уделяется вкладу татарской, немецкой и польской диаспор в формирование и развитие торговой, культурной и научной жизни региона.

В статье также рассматривается влияние переселенческой политики Российской империи на демографическую структуру Восточного Казахстана. На основе статистических данных характеризуются сословный и религиозный составы населения края. Кроме того, изучается традиционная хозяйственная система казахского населения, в частности особенности кочевого животноводства и его постепенная трансформация в рыночно-ориентированную деятельность к концу XIX века. Анализируется влияние русских переселенцев на освоение казахским населением земледельческих навыков.

Результаты исследования демонстрируют, что ко второй половине XIX века Восточно-Казахстанский регион превратился в полиэтничное социальное пространство, где представители различных этнических групп играли важную роль в его экономическом, культурном и научном развитии.

Ключевые слова: нация, регион, Российская империя, диаспора, переселение, перепись населения, этнический состав.

Information about the Author:

Makhmetova Nadira Amanzholkyzy – PhD, Lecturer at the Department of History, Shakarim University NJSC, Semey, Kazakhstan.

Автор туралы мәлімет:

Махметова Надира Аманжолқызы – PhD, Шәкәрім университеті КеАҚ, тарих кафедрасының оқытушысы, Семей, Қазақстан.

Сведения об авторе:

Махметова Надира Аманжолқызы – PhD, преподаватель кафедры истории НАО «Университет Шакарима», Семей, Казахстан.

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