



# THE POLICY OF TSARISM IN KAZAKHSTAN IN THE XVIII - XIX CENTURIES: CONSEQUENCES OF ITS IMPACT ON TRADITIONAL KAZAKH SOCIETY

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## ABSTRACT

The current state of Kazakh statehood is characterized by a systemic transformation process. In this regard, the study of the history of Kazakh-Russian relations occupies an important place. The problems of studying the history of the formation of interstate ties, a retrospective analysis of the evolution of the development of Kazakh society in the pre-colonial period, and the issues of conducting the imperial policy of Russia in relation to Kazakh lands are gaining scientific and political significance. The great interest of domestic historians is caused by the problems of expanding the territory of Russia due to the colonization of Kazakh lands in the 19th century, and the irreversible processes associated with this that took place during the study period.

## Keywords:

## INTRODUCTION

The study of the history of Kazakh-Russian relations, according to scientists, today should be free from prevailing stereotypes and not dependent on the dogmas of old historical knowledge and historiography. Such an approach is necessary in the interests of developing future relations, the formation of new progressive thinking.

The available information on the history of trade between Russia, Kazakhstan and Central Asia suggests that the khanates of Central Asia were interested in Russia primarily as a raw material base. Kazakhstan was also

perceived by Russia not only as a place of sale of its goods, but also as one of the most important sources of raw materials.

The settlement of Russian peasants on the ancestral Kazakh lands was a peculiar continuation and a new stage of military colonization. The famous Russian historian and missionary A.E. In his work, *Index of Books, Magazines, and Newspaper Articles on the Kirghiz*, Alektorov speaks of two stages of the tsarist government's colonial policy: "By actively establishing order on Kyrgyz soil, the Cossacks thereby fulfilled their historical mission. According to the requirements of the new period, economic colonization of the steppe was to take place in the Kyrgyz step. Therefore, resettlement settlements today should play the same role as pickets for the armed forces had before" (Alektorov, 1990).

The imperial government, pursuing a colonial policy, on the one hand, relied on the armed forces as an apparatus of colonization, on the other hand, was based on the support of the Kazakh feudal elite - the Shonjarov. Separate territories of the Kazakh lands were seized with the help of feudal lords - Shonjars.

Unfortunately, many scholars of Russian and Russian historiography colonial policy of Tsarist Russia XVIII - XIX centuries. It was presented as a policy of enlightenment and spiritual education in Kazakhstan. Such an assessment is the result of socialist ideology, the effect of which affected all spheres of human life and society.

So, the historian A.Sabyrkhanov in his work devoted to the study of the history of Kazakhstan's annexation to Russia, notes that "... the entry of Kazakh lands into Russia met the socio-cultural and economic interests of the Kazakh people." (Sabyrkhanov, 1965).

In the work of Russian scientists I.L. Yamzina and V.P. Voshchinin's "The Doctrine of Colonization and Resettlement" (1926), written as a student's textbook for universities, the tsarist colonial policy, despite the fact that it was violent, is seen as a progressive phenomenon (Yazmin & Voshchinin, 1926). Nevertheless, in domestic historiography there were works in which attempts were made to objectively analyze and evaluate the colonial policy of tsarist Russia. So, in the work of T. Tazhibaev "Pedagogical thought of Kazakhstan in the second half of the 19th century", in which special attention is paid to the history of education in the Kazakh steppe before the October Revolution, it is noted that "... one of the main tasks of the government of tsarist Russia was to constantly monitor the social thought of the Muslim society ..." (Tazhibaev, 1962).

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

Today, in connection with the dynamic development of society, it is time to develop a new methodology for the study of complex and difficult issues of national history, which should be based on closer attention to facts and historical documents. This is especially true of the period of colonization, which raises a lot of controversial issues among both domestic and Russian scientists.

The historian M. Tynyshbaev, speaking about the hardships of Russia's colonial policy, notes: "... the Kyrgyz, attacked by enemies - the Chinese, Dzungars, Kalmyks, Bashkirs and Russian Cossacks, in 1730 began to take steps to take Russian citizenship. In 1865, this transition completed the Kokand Khanate.

The Kyrgyz, realizing that they could not maintain political freedom, did not resist and soon more than 5.5 million people went over to the side of the Russian government" (Tanyshpaev, 1998).

A feature of the colonial policy of the Russian Empire was that, unlike countries such as Britain, France, Belgium and others, the colonization of

Kazakh lands took place, as some scholars believe, “more gently”. Was this really so?

As individual scholars admit: “... colonial politics at all times, including in the 19th-20th centuries. based on the desire of some metropolises to enslave the population of other countries by choosing cruel forms ... ”(Macy, 1993). One of the forms of the colonial policy of tsarism was the resettlement of Russian peasants from their homes. The resettlement of the Slavs to the original Kazakh lands was by that time connected with the loss of political independence by the Kazakhs, and, as a consequence of this, statehood. The tsarist government, conquering the Kazakh lands and actually depriving the population of property, sought to “legally” expand its territory.

The first step in realizing this goal was the introduction of a new power system in Kazakhstan. On October 21, 1868, the “Provisional Regulation on the Administration of the Ural, Turgai, Akmola and Semipalatinsk Regions” was published, according to which the implementation of the resettlement policy was carried out at all levels and the settlement of land relations in the steppe regions (Sarieva, 2002).

In the 60s of the XIX century, a system of economic management and development of Kazakh lands headed by Russia began to be introduced in Kazakhstan. The beginning of this process could be observed in widespread colonization, when Russian Cossacks began to attack peaceful Kazakhs, which led to the fact that the western regions of Kazakhstan became subordinate to Russia.

Cossacks and Russian subjects - the Bashkirs and the Volga Kalmyks began to oppress the Kazakhs of the Younger Zhuz. Having completely seized the Kazakh lands of the Younger Zhuz by military forces, the tsarist government began to carry out territorial-administrative reorganization in the region and introduce, contrary to the will of the local population, a new management system. Soon, the Younger Zhuz of the Kazakh Khanate fell under the protectorate of the Russian Empire.

In historiography, both Russian and domestic, there is information about the hardships of colonial rule, which lasted for many centuries, but these materials, due to the dominance of the Soviet ideology of interstate relations, remained poorly lit.

Many Russian scientists, unfortunately, cover this period extremely superficially, viewing the policy of the tsarist government only as the desire of the authorities to expand the territory of the state, strengthen its borders, as well as the economic development of land. Their work indicates that in connection with the current policy begins the strengthening of Russian fortresses, the construction of outposts, and other infrastructure (Zimanov, 1960).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Currently, research is being conducted on the role of the Russian Cossacks in the history of Kazakhstan and the establishment of Russian - Kazakh relations. The opinions of Russian researchers on this issue are contradictory, and in their assessments of this role are sometimes unfounded (Shakhmatov, 1953).

Researcher G. Karasaev, relying on the information and facts cited by individual modern historians, indicates that the colonization of Kazakh lands and the resettlement of Slavs to Kazakh lands began in the 16th century. In one of his works, the author notes: “... the tsarist government of Russia laid eyes on the Kazakh lands much earlier than we used to consider ...” (Karasaev, 2003).

So, already since the 16th century, the tsarist government of Russia has been establishing political and interstate relations with Kazakhstan, however, the

scientist believes that the ultimate goal of the tsarist government was the appropriation of Kazakh lands.

In historiography, there are three chronological stages of migration, starting from the XVI century and up to 1917:

Stage 1: (end of the 16th century and the beginning of the 18th century) At that time, the tsarist government got acquainted with the Kazakh steppe, carefully studied it, established political ties with the Kazakh khans, strengthened military borders, and built cities and fortresses.

Stage 2: (30s of the XVIII century. -60s of the XIX century.). During this period, the Kazakh lands passed into the possession of the Russian Empire. It was a period of planned colonization of the Kazakh people and their lands, the construction of military fortresses and settlements.

Stage 3: (the second half of the 19th century - the beginning of the 20th century (1917). According to the plan of the tsarist government, the resettlement of Russian peasants continues, a systematic and, as researchers point out, forcible crowding out of the local population in regions unsuitable for life (Abdildabekova, 2007).

In the monograph by E. Bekmakhanov "Kazakhstan in the 20-40s of the XIX century", the history and methods of colonization of Kazakh lands are analyzed in quite some detail. Based on archival sources, the scientist points out the criminal activities and illegal actions of the tsarist government against the local population, and cites the facts of the forcible seizure of land. The author points out that the tsarist government continued to intensely carry out planned colonization of Kazakh lands, attracting Russian peasants and the Cossacks to this process (Bekmakhanov, 1994).

About this writes the researcher A.A. Kondrashenkov in his work on the history of the country in the middle of the 18th century: "... from the 30s of the 18th century to the middle of the 19th century, Russian farmers in the Trans-Urals and Western Siberia gradually moved to the southern regions and settled on Kazakh territory ..." (Kondrashenkov, 1996). The author points out that it was from this time that the economic ties of the Urals with the Trans-Urals began to strengthen, which continued in the subsequent period. The scientist traces the origins of these ties, shows the main directions of their development, determines the role of the Russian population in the economic development of the new land and its impact on the economy and culture of non-Russian peoples.

The Kazakh historian K. Bizhigitova claims that the colonization of Kazakh lands begins much earlier - in the XVII-XVIII centuries. and notes the active role of the Cossacks in the implementation of the colonial policy of the Russian Empire in military campaigns (Bizhigitova, 2000).

Among the many publications devoted to the Cossacks, the work of M. Zh. Abdirov "The History of the Cossacks of Kazakhstan", which also points to the great role of the Cossacks in the process of conquering Kazakhstan and suppressing national liberation uprisings and movements of the Kazakh people in merit, is noteworthy. XVIII-XIX centuries. The researcher notes that of the eleven Cossack troops of Tsarist Russia, four were directly located in Kazakhstan: these are the Urals, Orenburg, Siberian and Semirechensk. According to the author, "... the Cossacks performed three functions here: 1. Massive seizure of the best and most fertile lands and rivers, crowding out of Kazakhs into barren deserts, narrowing of areas of traditional nomadism of Kazakhs and thereby undermining the age-old economic structure;

2. During regular military campaigns on the steppe, massive cattle theft and deprivation of Kazakhs as their main source of livelihood;

3. During the same predatory raids on peaceful villages, mass killings and capture of men - the main productive and military force of the nomads. "Taken

together, in unity, they marked genocide in the phase of transition to ethnocide against the Kazakh people" (Abdirov, 1994).

We repeat that along with the active role of the Cossacks in the seizure of Kazakh lands, the resettlement policy continued. So, the researchers, B.S. Suleimenov and V.Ya. Basin in the work "Kazakhstan as part of Russia in the XVIII-early XX centuries." also note the process of resettlement of Russian peasants on Kazakh lands continued in the 90s of the XIX century. Based on archival data, the authors indicate that the tsarist government created several Russian provinces in the north-west of Kazakhstan, forcing the local population to other regions of the country. Russian settlements appeared in Akmola, later Semipalatinsk, Ural, Torgai, Zhetysay regions. Researchers note that the opening of the Siberian Railway, with which the second and third stages of colonization is associated, also contributed to the activation of Russian settlements (Suleimenov & Basin, 1981).

The colonial policy of the tsarist government, its true plans today cause active interest of domestic scientists. As you know, in the Soviet period, Kazakhstani historians considered this problem in the key to the progressive significance of Kazakhstan's accession to Russia. In the conditions of independence, approaches to this problem have changed significantly. Based on archival sources and research, Kazakh historians objectively conclude that during the period when the Kazakhs waged a defensive liberation war, during the tragic years of the great tribulation, the Russian empire advanced south along the Irtysh River, built fortresses on the captured Kazakh lands, reinforcing their far going plans by diplomatic actions, military expeditions.

In the works of scientists O. Mukhatova (2002), M. Koigeldiev (2004), K. Atabaev (2000), Sh. T. Omarbekov (2004) and others, it is noted that at the beginning of the 20th century, the Kazakh intelligentsia pointed to the negative consequences of the colonial policy of the tsarist government.

Thus, the works of a prominent Kazakh public figure A. Bukeykhanov are known: "Migrant allotments in the Akmola region", "Russian settlements in the depths of the Steppe Territory", "Alienation of Kyrgyz irrigated arable lands", in which the author exposes "... the false calls of the tsarist government to "ennoble the steppe ". High empty words about entering into "our Asian outskirts" have no basis and only bring disaster to the peoples of the steppe ..." (Bukeykhanov, 1995).

Figures of Alash have repeatedly pointed out in their work the political nature of the various socio-economic and military reforms carried out in the 18th-19th centuries. Thus, the implementation of colonial policy entailed military reforms that were carried out from 1822 to 1867. The judicial, zemstvo and other reforms carried out in the middle of the 19th century could not but influence the eastern national suburbs that were part of the Russian Empire.

On July 11, 1867, Tsar Alexander II approved the "Provision on the Administration of the Semirechensk and Syrdarya Regions", and on October 21, 1868 - the "Temporary Regulation on Administration in the Ural, Turgai, Akmola and Semipalatinsk Regions". The entire territory of the Kazakhs was divided into three governor-generals: Turkestan, Orenburg and West Siberian. Military and civilian power was now concentrated in the hands of the Governor General. Each governor general consisted, in turn, of areas. The Ural and Turgai Regions belonged to the Orenburg, Akmola and Semipalatinsk Regions to the West Siberian, Semirechensky and Syrdarya Regions to Turkestan Governor Generals. As you can see, the government of Kazakhstan from different centers met the objectives of the colonial policy of Russian tsarism.

It should be noted that the foundation of Semipalatinsk occurred in 1718 and is associated with the famous Decree of Peter the Great on the protection of the

eastern lands and the beginning of the construction of the Irtysh fortifications, the construction of which lasted from 1714 to 1720. Having developed as a border and military support base, the Semipalatinsk fortress, as it developed, turned into an important point of trade not only between Russia and Kazakhstan, but also between Russia, Central Asia and Western China (Semipalatinsk).

In the fall of 1720, at the confluence of Ulba into the Irtysh, the Ust-Kamenogorsk fortress was laid. The construction of fortresses and outposts in the upper reaches of the Irtysh marked the beginning of the Irtysh line, which protected the settlements in the Baraba steppe from the attack of the Dzungars and the resulting Kolyvano-Voskresensky plants. Among the fortresses and redoubts, the Ust-Kamenogorsk fortress was recognized as the main of all the Upper Irtysh fortifications as the "corner point" where the Irtysh, Kolyvano-Kuznetsk and Bukhtarma lines merged (Ust-Kamenogorsk). To strengthen their positions, Orenburg was built in 1744 (Orenburg), in 1752 Petropavlovsk (Petropavlovsk).

By the beginning of the 19th century, the need arose to establish and strengthen ties between Russia and China. It is known that the favorable strategic location of Kazakhstan created conditions for the development of trade relations between Russia and China. The volume and prospects of caravan trade depended on Russian-Chinese political relations. The obvious benefit of trade for both sides gave impetus to the development of trade relations through the territory of Kazakhstan, therefore, Bukhtarminskaya, Kereku, Ust-Kamenogorsk fortresses and the cities of Semipalatinsk and Petropavlovsk, which turned into economic exchange centers with East. Trade with East Turkestan was carried out through Semipalatinsk and Bukhtarma fortress. At the beginning of the XIX century. Frequent exchanges with Chinese merchants took place in Bukhtarm, located near Chinese border posts. Protection of caravans from Petro-Pavlovsk, Semipalatinsk, Ust-Kamenogorsk, Bukhtarma to China was assigned to Cossack units. Since the 30s. XIX century control over the passage of caravans through Kazakhstan was established, customs fees were increased, and merchants evading duties were confiscated.

In the second half of the XIX century. the leading role in the economic ties between Russia and China was played by the cities of Petropavlovsk and Semipalatinsk, and the Kazakhstani waterway along the Ili River was of great economic importance.

In the second half of the XIX century. in trade between Russia and China, the Karkarinskaya fair was especially distinguished in Semirechye; in Central Kazakhstan, the Koyandinskaya fair was the most famous. The successful development of trade between Kazakhstan and China was facilitated by the commissioning of the Siberian Railway in 1894.

However, historians N. Aldabek (2003) and Kasymbaev Zh.K. (1996) in his works devoted to the study of relations between Russia and China, he notes that in the study of this issue even today there are still many "white spots".

The issue of Kalmyk - Kazakh relations in the indicated period is also little studied. Russian scientist N.N. Palmov, who has studied a significant range of sources of the Astrakhan Kalmyk archive, in his work "Studies on the History of the Volga Kalmyks" notes that the Kalmyks "sought to provide the most favorable conditions for the free steppe nomads adjacent to the Russians". Until the middle of the century, Kalmyk rulers considered themselves not so much subjects as allies of Russia. The author attributes the beginning of the tendency to submission to the middle of the 17th century, when the Russian government provided Kalmyks with semi-empty steppe spaces of the Volga region. The author points out that the Russian authorities did not allow an independent reconciliation of the nomads behind them, and therefore there was a complex

relationship between the Kalmyks, Nogais, Bashkirs, Kazakhs and Yaitsky Cossacks in the 17th century. which was beneficial to tsarism (Palmov, 2007).

Since 1657, the military service of the Kalmyks began, which, as we know, was reflected in the tragic history of the Kazakh people, which, in turn, requires rigorous research.

It seems that trade control problems await their thorough research. It is known that already from the 50s-70s of the 18th century, Russia took control of trade carried out in the east of the Kazakh steppe. So, according to historians: "If one third of the goods transported from India and Bukhara came to Moscow and Kazan, then two-thirds were exchanged with Kazakhs for livestock" (Materials on the history of the Kazakh SSR (1785-1828).

Recall that in the second half of the XVIII century. The Russian government began to strengthen its colonial policy in Kazakhstan in two directions: primarily in the northwest, along the river. Urals and in the northeast - along the river. Irtysh. In 1822, the "Charter on Siberian Kyrgyz" was published, and in 1838, the "Regulation on the separate management of Siberian Kyrgyz", which provided for new steps towards achieving the desired results of its policy in the Central Asian region.

In March 1819, by imperial decree M.M. Speransky was appointed Governor-General of Siberia. The new appointment, according to Alexander I, "was supposed to contribute to solving the problems that had accumulated on these Asian outskirts of Russia." Analyzing the materials received by him, M.M.Speransky concludes that it is necessary to take decisive measures on the part of the Russian government. According to him, first of all, it is necessary to ensure that "... Asian trade in Russia and the conditions for the development of the mining industry do not depend on the spontaneous influence of the Kazakh society in the future. To do this, he believed, it was necessary to eliminate the status of the state border from Siberian lines, erroneously assigned to them by local authorities, since everything that happened outside this border was an internal affair of the Kazakh steppe, and not the Russian Empire. Therefore, the Russian government tolerated, and sometimes supported, the riots that were in the Steppe. The elimination of this state border would allow, in the opinion of M.M. Speransky, to penetrate deep into the Steppe. It is possible to gain a foothold in the Kazakh steppe by building fortresses and fortified lines, "especially since the Kazakhs cannot have any protests to build them, since they have no international legal norms, and Kazakhs are legally subjects of the Russian Empire." Practical implementation the conversion of Kazakhs into actual subjects should begin, according to M.M. Speransky, with the liquidation of the khanate in the Middle Zhuz, i.e. stop treating them as representatives of the public and state interests of the Kazakh people. Taking into account all the proposals of M. M. Speransky on the reorganization of the management of Siberia, the "Siberian Committee" was established. As a result of the Committee's activities, a special "Charter on Siberian Kyrgyz" was developed (Orazmagambetova & Shotbakova, 2006).

## CONCLUSION

The beginning of the XXI century is characterized by an active search for the ways of the formation of Russian historiography. An important role in it is the scrupulous study of the vast historical material relating to the history of the formation of our state. It seems that a thorough analysis of official documents, as well as other materials (archival sources, letters, memoirs of travelers, etc.) will expand our understanding of the variety of forms of colonial policy pursued by tsarist Russia in relation to Kazakhstan and shed light on many little-studied problems.

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