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## Alikhan Badiyev<sup>1</sup>, Saule Bagdatova<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Master of Humanities, Senior Researcher, Institute of State History Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan,  
Astana, Kazakhstan  
*e-mail: a.badiyev@mail.ru*

<sup>2</sup>Candidate of Historical Sciences, leading researcher, Institute of State History of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan,  
Astana, Kazakhstan  
*email: saule\_tsa@mail.ru*

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### SOME ASPECTS OF HISTORIOGRAPHY IN THE STUDY OF THE FORMATION OF KAZAKHSTAN'S POPULATION (XIX–XX CENTURIES)

**Abstract.** The article presents a historiographical analysis of key studies on the formation of Kazakhstan's multiethnic population in the 19th and 20th centuries. The author examines major scholarly works addressing migration processes, Cossack colonization, resettlement policies, and their impact on the region's demographic development. The applied methods include historical-comparative analysis, the study of archival and statistical data, as well as a critical review of historiography. The research identifies the main directions and issues in demographic studies of Kazakhstan and outlines promising areas for further exploration. This work highlights the importance of a comprehensive approach to studying the history of the republic's population formation.

**Keywords:** *historiography, migration, demography, multiethnic population of Kazakhstan, demographic history of Kazakhstan, Cossack colonization, resettlement policy.*

**Алихан Бадиев, Сәуле Бағдатова**

## **ҚАЗАҚСТАН ХАЛҚЫНЫҢ ҚАЛЫПТАСУЫН ЗЕРТТЕУ ТАРИХНАМАСЫНЫҢ КЕЙБІР АСПЕКТИЛЕРІ (XIX-XX ҒҒ.)**

**Аңдатпа.** Мақалада XIX–XX ғасырларда Қазақстанның көпұлтты халқының қалыптасуына арналған негізгі зерттеулердің тарихнамалық талдауы жүргізіледі. Автор көші-қон процестері, казак отарлауы, қоныс аудару саясаты және олардың өңірдің демографиялық дамуына әсері мәселелерін қарастыратын негізгі ғылыми еңбектерді талдайды. Қолданылған әдістерге тарихи-салыстырмалы талдау, мұрағаттық және статистикалық деректерді зерттеу, сондай-ақ тарихнаманы сын тұрғысынан шолу жатады. Зерттеу нәтижесінде Қазақстанның демографиялық зерттеулерінің негізгі бағыттары мен мәселелері анықталып, болашақта зерттеуге лайықты перспективалық салалар белгіленді. Бұл жұмыс республика халқының қалыптасу тарихын кешенді зерттеудің маңыздылығын ерекше атап көрсетеді.

**Түйін сөздер:** тарихнама, көші-қон, демография, Қазақстанның көпұлтты халқы, Қазақстанның демографиялық тарихы, казак отарлауы, қоныс аудару саясаты.

**Алихан Бадиев, Сауле Бағдатова**

## **НЕКОТОРЫЕ АСПЕКТЫ ИСТОРИОГРАФИИ ИССЛЕДОВАНИИ ФОРМИРОВАНИЯ НАСЕЛЕНИЯ КАЗАХСТАНА (XIX-XX ВВ.)**

**Аннотация.** В статье проводится историографический анализ основных исследований, посвященных формированию многонационального населения Казахстана в XIX–XX веках. Автор рассматривает ключевые научные труды, раскрывающие вопросы миграционных процессов, казачьей колонизации, переселенческой политики и их влияния на демографическое развитие региона. Используемые методы включают историко-сравнительный анализ, изучение архивных и статистических данных, а также критический обзор историографии. В результате исследования выявлены основные направления и проблематика демографических исследований Казахстана, обозначены перспективные области для дальнейшего изучения. Работа подчеркивает значимость комплексного подхода в изучении истории формирования населения республики.

**Ключевые слова:** историография, миграция, демография, многонациональное население Казахстана, демографическая история Казахстана, казачья колонизация, переселенческая политика.

## INTRODUCTION

Despite the significant body of research accumulated by Kazakhstani historical science on the formation of the country's multiethnic population, regional aspects of this topic remain underexplored. Therefore, an analysis of key works on the demographic history of our country is necessary.

One of the fundamental studies in this field is N.E. Bekmakhanova's monograph *Formation of the Multiethnic Population of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan: The Last Quarter of the 18th Century – 1860s*, published in 1980 based on her doctoral dissertation. Using an extensive range of sources, the researcher examines population dynamics, settlement patterns, and the social and ethnic composition of the population in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan during the specified period. Complex demographic processes are studied in close connection with socioeconomic factors. The monograph also utilizes a wide array of archival sources, allowing for an analysis of various demographic indicators such as gender, ethnicity, and social class. The study's key findings include the quantitative distribution of ethnic groups, the impact of uprisings and anti-government protests on population changes, the growth dynamics of Kazakh and Kyrgyz populations, and the conclusion that the multiethnic composition of the region resulted from Kazakhstan's and Northern Kyrgyzstan's incorporation into Russia (Alekseenko 2000a).

A year later, another significant book on the topic of population studies was published by a different researcher, N.V. Alekseenko – *The Population of Pre-Revolutionary Kazakhstan (Size, Distribution, Composition, 1870-1914)*. This monograph, based on archival materials and statistical data, explores key issues related to the formation of Kazakhstan's population in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It examines the reasons behind the emergence of a multiethnic population, demographic changes following Kazakhstan's incorporation into Russia, the impact of socioeconomic transformations, various migration patterns during Russian colonization, the growth of the Kazakh population, and the literacy rate among Kazakhs during that period (Alekseenko 1981b).

An interesting and specialized study by V.N. Alekseenko, *Stages and Sources of the Formation of the Slavic Population of Kazakhstan in the*

*18th – Early 20th Centuries*, explores the history of the establishment and development of Slavic ethnic groups in the region. The study also identifies key sources on this topic. Using ethnosocial characteristics of settlers and their localization, the author outlines a periodization of Slavic population formation:

- **16th century–1720s:** spontaneous colonization of Western Kazakhstan by Yaik Cossacks;
- **1720s – early 19th century:** military-border colonization concentrated in northeastern Kazakhstan;
- **1820s–1860s:** implementation of the 1822–1824 administrative-territorial reform;
- **Late 1860s – early 20th century:** political-administrative integration of modern Kazakhstan into the Russian Empire and the resettlement of agrarians.

The Slavic population mainly consisted of Ural, Siberian, and Semirechye Cossacks, as well as peasant settlers. The study also presents tabular data on the absolute numbers and proportion of Slavs, their rural and urban population distribution, and literacy levels (Bekmakhanova 1980).

Another important work is the doctoral dissertation of N.L. Krasnobaeva, *The Population of Kazakhstan in the Late 19th – First Quarter of the 20th Century*, defended in 2004. This study utilizes data from the 1897 All-Russian Census and the 1926 All-Union Census to examine demographic indicators such as population size, ethnic composition, age and gender distribution, social class structure, literacy rates, employment, and migration processes. It also explores significant factors influencing population formation, such as the 1921–1922 famine, migration policies, and national-territorial delimitation (Esimkhanova 2017).

In 2007, V.V. Kozina published the textbook *Demographic History of Kazakhstan*, which examines various aspects of Kazakhstan's demographic processes from the late 19th to early 20th centuries. The book covers population size and distribution, natural population growth, migration patterns, and the formation and development of the population's structural components—ethnic, social, professional, and gender composition, as well as education levels, birth and mortality rates. The study employs various historical and demographic research methods, including statistical analysis, demographic tables, longitudinal and cross-sectional studies, forecasting, and standardization of demographic components (Zimovina 2009).

A highly informative article by E.P. Zimovina, *The Main Stages of the Formation of the Diaspora Structure of Kazakhstan and Central Asian Countries*, was published in the electronic version of the *Demoscope Weekly* bulletin (Issue No. 377-378, May 18, 2009). The study identifies three stages in the formation of Kazakhstan's diaspora structure:

**Colonial (18th – early 20th centuries)**, characterized by multiple migration vectors, including military-Cossack colonization, peasant resettlement, urban population growth due to middle-class migration, forced displacement of ethnic groups, political exile, and prisoner-of-war relocation.

**Soviet (1917–1991)**, involving national-territorial delimitation, migration during industrialization and collectivization, political repression, deportations, wartime evacuations, and voluntary migration during the Virgin Lands campaign.

**1. Post-Soviet (since 1991)**, marked by a general decline in diaspora populations (Kaliyeva 2009).

The candidate dissertation of K.S. Kaliyeva, *Censuses as a Source for Studying the Population of Kazakhstan (1897–1926)*, defended in 2009, also covers a wide range of demographic issues. The author defines «population census» using T.A. Pashkina's definition:

«A population census is a set of processes for organizing, preparing, and periodically conducting a nationwide, simultaneous, centralized survey based on principles of individual enumeration, self-identification, and confidentiality, aimed at obtaining demographic and socioeconomic data for scientific and administrative purposes» (Kozina 2007a).

Along with the 1897 and 1926 censuses, the study also incorporates data from the first Soviet census of 1920. The historiographic review in this dissertation allows the researcher to outline three research periods:

● **Pre-Soviet period** (mainly based on the 1897 census, requiring critical analysis and reassessment);

● **Soviet period**, which includes studies of the 1926 and 1939 censuses as sources for analyzing the impact of famine and political repression on Kazakhstan's demographic history;

● **Modern period**, incorporating research on general census history and migration-related source analysis, supplemented by data from the 1989, 1999, and 2009 censuses, which provide insights into population trends during Kazakhstan's independence (Kozina 2007b).

In 2012, K.S. Kaliyeva published a monograph under the same title, which

was reviewed the following year by Russian scholar N.S. Modorov. The review praised both the historiographic overview and the source analysis conducted in the monograph (Krasnobayeva 2004).

Also worth noting is K.S. Shalgimbekova's academic article, *The History of the Formation of a Multilingual Population in Northern Kazakhstan (Based on Kostanay Region)*. Despite its seemingly narrow focus, the study addresses many significant demographic aspects of Kazakhstan. It examines the history of regional settlement, imperial colonization policies, changes in regional population size, linguistic distribution among ethnic groups, education levels, migration rates, and the challenges of language and cultural preservation among the region's ethnic groups (Modorov 2013).

For researchers, the methodological guide by S.V. Pashkov and A.V. Shurr, published in 2015, is highly useful. This textbook covers topics such as the formation of Kazakhstan's multiethnic population, demographic dynamics, ethnodemographic characteristics, the Kazakhstani model of ethno-confessional harmony, ethnodemographic zones, and migration processes (Pashkov and Shurr 2015).

We conclude our brief historiographical review with N.I. Esimkhanova's study *Historical Prerequisites for the Formation of the Multiethnic Composition of the Republic of Kazakhstan*, published in the *National Digital History* library. This work examines the history of Kazakhstan's population through the lens of migration and resettlement processes that took place during the aforementioned historical periods, which ultimately shaped the country's multiethnic population structure (Shalgimbekova 2012).

## RESEARCH METHODS

The methods used in this study include a historical-comparative analysis, which allows for the comparison of various demographic studies and the identification of key trends in the formation of Kazakhstan's multiethnic population in the 19th–20th centuries. Additionally, an analysis of archival and statistical data was conducted to ensure an objective examination of population changes and migration processes. A critical historiographical method was applied to evaluate major scholarly works on this topic and determine their contributions to the study of Kazakhstan's demographic history. Elements of the historical-genetic method were also employed, as the study examined the causes and stages of changes in the ethnic composition of the population over an extended historical period. The statistical method facilitated the processing of census data and other quantitative sources,

revealing population dynamics and structural changes. Furthermore, a source analysis method was used to critically assess archival documents and published materials.

## RESEARCH RESULTS

The analysis of historiography and statistical data revealed key trends in the formation of Kazakhstan's multiethnic population in the 19th–20th centuries. In the 19th century, the main demographic process was the increase in the indigenous Kazakh population, accompanied by the gradual influx of Slavic and other migrant groups. By the early 20th century, the region's ethnic diversity had significantly expanded due to peasant colonization, administrative reforms, and political exile.

Russian resettlement policies and colonization measures facilitated the active settlement of steppe regions by Cossacks and peasant migrants. In the second half of the 19th century, administrative reforms and economic changes contributed to securing settlers in Kazakhstan. During the Soviet period, industrialization, collectivization, and mass deportations significantly altered the region's ethnodemographic structure, shaping new sociocultural processes.

Historical events such as uprisings, repressions, and deportations had a substantial impact on the population. The censuses of 1897, 1920, and 1926 recorded numerical changes resulting from resettlement policies and the consequences of socio-economic crises, including the 1921–1922 famine.

Regional analysis indicates that northern and western Kazakhstan experienced significant Slavic migration, including Cossacks and peasant settlers. In southern regions, the indigenous Kazakh population remained predominant; however, by the early 20th century, there was a noticeable increase in the number of representatives from other ethnic groups, reflecting Kazakhstan's overall multiethnic development.

## CONCLUSION

The study of the formation of Kazakhstan's multiethnic population in the 19th–20th centuries demonstrates that this process was influenced by a complex interplay of factors, including state migration policies, socio-economic transformations, and political events. In the 19th century, the main trend was the gradual transformation of the ethnic composition due to Cossack colonization and resettlement movements. In the early 20th

century, these processes intensified as a result of the Russian Empire's reforms, while the Soviet period brought a new dynamic characterized by industrialization, collectivization, deportations, and mass migrations.

A key element in the shift of the ethnodemographic balance was state-led population initiatives, including the tsarist government's resettlement policies, the forced deportation of ethnic groups in the 1930s–1940s, and the mobilization of labor resources during World War II. These factors led to a significant increase in the proportion of Slavic, German, Korean, and other ethnic groups within Kazakhstan's population structure.

Analysis has shown that ethnodemographic processes were uneven. Northern and western regions experienced the most significant impact of resettlement policies, while southern areas maintained a relatively high proportion of the indigenous population. Thus, Kazakhstan's multiethnic composition is the result of long-term historical processes shaped by both natural migrations and political decisions. Future research in this field could focus on a more detailed study of local migration patterns, social adaptation mechanisms of various ethnic groups, and their influence on the formation of Kazakhstan's modern national identity.

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