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**FEATURES OF THE POPULATION SETTLEMENT SYSTEM IN EAST KAZAKHSTAN REGION IN THE LATE XIX–XX CENTURIES:
AN ETHNODEMOGRAPHIC PERSPECTIVE**

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Abstract. Introduction. The relevance of this study stems from the need for a long-term retrospective analysis of settlement patterns in the East Kazakhstan Region from the late nineteenth to the late twentieth centuries. The primary focus is on population dynamics and changes in the region's ethnic composition. The authors examine the impact of socio-economic, historical, and political processes on the evolution of demographic indicators in the East Kazakhstan Region. Particular attention is paid to the resettlement movement to the peripheral territories of the Russian Empire resulting from the agrarian reforms of P. Stolypin, the national liberation uprising of 1916, the Civil War, the famines of the 1920s and 1930s, and the administrative-territorial transformations implemented by the Soviet government. *Goals and objectives.* The aim of the study is to analyze the distinctive features of the settlement system of the East Kazakhstan Region in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The methodological framework is based on the principles of historicism and a systemic approach, as well as problem-chronological, historical-comparative, and typological methods. These methods ensure a comprehensive analysis of events and their consequences and allow for an accurate interpretation of the ways in which socio-economic reforms shaped the formation of the region's multiethnic population structure. *Results.* Based on extensive statistical data—primarily the 1897 All-Russian

Census and the All-Union population censuses of 1926, 1939, 1959, 1970, 1979, and 1989, as well as scholarly works by historians and demographers, the study traces the long-term development of the multiethnic composition of the population of the East Kazakhstan Region. The findings highlight the decisive role of migration flows in the significant growth of Russian, Ukrainian, German, and other non-titular ethnic groups in certain districts of the region. Particular attention is given to changes in the size of the Kazakh population and the factors that caused them. The migration of non-titular populations contributed to a decline in the proportion of ethnic Kazakhs within the regional demographic structure. The primary causes of the substantial reduction in the Kazakh population during the 1920s and 1930s were famine and the mass displacement of nomadic populations. *Conclusions.* The study identifies the factors that exerted the greatest influence on population dynamics and the settlement structure of the main ethnic groups of the East Kazakhstan Region over an extended historical period. The authors conclude that between the 1950s-1980s significant changes occurred in the ethnically differentiated settlement system based on traditional economic practices. Trends toward the formation of a new settlement system developed on a multiethnic basis. Furthermore, the administrative boundaries of districts in the East Kazakhstan Region, established as a result of Soviet-era reforms, did not always coincide with civilizational and economic boundaries. The removal of political borders through administrative measures did not immediately lead to the elimination of civilizational boundaries.

Keywords: East Kazakhstan Region, district, ethnic group, county, population size, census, settlement, region, boundary, city

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ШЫҒЫС ҚАЗАҚСТАН ХАЛҚЫНЫҢ XIX ҒАСЫРДЫҢ СОҢЫ – XX Ғ. ҚОНЫСТАНДЫРУ ЖҮЙЕСІНІҢ ЕРЕКШЕЛІКТЕРІ: ЭТНОДЕМОГРАФИЯЛЫҚ АСПЕКТІ

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Аңдатпа. *Kіріспе.* Тақырыптың өзектілігі – мақалада Шығыс Қазақстан халқының ұзақ ретроспективада қоныстану ерекшеліктері қарастырылады: XIX ғасырдың аяғынан XX ғасырдың аяғына дейін. Халық санының динамикасына және өңірдің этникалық құрамындағы өзгерістерге басты назар аударылады. Авторлар әлеуметтік-экономикалық, тарихи және саяси процестердің Шығыс Қазақстанның демографиялық көрсеткіштерінің эволюциясына әсерін зерттейді. Атап айтқанда: П.А. Столыпиннің аграрлық реформалары нәтижесінде Ресей империясының шетіне қоныс аудару қозғалысы, 1916 жылғы халық-азаттық көтерілісі, азаматтық соғыс, 1920–1930 жылдардағы аштық, Кеңес үкіметінің әкімшілік-аумақтық қайта құрулары және т.б. *Зерттеудің мақсаты мен міндеттері.* Зерттеудің мақсаты – XIX ғасырдың аяғы мен XX ғасырдың аяғында Шығыс Қазақстан облысының халқын қоныстандыру жүйесінің ерекшеліктерін талдау болып табылады. *Материалдар мен әдістер.* Зерттеудің әдіснамалық негізі – тарихи және жүйелік көзқарас принциптері, сондай-ақ әлеуметтік-экономикалық реформалардың облыс халқының көп этникалық құрамын қалыптастыруға әсерін дәл түсіндіруге мүмкіндік беретін оқиғалар мен олардың салдарын жан-жақты талдауды қамтамасыз ететін проблемалық-хронологиялық, тарихи-салыстырмалы және типологиялық әдістер. *Нәтижелер.* Көптеген статистикалық материалдарды, ең алдымен 1897 жылғы Бүкілресейлік санақты, 1926, 1939, 1959, 1970, 1979 және 1989 жылдардағы Бүкілодақтық халық санақтарын, сондай-ақ тарихшы-ғалымдардың, демографтардың еңбектерін талдау негізінде Қазақстанның шығыс өңірі халқының көпұлтты құрамының қалыптасуының ұзақ жолын байқауға болады. Мақалада облыстың кейбір аудандарында орыс, украин, неміс және басқа да титулдық емес этностар санының едәуір өсуіне көші-қон ағындарының шешуші мәні көрсетілген. Авторлар қазақ халқының санындағы динамикалық өзгерістерге және оларды тудырған себептерге ерекше назар аударады. Мәселен, титулдық емес халықтың көші-қон қозғалысының қазақтардың үлес салмағының төмендеуіне әсері ерекше көзге түседі. 1920–1930 жылдар кезеңінде қазақтар санының айтарлықтай азаюына әсер еткен негізгі себеп авторлар аштық пен көші-қон деп аталады. *Қорытындылар.* Ұзақ мерзімді ретроспективада Шығыс Қазақстан облысының негізгі этникалық топтарының саны мен қоныстану құрылымына айтарлықтай әсер еткен факторлар анықталды. Авторлар 1950–1980 жылдары дәстүрлі шаруашылық жүйеге негізделген этникалық сараланған қоныстану жүйесінде айтарлықтай өзгерістер болды деген қорытындыға келеді. Жаңа қоныстандыру жүйесінің тенденциялары полиэтникалық негізде қалыптасады. Сондай-ақ, авторлар кеңестік кезеңдегі реформалар нәтижесінде пайда болған Шығыс Қазақстан облысы аудандарының әкімшілік шекаралары әрдайым өркениеттік және шаруашылық шекаралармен сәйкес келе бермейтіндігі туралы тезис ұсынады. Саяси әдістермен шекараларды алып тастау бірден өркениеттік шекараларды алып тастауға әкелмеді.

Түйін сөздер: Шығыс Қазақстан облысы, аудан, этнос, уезд, саны, санағы, халқы, қоныстануы, аймағы, шекарасы, қаласы

Алғыс. Бұл мақала Қазақстан Республикасы Ғылым және жоғары білім министрлігі Ғылым комитетінің қаржылық қолдауымен жүзеге асырылған АР26198933 гранттық жобасы «Шығыс Қазақстан: Семей және Өскемен қалаларының қалалық кеңістігінің әлеуметтік-демографиялық және әлеуметтік-мәдени трансформация траекториялары» аясында жазылды.

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ОСОБЕННОСТИ СИСТЕМЫ РАССЕЛЕНИЯ НАСЕЛЕНИЯ ВОСТОЧНОГО КАЗАХСТАНА В КОНЦЕ XIX–XX ВВ.: ЭТНОДЕМОГРАФИЧЕСКИЙ АСПЕКТ

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Аннотация. *Введение.* Актуальность темы – в статье рассматриваются особенности расселения населения Восточного Казахстана в длительной ретроспективе: с конца XIX до конца XX веков. Основное внимание уделяется динамике численности населения и изменениям в этническом составе региона. Авторами исследуется влияние социально-экономических, исторических и политических процессов на эволюции демографических показателей Восточного Казахстана. А именно: переселенческое движение на окраины Российской империи в результате аграрных реформ П.А. Столыпина, народно-освободительное восстание 1916 г., гражданская война, голод 1920-х и 1930-х годов, административно-территориальные преобразования советского правительства и пр. *Цель и задачи исследования.* Целью исследования является анализ особенностей системы расселения населения Восточно-Казахстанской области в конце XIX – конце XX вв. Методологической основой исследования являются принципы историзма и системного подхода, а также проблемно-хронологический, историко-сравнительный и типологический методы, которые обеспечивают комплексный анализ событий и их последствий, позволяя точно интерпретировать влияние социально-экономических реформ на формирование полиэтнического состава населения области. *Результаты.* На основе анализа большого количества статистического материала, прежде всего, Всероссийской переписи 1897 г., Всесоюзных переписей населения 1926, 1939, 1959, 1970, 1979 и 1989 гг., а также работ ученых-историков, демографов, можно проследить длительный путь становления многонационального состава населения Восточного региона Казахстана. В статье выделяется определяющее значение миграционных потоков на значительный рост численности русского, украинского, немецкого и других нетитульных этносов в некоторых районах области. Авторы уделяют особое внимание динамическим изменениям в численности казахского населения и причинам, вызвавшим их. Так, выделяется влияние миграционного движения нетитульного населения на снижение удельного веса казахов. Основной причиной, повлиявшей на существенное сокращение численности казахов в период 1920–1930-е годы авторами называется голод и откочевки. *Выводы.* Выявлены факторы, оказавшие наибольшее влияние

на динамику численности и структуру расселения основных этнических групп Восточно-Казахстанской области в длительной ретроспективе. Авторы приходят к выводу о том, что в 1950–1980-е гг. происходят существенные изменения этнически дифференцированной системы расселения, основанной на традиционной системе хозяйствования. Тенденции становления новой системы расселения формируются на полиэтнической основе. Авторами также выдвигается тезис о том, что административные границы районов Восточно-Казахстанской области, появившиеся в результате реформ в советский период, не всегда совпадали с цивилизационными и хозяйственными границами. Снятие границ политическими методами далеко не сразу приводило к снятию границ цивилизационных.

Ключевые слова: Восточно-Казахстанская область, район, этнос, уезд, численность, перепись, население, расселение, регион, граница, город

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Introduction.

The rural settlement structure reflects the economic priorities of the population, which have been formed over a long period of time. Thus, the settlement culture of a nomadic society was characterized by dispersion and small settlements. This was primarily typical of the steppe part of East Kazakhstan, where the majority of the Kazakh population lived. The agricultural traditions of the farming population, represented mainly by Russians and Ukrainians, implied a different settlement system. They developed natural and economic territories familiar to these peoples, predominantly located in the northern part of the region.

The concept of "territory" encompasses historical, socio-economic, ethno-demographic, and socio-cultural characteristics. "Territory" organizes all these characteristics into a specific system, a unique "territorial world." Mass migration from one "territory" to another indicates changes in economic and livelihood standards and the beginning of socio-cultural transformations.

The relevance of this study is determined by the need for a comprehensive understanding of an important period in the history of East Kazakhstan, during which the formation of a multiethnic population took place and a specific settlement system was established. A retrospective view of the ethnic composition of East Kazakhstan is diverse and complex, largely shaped by historical events and political processes. Socio-economic, political, cultural, and civilizational transformations, as well as migration flows, fundamentally changed the ethno-cultural situation in the region. During the first half of the 20th century, East Kazakhstan transformed from a monoethnic region into one of the most multiethnic and multicultural regions of the republic. Industrialization and modernization contributed to the transformation of the region's economy from an agrarian to an industrial one. Today, East Kazakhstan is characterized by developed industry, a high level of urbanization, and a multiethnic population. As noted above, many socio-demographic features of the region were formed and developed throughout the 20th century, which makes the study of the retrospective formation of the population structure and settlement patterns of East Kazakhstan particularly relevant.

The aim of this article is to analyze the evolution of the intra-regional settlement system of the East Kazakhstan Region in the late 19th–20th centuries.

To achieve this goal, the following tasks are set:

1. To examine the population size and settlement patterns of the most numerous ethnic groups of the East Kazakhstan Region;
2. To analyze the administrative-territorial structure of the East Kazakhstan Region;

3. To identify the impact of historical, political, and economic processes on changes in the ethnic composition of East Kazakhstan.

The scientific novelty of the study lies in a comprehensive analysis of socio-demographic processes in the East Kazakhstan Region over a long-term retrospective period, conducted using a large volume of statistical data, archival sources, and scholarly research.

Thus, this study fills a significant gap and introduces new data into scientific circulation, contributing to a more complete understanding of the demographic development of East Kazakhstan.

Materials and Methods.

The source base of this study is based on systemic and interdisciplinary approaches, combining historical-demographic, sociological, and economic-geographical data. The research uses extensive statistical materials, including population censuses of 1897, 1926, 1939, 1959, 1970, 1979, and 1989, as well as archival documents.

The methodological framework of the study is based on a system of historical-demographic methods. Methods of comparative analysis and correlation of demographic and economic indicators were applied. These methods were used in combination with general scientific methods such as analysis and synthesis. Particular attention was paid to East Kazakhstan. As a result, evaluation tables reflecting the state of demographic processes were developed, accompanied by analytical commentary on ongoing demographic changes and their socio-economic consequences. These tables made it possible to detail the research process and identify the most vulnerable aspects of the demographic situation in the eastern region of the country.

Discussion.

The history of the population of East Kazakhstan in the 18th and 19th centuries is addressed in the works of Kazakh historian Zh.K. Kasymbayev (Kasymbayev, 1991: 171–173). The ethnic composition of the population of East Kazakhstan was extensively studied by N.E. Bekmakhanova (Bekmakhanova, 1979: 56–62). In his monograph, N.V. Alekseenko examines the problem of interethnic relations in eastern Kazakhstan during the 18th and 19th centuries (Alekseenko, 2003). Furthermore, the dynamics of the region's population size in the late 19th and early 20th centuries are presented in the research of A.N. Alekseenko (Alekseenko, 2007: 18–23). A significant volume of research has been devoted to the history of cities and the urban population of East Kazakhstan. The works of Zh.K. Kasymbayev most comprehensively cover the 18th–19th century period (Kasymbayev, 1975; Kasymbayev, 1976; Kasymbayev, 1985; Kasymbayev, 1988; Kasymbayev, 1990). The specific features of urban spatial formation in East Kazakhstan during the 19th and early 20th centuries are analyzed by G.A. Sarsembayeva (Sarsembayeva, 2017: 80–92). The problems of small towns in East Kazakhstan are examined in the monograph by A.S. Ualtaeva (Ualtaeva, 2011). Based on All-Union population census data, Zh.S. Aubakirova and A.N. Alekseenko identify the specific features of the formation of the urban Kazakh population in East Kazakhstan during the Soviet period (Aubakirova & Alekseenko, 2020: 295–299). Despite these contributions, issues related to intra-regional dynamics of population change and settlement systems analyzed in an ethnic context have largely remained on the periphery of scholarly attention.

Results.

Determining the population size and ethnic composition of territories corresponding to the modern boundaries of the East Kazakhstan Region during the 19th century presents considerable difficulties. In the late 1860s, the present territories of Kazakhstan were part of the Turkestan, Orenburg, and West Siberian Governorates-General; from 1882, they were under the West Siberian and Turkestan administrations. The Semipalatinsk Region, which included the territories of modern East Kazakhstan, belonged to the West Siberian (Steppe) Governorate-General. According to the Regulation of 1868, the region was divided into the Semipalatinsk, Pavlodar, Karkaraly, and Kokpektinsky uyezds, while the Zaisan district constituted a special administrative unit (pristavstvo). In 1869, the territories of the Kokpektinsky uyezd and the Zaisan pristavstvo (later reorganized into

an uyezd) were redistributed, resulting in the formation of the Ust-Kamenogorsk uyezd. A significant part of the territory of the East Kazakhstan Region, recorded in the All-Union population censuses of 1926, 1939, 1959, 1970, 1979, and 1989, largely coincides with the territories of the former Zaisan and Ust-Kamenogorsk uyezds.

The majority of the population of the East Kazakhstan Region within the 1870 boundaries was Kazakh (Table 1). This was especially true for the Zaisan uyezd, which was almost mono-ethnic. Between 1870 and the 1897 census, the population of the Semipalatinsk Region increased by 51.8%, mainly due to natural growth. Prior to 1906, the beginning of the Stolypin agrarian reforms, migratory inflow was limited: the Russian population increased by 18.9%, while the Kazakh population grew by 54.0%. The population of the Zaisan uyezd grew at a faster rate. The dynamics of ethnic composition were influenced to some extent by administrative-territorial changes. For example, under the 1881 treaty with China, territories predominantly inhabited by Kazakhs were transferred to the Zaisan uyezd. At the same time, 17 Cossack settlements (7.8 thousand people) were transferred from the Ust-Kamenogorsk uyezd to the Tomsk Governorate and Semirechye (Alekseenko, 1981: 58). As a result, the Russian population in the uyezd decreased by 6.5%. In 1897, the population of Ust-Kamenogorsk was 8.7 thousand people, with Russians forming the majority (84.0%), while Kazakhs accounted for 7.5%.

Table 1 – Population size and ethnic composition of East Kazakhstan within the borders of 1870 and 1897 (thousand people)

Ethnic Groups	1870		1897		1897 as % of 1870
	Population	%	Population	%	
Total Population	130.8	100	198.6	100	151.8
Kazakhs	110.4	84.4	170.0	86.6	154.0
Russians	20.1	15.4	23.9	12.0	118.9
Other ethnic groups	0.3	0.2	4.7	2.4	1566.7
Including Uyezds					
Ust-Kamenogorsk Uyezd	86.0	100	103.6	100	120.5
Kazakhs	65.7	76.4	81.2	78.4	123.6
Russians	20.0	23.3	18.7	18.0	93.5
Other ethnic groups	0.3	0.3	3.7	3.6	1233.3
Zaisan Uyezd	44.8	100	95.1	100	212.3
Kazakhs	44.7	99.8	88.9	93.5	198.9
Russians	0.1	0.2	5.1	5.4	5100.0
Other ethnic groups	-	-	1.1	1.1	

Source: Bekmakhanova, N. E. (1986). *Mnogonatsionalnoye naseleniye Kazakhstana i Kirgizii v epokhu kapitalizma (60-ye gg. XIX v. – 1917 g.)* [The Multinational Population of Kazakhstan and Kirghizia in the Era of Capitalism (1860s – 1917)]. Moscow, P. 135, 143; *Pervaya vseobshchaya perepis naseleniya Rossiyskoy imperii. 1897. Semipalatinskaya oblast* [The First General Census of the Russian Empire, 1897. Semipalatinsk Region]. (1905). St. Petersburg, P. 54–55.

The intra-regional settlement system during the period between the 1897 and 1926 censuses is exceptionally difficult to align with comparable administrative-territorial boundaries, as these borders underwent multiple reconfigurations during this timeframe. Consequently, the population size and ethnic composition recorded in the 1897 and 1926 censuses are presented in aggregate form, without accounting for specific intra-regional variations (Table 2).

Table 2 – Population size and ethnic composition of East Kazakhstan according to the 1897 and 1926 censuses (thousand people)

Ethnic Groups	1897		1926		1926 as % of 1897
	Population	%	Population	%	
Total population	294.6	100	492.0	100	167.0
Kazakhs	175.8	59.7	174.9	36.5	99.5
Russians	113.6	38.6	263.1	53.5	231.6
Other ethnic groups	5.2	1.7	54.0	11.0	1038.5
Including Ust-Kamenogorsk	8.7	100	13.9	100	159.8
Kazakhs	0.7	8.0	0.7	5.0	100
Russians	7.3	84.0	11.4	82.0	156.2
Other ethnic groups	0.7	8.0	1.8	13.0	257.1

Source: *Pervaya Vseobshchaya perepis Rossiyskoy imperii. 1897 g. Semipalatinskaya oblast* [The First General Census of the Russian Empire, 1897. Semipalatinsk Region]. (1905). St. Petersburg, P. 54–55; *Vsesoyuznaya perepis naseleniya 1926. Kazakskaya ASSR* [All-Union Population Census of 1926. Kazakh ASSR]. (1928). Vol. 8. Moscow, P. 15–18.

As evidenced by Table 2, the population of East Kazakhstan increased by 67.0% between 1897 and 1926. Notably, the number of Kazakhs in 1926 had decreased by 0.5% compared to 1897. This decline in the ethnic group's population occurred primarily during the decade preceding the 1926 census, driven by the national liberation uprising of 1916, the Civil War, the famine of 1921–1922, and the migration of Kazakhs beyond the borders of Kazakhstan, most notably to China. In contrast, the overall population growth of 75.7% was sustained by the Russian population. This trend resulted both from the resettlement movement to the frontiers of the Russian Empire as a consequence of P. A. Stolypin's agrarian reforms, and from the administrative-territorial reorganizations implemented by the Soviet government. In 1921, nine volosts of the Altai District of the Tomsk Governorate, with a population of 96.0 thousand people, were incorporated into the Semipalatinsk Province. Russians constituted the majority in these areas (93.5%), while the proportion of Kazakhs was 6.0%, and other ethnic groups (primarily Ukrainians, Germans, and Tatars) accounted for 0.5% (Alekseenko, 1981: 62).

Following the incorporation of the Altai District volosts, the region's territory began to consist of diverse ethnic, socio-economic, and socio-cultural blocks (Razgon, 2003: 187–199). During this period, the region's "external" boundaries—which persist to the present day—began to take shape. Administrative boundaries were established that coincided with civilizational, ethnic, and economic frontiers. Effectively, East Kazakhstan integrated territories created through administrative and political decisions, whose ethnic, socio-cultural, and economic parameters had developed differently from those of the Ust-Kamenogorsk and Zaisan uyezds. These areas were not initially linked by shared economic or functional characteristics.

Although formal administrative boundaries between them were absent, inter-district boundaries persisted, preserving to a certain extent intra-regional peculiarities. However, the removal of boundaries through political means does not immediately result in the dissolution of civilizational distinctions.

Administrative-territorial changes in the USSR constituted a powerful and multifunctional instrument of state-building. They served to address three key objectives: economic administration, nationalities policy, and political control. The primary goal of the initial large-scale reforms (in the 1920s) was to establish a governance system that would stimulate economic development and facilitate effective planning. The reforms were grounded in the principle of economic regionalization. New territories were delineated not along historical lines but according to economic criteria – taking into account economic linkages, natural resources, and transportation routes. These regions were intended to function as self-sufficient economic complexes, with their borders coinciding with the boundaries of economic zones.

Between the 1926 and 1939 censuses, the administrative-territorial structure of the region underwent frequent changes; therefore, the comparative analysis of the population size and ethnic composition is presented for the region as a whole (Table 3).

Table 3 – Population size and ethnic composition of East Kazakhstan according to the 1926 and 1939 censuses (thousand people)

Ethnic groups	1926		1939		1939 as % of 1926
	Population	%	Population	%	
Total population	492.6	100	527.8	100	107.1
Kazakhs	174.9	36.5	115.6	21.9	66.1
Russians	263.1	53.5	360.4	68.3	137.0
Other ethnic groups	54.0	11.0	51.8	9.8	95.9
The city of Ust-Kamenogorsk	13.9	100	20.1	100	144.6
Kazakhs	0.7	5.0	1.6	8.0	228.6
Russians	11.4	82.0	16.5	82.1	144.7
Other ethnic groups	1.8	13.0	2.0	9.9	111.1

Source: Vsesoyuznaya perepis naseleniya 1926 g. Kazakskaya ASSR [All-Union Population Census of 1926. Kazakh ASSR]. (1928). Vol. 8. Moscow, P. 15–18; Vsesoyuznaya perepis naseleniya 1939 g. [All-Union Population Census of 1939]. Russian State Archive of Economy (TSGANkh). F. 1562, Inv. 336, C. 568. P. 41–42.

The data in Table 3 indicate a modest increase in the total population of the region (by 7.1%). This growth was primarily driven by the arrival of Russians from other republics of the USSR, which offset the losses within the Kazakh ethnic group. Between the 1926 and 1939 censuses, the Kazakh population decreased by 33.9% (amounting to 59.3 thousand people). The principal cause of these losses was the famine of the early 1930s, which claimed tens of thousands of lives. Additionally, many Kazakhs migrated to the border territories of China and Russia. Consequently, the ethnic composition of the region underwent substantial changes during the 1930s. While in 1926 the share of Kazakhs stood at 36.5% of the population (with Russians at 53.5%), by 1939 it had dropped to 21.9% (while the Russian share rose to 68.3%). The fact that the number of Kazakhs in Ust-Kamenogorsk more than doubled between 1926 and 1939 does not signify active urbanization of the ethnic group; rather, it indicates that people fled to the cities to escape starvation.

Despite the tragic events of the 1930s, which significantly altered the ethnic structure of the East Kazakhstan Region, the 1939 census recorded the historically established settlement system within the new boundaries, reflecting centuries of agrarian history and the economic practices of various ethnic groups (Table 4).

For the purposes of this study, the authors have divided the East Kazakhstan Region into three distinct areas. Region 1 (the southern part of the province) represents the highest concentration of the Kazakh ethnic group and includes the Zaisan, Katon-Karagay, Kurchum, and Tarbagatay districts. Region 2 (the northern part of the province) is characterized by the highest representation of the Russian population and encompasses the Leninogorsk, Zyryanovsk, Bukhtarma, Kirov, Predgornoye, and Shemonaikha districts. Region 3 (designated by the authors as the "mixed" region) includes the Samara, Bolshenarymsk, and Ulan districts, where the representation of both Kazakh and Russian ethnic groups is approximately equal.

Table 4 – Population size and ethnic composition of East Kazakhstan according to the 1939 censuses (thousand people)

Districts	Total population		Including									
			Kazakhs		Russians		Ukrainians		Germans		Other ethnic groups	
	Population	%	Population	%	Population	%	Population	%	Population	%	Population	%
East Kazakhstan Region	527.8	100	115.6	21.9	360.4	68.3	27.0	5.1	4.0	0.8	20.8	3.9
Ust-Kamenogorsk	20.1	100	1.6	8.0	16.5	82.1	0.8	4.0	0.1	0.5	1.1	5.4
Region 1	131.2	100	63.5	48.4	57.7	44.0	4.9	3.7	0.5	0.4	4.6	3.5
Zaisan District	43.5	100	22.5	51.7	17.6	40.5	1.3	3.0	0.1	0.2	2.0	4.6
Katon-Karagay District	33.2	100	11.6	34.9	19.7	59.3	0.9	2.7	0.1	0.3	0.9	2.7
Kurchum District	34.1	100	14.1	41.3	16.6	48.7	2.2	6.5	0.2	0.6	1.0	2.9
Tarbagatay District	20.4	100	15.3	75.0	3.8	18.6	0.5	2.5	0.1	0.5	0.7	3.4
Region 2	284.7	100	22.3	7.8	231.8	81.4	15.6	5.5	3.1	1.1	11.9	4.2
Leninogorsk City Council	64.0	100	4.5	7.0	53.7	83.9	3.0	4.7	0.1	0.2	2.7	4.2
Zyryanovsk District	50.2	100	3.3	6.6	41.4	82.5	3.0	6.0	0.2	0.4	2.3	4.5
Bukhtarma District*	25.3	100	3.6	14.2	19.7	77.9	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.4	1.8	7.1
Kirov District*	58.9	100	4.0	6.8	49.4	83.9	2.7	4.6	0.6	1.0	2.3	3.7

Predgornoye District*	44.6	100	4.4	9.9	33.1	74.2	4.7	10.5	0.7	1.6	1.7	3.8
Shemonaikha District	41.7	100	2.5	6.0	34.5	82.7	2.1	5.0	1.4	3.4	1.2	2.9
Region 3	91.6	100	28.2	30.8	54.3	59.3	4.8	5.2	0.7	0.8	3.6	3.9
Samar District	34.5	100	8.6	24.9	22.2	64.3	2.3	6.7	0.1	0.3	1.3	3.8
Bolshenarym District	35.6	100	8.2	23.0	24.1	67.7	1.7	4.8	0.1	0.3	1.5	4.2
Ulan District	21.5	100	11.4	53.0	8.0	37.2	0.8	3.7	0.5	2.3	0.8	3.7

Source: Vsesoyuznaya perepis naseleniya 1939 [All-Union Population Census of 1939]. Russian State Archive of Economy (TSGANKh). F. 1562, Inv. 336, F. 568, P. 41–42.

*The population of the Kirov District was largely incorporated into the Glubokoye District, which was established in 1964.

*In 1963, the population of the Predgornoye District was integrated into the Glubokoye and Shemonaikha districts.

*In 1962, the population of the Bukhtarma District was incorporated into the Zyryanovsk District and, partially, the Glubokoye District.

The majority of Kazakhs (54.9%) resided in the southern part of the region, inhabiting territories that were more suitable for their traditional economic and livelihood activities (Zaisan, Katon-Karagay, Kurchum, and Tarbagatay districts). In the ethnically mixed districts (Samara, Bolshenarymsk, and Ulan), 24.4% of the ethnic group was concentrated. Meanwhile, 19.3% resided in the northern part of the region, and 1.4% lived in Ust-Kamenogorsk.

The Russian population was concentrated in the northern part of the region (64.3%). These were primarily territories incorporated into Kazakhstan in 1921 (according to the 1939 administrative-territorial structure, this included the populations of the Glubokoye, Bukhtarma, Kirov, Predgornoye, Shemonaikha, and Zyryanovsk districts, the city of Leninogorsk, and part of Ust-Kamenogorsk). In the ethnically mixed districts, 15.1% of the region's Russian population resided, while 16.0% lived in the southern districts, and 4.6% in the city of Ust-Kamenogorsk. Notably, according to the census data, the city of Ust-Kamenogorsk had not yet become a significant center of population attraction, regardless of ethnicity. In 1939, only 3.8% of the region's total population resided there (Table 4).

The period between the 1939 and 1959 censuses encompassed a wide range of events that had varying impacts on population dynamics and the ethnic composition of the East Kazakhstan Region. On the one hand, the direct and indirect losses of the Great Patriotic War, as well as the hardships of the postwar years, negatively affected population reproduction processes: mortality increased significantly, while birth rates declined. On the other hand, the inflow of population from other Union republics compensated for these losses but further altered the ethnic composition. This process was predetermined by deportations and evacuations in the 1940s, as well as industrial migration to the region in the 1950s. During the Great Patriotic War, many ethnic groups were resettled in Kazakhstan, including its eastern part. For instance, in 1941–1942, 34.2 thousand Germans were sent to the region. In 1944, following the liquidation of the Chechen-Ingush ASSR, 344.6 thousand people arrived in Kazakhstan, including 34.2 thousand relocated to East Kazakhstan (Bugay, 1990: 40). The total number of deportees fluctuated due to high mortality rates and new arrivals; by early 1949, there were 45.1 thousand special settlers in the EKR (Zemskov, 1990: 7). While a significant portion of deported and evacuated populations returned to their homelands in the 1940s and 1950s, the region simultaneously experienced an active influx of population linked to industrial development.

As a result of these processes, by the end of the 1950s the population size, ethnic composition, and settlement structure of the EKR had undergone profound changes (Table 5).

Table 5 – Population size and ethnic composition of East Kazakhstan according to the 1959 censuses (thousand people)

Districts	Total population		Including									
			Kazakhs		Russians		Ukrainians		Germans		Other ethnic groups	
	Population	%	Population	%	Population	%	Population	%	Population	%	Population	%
East-Kazakhstan region	734.9	100	139.2	18.9	521.1	70.9	17.2	2.3	22.7	3.1	34.7	4.7
Ust-Kamenogorsk	159.3	100	7.0	4.4	133.6	83.9	5.7	3.6	4.5	2.8	8.5	5.3
Region 1	120.7	100	78.9	65.4	37.4	31.0	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.6	2.8	2.3
Zaisan District	27.0	100	18.8	69.6	7.0	25.9	0.2	0.7	0.1	0.4	0.9	3.3
Katon-Karagay District	25.4	100	13.8	54.3	10.9	42.9	0.2	0.8	0.03	0.0	0.5	2.0
Kurchum District	29.9	100	17.5	58.5	10.8	36.1	0.3	1.0	0.6	2.0	0.7	2.3
Markakol District	17.5	100	10.5	60.0	6.6	37.7	0.1	0.6	0.02	0.0	0.3	1.7
Tarbagatay District	20.9	100	18.3	87.6	2.1	10.0	0.1	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.4	1.9
Region 2	356.4	100	19.1	5.4	296.3	83.1	6.0	1.7	13.6	3.8	21.4	6.0
Leninogorsk City Council	83.9	100	2.8	3.4	72.7	86.6	2.0	2.4	1.8	2.1	4.6	5.5
Zyryanovsk District	91.6	100	4.9	5.3	77.2	84.3	2.4	2.6	2.4	2.6	4.7	5.2
Bukhtarma District*	35.7	100	4.6	12.9	28.1	78.7	0.7	2.0	0.5	1.4	1.8	5.0
Kirov District*	57.7	100	2.4	4.2	49.3	85.4	1.0	1.7	1.8	3.1	3.2	5.5
Predgornoye District*	45.5	100	2.6	5.7	36.3	79.8	1.1	2.4	2.8	6.2	2.7	5.9
Shemonaikha District	42.0	100	1.8	4.3	32.7	77.9	0.8	1.9	4.3	10.2	2.4	5.7
Region 3	98.2	100	33.9	34.5	53.5	54.5	2.3	2.3	3.8	3.9	4.7	4.8
Tavricheskoye District*	19.5	100	4.3	22.1	11.8	60.5	1.4	7.2	1.1	5.6	0.9	4.6
Bolshenarym District	27.0	100	8.0	29.6	16.0	59.3	0.4	1.5	0.1	0.4	2.5	9.2

Samar District	26.5	100	8.9	33.6	15.4	58.1	0.4	1.5	1.6	6.0	0.2	0.8
Ulan District	25.0	100	12.7	50.8	10.3	41.2	0.4	1.6	1.0	4.0	0.6	2.4

Source: Itogi Vsesoyuznoy perepisi naseleniya 1959 g. [Results of the 1959 All-Union Population Census]. (1962). Moscow, P. 13; Arkhiv Vostochno-Kazakhstanskogo upravleniya statistiki [Archive of the East Kazakhstan Statistical Administration]. F. 41. Inv. 28. C. 8.

*The Tavricheskoye District was established in October 1939; however, it was not included in the data of the 1939 All-Union Population Census, as the census was conducted in January of that year.

As shown in the table data, the total population of the EKR increased by 39.2% between 1939 and 1959. The population of Ust-Kamenogorsk grew at the most rapid pace, increasing 7.9-fold. This period marked a new trend in population dynamics and the regional settlement system. While Ust-Kamenogorsk had not previously functioned as a primary center of attraction, during the 1940s and 1950s the provincial capital accounted for 67.2% of the EKR's total population growth. This shift was primarily driven by the powerful industrial impetus of the 1950s. During this time, several large-scale enterprises of All-Union significance began operations in the city: the Lead-Zinc Combine (1952), the Ulba Metallurgical Plant (1949), the Titanium-Magnesium Combine (1954), the Ust-Kamenogorsk Capacitor Plant (1959), and the Irtysh Chemical-Metallurgical Plant (1956). Industrial enterprises also emerged in the northern districts of the region, including the Leninogorsk Polymetallic Plant, the Zyryanovsk Lead Plant, the Glubokoye Irtysh Copper Smelter, and others. By the mid-1970s, there were 174 industrial enterprises in the region (GAVKO. Fund 1-p, Inventory 2, File 1289, Sheet 1725). To a large extent, these enterprises were staffed by specialists arriving from other republics of the USSR. Consequently, the Russian population increased by 44.6% between 1939 and 1959, while the growth rate of the Kazakh population was 2.2 times lower, increasing by 20.4%. By the late 1950s, the share of Kazakhs in the total population was only 18.9%, whereas Russians accounted for 70.9% and other ethnic groups for 10.2%. The number of Russians grew most rapidly in Ust-Kamenogorsk, increasing 8.1-fold. Furthermore, while only 4.6% of the region's Russian population lived in the city in 1939, this figure rose to 25.6% in 1959. In the northern region, the Russian population increased by 56.1%. The concentration of Russians in the northern part of the province resulted not only from migration from other Soviet republics but also from internal migration within the region. As a result, the Russian population decreased by 1.5% in the "mixed" districts and by 35.2% in the southern districts.

The Kazakh population remained concentrated in the southern districts (56.7% of the EKR Kazakhs in 1959) and partially in the mixed districts (24.3%). Representation of this ethnic group in the northern districts and in Ust-Kamenogorsk remained modest. The high growth rate of the Kazakh population in Ust-Kamenogorsk (4.4-fold) is largely the result of the "small base effect"; the Kazakh share in the city's total population growth between 1939 and 1959 was only 3.4%. Overall, compared to 1939, the Kazakh settlement system changed only slightly.

The Soviet authorities regarded migration flows in Eastern Kazakhstan as one of the principal instruments for achieving several strategic objectives. Control over population movement enabled the simultaneous resolution of economic, political, and demographic tasks. The key economic aim, beginning in the 1920s, was to ensure the industrial development of Eastern Kazakhstan and to supply its industries with labor. Control over migration also served as a tool for consolidating Soviet power in strategically important border territories. Soviet policy in Eastern Kazakhstan represented a complex combination of economic planning, political coercion, and efforts to reshape the region's demographic composition—a combination that fundamentally altered its character for decades to come.

The dynamics of population size and ethnic composition in the EKR during the 1960s (the inter-census period of 1959–1970) followed trends typical for Kazakhstan as a whole. The rapid growth of the Kazakh population was driven by natural reproduction processes; by 1970, the number of Kazakhs in the region had increased by 40.7% compared to 1959 (Table 6). This growth was a consequence of the demographic boom experienced by the ethnic group in the 1950s and 1960s. Improvements in

healthcare and social services led to a sharp decline in mortality, especially infant and child mortality, while birth rates remained high. As a result, natural increase reached significant levels, and large families became widespread. At the same time, the growth rate of the Russian population declined significantly. This was due to the reduction and eventual cessation of migration inflow into the region and into Kazakhstan as a whole. The industrial boom, which had required a large labor force for the construction of cities and enterprises, had largely peaked in the 1950s. While the Russian population in the EKR increased by 44.6% between 1939 and 1959, the growth rate fell to 12.7% between 1959 and 1970. Further industrial development in the region was ensured through internal resources. Due to intra-regional migration, the settlement structure of the main ethnic groups continued to change, as shown in Table 6. This primarily affected the Russian population, which actively moved to Ust-Kamenogorsk. Between 1959 and 1970, 98.8% of the increase in the EKR Russian population was concentrated in the provincial capital. By 1970, 33.9% of the region's ethnic Russians were concentrated in Ust-Kamenogorsk.

Table 6 – Population size and ethnic composition of East Kazakhstan according to the 1970 censuses (thousand people)

Districts	Total population		Including									
			Kazakhs		Russians		Ukrainians		Germans		Other ethnic groups	
	Population	%	Population	%	Population	%	Population	%	Population	%	Population	%
East-Kazakhstan region	845.2	100	195.9	23.2	587.5	69.5	16.9	2.0	21.7	2.6	23.2	2.7
Ust-Kamenogorsk	230.3	100	11.8	5.1	199.2	86.5	8.0	3.5	4.2	1.8	7.1	3.1
Region 1	153.2	100	116.0	75.7	33.8	22.1	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.3	2.4	1.6
Zaisan district	33.6	100	26.1	77.7	6.3	18.7	0.1	0.3	0.02	0.0	1.1	3.3
Katon-Karagay district	28.1	100	19.1	68.0	8.6	30.6	0.1	0.3	0.03	0.0	0.3	1.1
Kurchum District	35.5	100	24.3	68.5	10.2	28.7	0.2	0.6	0.4	1.1	0.4	1.1
Markakol District	21.7	100	15.7	72.3	5.7	26.3	0.05	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	1.4
Tarbagatay District	34.3	100	30.8	89.8	3.0	8.7	0.1	0.3	0.02	0.0	0.4	1.2
Region 2	342.1	100	17.7	5.2	294.9	86.2	6.6	1.9	12.3	3.6	10.6	3.1
Leninogorsk City Council	82.3	100	3.2	3.9	72.8	88.5	1.7	2.1	1.4	1.7	3.2	3.8
Zyryanovsk District	88.0	100	5.3	6.0	76.3	86.7	1.6	1.8	1.8	2.0	3.0	3.4
Serebryansk District	30.4	100	1.7	5.6	27.0	88.8	0.6	2.0	0.5	1.6	0.6	2.0
Glubokoye District	77.3	100	3.8	4.9	66.5	86.0	1.5	1.9	3.7	4.8	1.8	2.3

Shemonaikha District	64.1	100	3.7	5.8	52.3	81.6	1.2	1.9	4.9	7.6	2.0	3.1
Region 3	119.5	100	50.2	42.0	59.6	49.9	1.7	1.4	4.6	3.8	3.4	2.9
Bolshenarym District	28.8	100	11.7	40.6	14.7	51.0	0.2	0.7	1.3	4.5	0.9	3.1
Samar District	29.0	100	12.2	42.1	14.8	51.0	0.3	1.0	1.2	4.1	0.5	1.7
Tavricheskoye District	26.6	100	6.4	24.1	17.0	63.9	1.2	4.5	1.1	4.1	0.9	3.4
Ulan District	35.1	100	19.9	56.7	13.1	37.3	0.04	0.1	1.0	2.8	1.1	3.1

Source: Itogi Vsesoyuznoy perepisi naseleniya 1970 g. [Results of the 1970 All-Union Population Census]. (1973). Vol. 4. Moscow, 235 p.; State Archive of the East Kazakhstan Region (GAVKO). F. 41, Inv. 28, C. 8.

The Kazakh population was less affected by migration processes toward the northern districts and the provincial capital. By 1970, only 6.0% of the region's Kazakhs resided in the city. Furthermore, 65.4% of the growth of the Kazakh population occurred in the southern territories of the province, where 59.2% of the ethnic group lived in 1970.

In the 1970s, population growth rates began to decline. By 1979, the region's population had increased by only 4.0% compared to 1970 (Tables 6, 7). This trend was primarily due to a sharp slowdown (a 10.6-fold decrease) in the growth rate of the Russian population. Meanwhile, the growth rate of the Kazakh population decreased by a factor of 2.9 compared to the 1960s, amounting to 14.0%. The representation of several other ethnic groups also declined.

In the authors' view, these new trends in the region's demographic development were driven by the following factors. In the 1970s, the "demographic explosion" experienced by the Kazakh population in the 1950s and 1960s came to an end. This period saw a gradual decline in birth rates alongside a slight increase in mortality rates. The slowdown in the growth of the Russian, Ukrainian, and German populations was associated with an increasing migration outflow. Since most of those leaving were of reproductive age, birth rates subsequently declined, and the proportion of the elderly population increased. As a result, natural increase barely compensated for the negative net migration that had emerged in Kazakhstan since the late 1960s (from 1968 onwards).

Table 7 – Population size and ethnic composition of East Kazakhstan according to the 1979 censuses (thousand people)

Districts	Total population		Including									
			Kazakhs		Russians		Ukrainians		Germans		Other ethnic groups	
	Popu- lation	%	Popu- lation	%	Popu- lation	%	Popu- lation	%	Popu- lation	%	Popu- lation	%
East-Kazakhstan region	878.9	100	223.3	25.4	594.7	67.7	16.9	1.9	21.4	2.4	22.6	2.6
Ust-Kamenogorsk	274.7	100	19.0	6.9	232.2	84.5	7.8	2.8	5.2	1.9	10.5	3.8
Region 1	160.5	100	130.8	81.5	26.3	16.4	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.2	2.6	1.6
Zaisan District	36.4	100	29.2	80.2	5.8	15.9	0.5	1.4	0.02	0.0	0.9	2.5

Katon-Karagay District	26.9	100	20.8	77.3	5.8	21.6	0.1	0.4	0.03	0.0	0.2	0.7
Kurchum District	35.4	100	25.1	70.9	9.2	26.0	0.2	0.6	0.3	0.8	0.6	1.7
Markakol District	22.4	100	18.5	82.6	3.6	16.1	0.1	0.4	0.03	0.0	0.2	0.9
Tarbagatay District	39.4	100	37.2	94.4	1.9	4.8	0.04	0.0	0.01	0.0	0.3	0.8
Region 2	327.1	100	20.0	6.1	281.6	86.1	5.5	1.7	11.6	3.5	8.4	2.6
Leninogorsk City Council	77.9	100	3.3	4.2	69.6	89.3	1.3	1.7	1.3	1.7	2.4	3.1
Zyryanovsk District	81.1	100	6.5	8.0	69.6	85.8	1.3	1.6	1.6	2.0	2.1	2.6
Serebryansk District	29.7	100	2.0	6.7	26.3	88.6	0.5	1.7	0.4	1.3	0.5	1.7
Glubokoye District	74.8	100	4.2	5.6	63.9	85.4	1.3	1.7	3.5	4.7	1.9	2.5
Shemonaikha District	63.6	100	4.0	6.3	52.2	82.1	1.1	1.7	4.8	7.5	1.5	2.4
Region 3	116.6	100	53.5	45.9	54.5	46.7	0.9	0.8	4.2	3.6	3.5	3.0
Bolshenarym District	25.4	100	12.4	48.8	11.3	44.5	0.1	0.4	1.0	3.9	0.6	2.4
Samar District	26.7	100	12.9	48.3	12.0	44.9	0.3	1.1	1.0	3.7	0.5	1.9
Tavrisheskoye District	28.8	100	7.1	24.7	18.5	64.2	0.2	0.7	1.2	4.2	1.8	6.2
Ulan District	35.7	100	21.1	59.1	12.7	35.6	0.3	0.8	1.0	2.8	0.6	1.7

Source: Chislennost i sostav naseleniya SSSR. Vsesoyuznaya perepis naseleniya 1979 [Number and Composition of the USSR Population. All-Union Population Census of 1979]. (1984). Moscow, p. 116.

In the 1970s, certain shifts began to emerge in the intra-regional settlement system of the main ethnic groups. An increase in the Russian population was observed only in the city of Ust-Kamenogorsk (by 16.6%). This was the result of the migration of residents from rural districts of the province, where an absolute decline in the representation of this ethnic group was recorded. In contrast, the number of Kazakhs increased in all districts of the region between 1970 and 1979. As before, the southern districts of the EKR accounted for the main population growth (54.0%), and by 1979, 58.6% of the region's Kazakhs resided there. At the same time, a clear upward trend in the Kazakh population in Ust-Kamenogorsk became evident: between 1970 and 1979, 26.3% of the ethnic group's growth occurred in the provincial capital (Tables 6, 7).

The population formation trends that began to emerge in the 1960s and 1970s became fully established in the 1980s. Increasingly, overall population dynamics depended on the Kazakh ethnic group. As a result, according to the 1989 census data, the share of Kazakhs in the total population of the EKR reached 27.2% (Table 8). However, the growth dynamics of this ethnic group varied significantly across the region. Over the decade (1979–1989), the number of Kazakhs increased by 79.5% in Ust-Kamenogorsk, by 26.5% in the northern districts, by 7.5% in the “mixed” districts, and

by 4.8% in the southern districts (Tables 7, 8). Notably, 49.7% of Kazakh population growth was concentrated in the provincial capital, while 17.4% was accounted for by the northern districts. The trend toward population concentration in Ust-Kamenogorsk was also characteristic of the Russian population. The key difference was that in all other districts of the region, the Russian ethnic group experienced an absolute decline in numbers.

An absolute decline in the Russian population and a relative slowdown in Kazakh population growth were observed in the same districts of the EKR. Kazakh population growth rates were highest in the northern districts, primarily in Ust-Kamenogorsk, and lowest in the southern districts. In the provincial capital, the growth rate of the Kazakh population was 16.5 times higher than in the Tarbagatay, Markakol, Kurchum, Zaisan, and Katon-Karagay districts combined. Moreover, the growth dynamics of the Kazakh ethnic group in Ust-Kamenogorsk were six times higher than those of the Russian population.

Table 8 – Population size and ethnic composition of East Kazakhstan according to the 1989 censuses (thousand people)

Districts	Total population		Including									
			Kazakhs		Russians		Ukrainians		Germans		Other ethnic groups	
	Population	%	Population	%	Population	%	Population	%	Population	%	Population	%
East-Kazakhstan region	931.3	100	253.7	27.2	613.8	65.9	16.2	1.7	22.8	2.5	24.8	2.7
Ust-Kamenogorsk	322.8	100	34.1	10.6	263.2	81.5	7.8	2.4	6.3	2.0	11.4	3.5
Region 1	156.9	100	137.1	87.4	16.9	10.8	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.2	2.1	1.3
Zaisan District	37.0	100	31.4	84.9	4.2	11.3	0.3	0.8	0.04	0.1	1.1	2.9
Katon-Karagay District	24.8	100	20.6	83.1	3.9	15.7	0.05	0.2	0.03	0.1	0.2	0.8
Kurchum District	31.2	100	25.2	80.8	5.2	16.7	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.6	0.5	1.6
Markakol District	22.5	100	19.9	88.4	2.4	10.7	0.03	0.1	0.01	0.0	0.2	0.8
Tarbagatay District	41.4	100	40.0	96.6	1.2	2.9	0.05	0.1	0.02	0.1	0.1	0.2
Region 2	335.9	100	25.3	7.5	283.6	84.4	5.1	1.5	12.3	3.7	9.6	2.9
Leninogorsk City Council	78.9	100	4.1	5.2	69.6	88.2	1.4	1.8	1.3	1.6	2.5	3.2
Zyryanovsk District	81.3	100	8.0	9.8	68.1	83.8	1.5	1.8	1.5	1.8	2.2	2.7
Serebryansk District	30.8	100	2.7	8.8	26.5	86.0	0.5	1.6	0.4	1.3	0.7	2.3
Glubokoye	77.4	100	5.5	7.1	64.7	83.6	0.5	0.6	3.7	4.8	3.0	3.9

District												
Shemonaikha District	67.5	100	5.0	7.4	54.7	81.0	1.2	1.8	5.4	8.0	1.2	1.8
Region 3	115.7	100	57.5	49.7	50.1	43.3	1.8	1.6	3.9	3.4	2.4	2.0
Bolshenarym District	24.4	100	13.7	56.1	9.2	37.7	0.1	0.4	0.9	3.7	0.5	2.0
Samar District	24.6	100	13.2	53.7	9.9	40.2	0.2	0.8	0.8	3.3	0.5	2.0
Tavricheskoye District	29.2	100	7.9	27.1	18.2	62.3	1.1	3.8	1.2	4.1	0.8	2.7
Ulan District	37.5	100	22.7	60.5	12.8	34.1	0.4	1.1	1.0	2.7	0.6	1.6

Source: Alekseenko, A. N. (1994). *Narody Vostochnogo Kazakhstana* [The Peoples of East Kazakhstan]. Ust-Kamenogorsk, P. 16.

Thus, the ethno-demographic development of East Kazakhstan during the Soviet period can be divided into two distinct stages. The timeframe of these stages is defined by the data from the first and last All-Union population censuses (1926 and 1989). This retrospective range is justified by the fact that the “external” boundaries of the region had already been formed by 1926 and remained unchanged until the late 1980s. The 1959 census serves as the dividing line between the first and second stages. By the late 1950s, ethnic differentiation in demographic processes had reached its peak. In the 1960s, a new trend in ethno-demographic development emerged, the results of which were recorded in the 1989 population census.

During the first stage (1926–1959), the population of the EKR increased by 49.4% (Table 9). This growth was driven by a nearly twofold increase in the number of Russians (98.1%) and, to a lesser extent, by an increase in other ethnic groups (38.1%). This growth offset the decline in the Kazakh population (20.4%), whose share in the total population decreased from 36.5% in 1926 to 18.9% in 1959 (Tables 3, 5).

Table 9 – Population size and ethnic composition of East Kazakhstan according to the 1926, 1959, 1989 censuses (thousand people)

Ethnic groups	1926 – 1959			1959 – 1989		
	1926	1959	1959 to 1926 (%)	1959	1989	1989 to 1959 (%)
Total population	492.0	734.9	149.4	734.9	931.3	126.7
Kazakhs	174.9	139.2	79.6	139.2	253.7	182.3
Russians	263.1	521.1	198.1	521.1	613.8	117.8
Other ethnic groups	54.0	74.6	138.1	74.6	63.8	85.5

Source: Vsesoyuznaya perepis naseleniya 1939 g. [All-Union Population Census of 1939]. Russian State Archive of Economy (TSGANKh). F. 1562. Inv. 335. C. 568. P. 41–42; Itogi Vsesoyuznoy perepisi naseleniya 1959 g. [Results of the 1959 All-Union Population Census]. (1962). Moscow. P. 13; Alekseenko, A. N. (1994). *Narody Vostochnogo Kazakhstana* [The Peoples of East Kazakhstan]. Ust-Kamenogorsk P. 16.

The ethno-demographic processes that occurred during this period were primarily determined by political factors. Collectivization and the famine of the 1930s were the main causes of the decline

in the Kazakh population. Deportations and migration inflows from other Soviet republics, associated with the industrial development of the EKR, led to an increase in the non-titular population, primarily Russians, whose share reached 70.9% by 1959. The share of the Kazakh population in the region stood at 18.9% in the late 1950s, representing one of the lowest levels of representation of the titular ethnic group among the regions of Kazakhstan (Table 5).

The development trends of the EKR population between 1959 and 1989 were determined by different factors. On the one hand, the “demographic explosion” experienced by the Kazakhs continued through the 1960s. The number of ethnic Kazakhs increased by 82.3% over thirty years, mainly due to natural growth, raising their share of the total population to 27.2% by 1989. At the same time, since the late 1960s, net inter-republic migration in Kazakhstan became negative. As a result, the growth dynamics of the Russian population in the EKR significantly slowed (98.1% in 1939–1959 compared to 17.8% in 1959–1989). The share of Russians in the total population decreased to 65.9% in 1989 (from 70.9% in 1959). The proportion of other ethnic groups in East Kazakhstan declined by 14.5%.

Socio-economic changes influenced the settlement system of the EKR, where population concentration in Ust-Kamenogorsk became increasingly pronounced. This trend emerged in the 1950s, a period of active industrial development of the city. Population growth in the provincial capital was driven both by inter-republic migration and by internal migration from rural districts of the region, primarily among Russians. Soviet socio-economic policy rapidly transformed the settlement structure of the Russian population, while affecting the Kazakh population to a lesser extent. Despite political, economic, and demographic disruptions in 1939–1959, the settlement system of the Kazakh population—most of which was concentrated in the southern districts—did not undergo fundamental changes. This area of ethnic concentration continued to serve as a carrier of the socio-cultural values of the Kazakh people, functioning as a systemic territorial core (Table 5).

At the same time, as early as the 1950s, migration of Kazakhs from the northern districts of the EKR to Ust-Kamenogorsk became noticeable. Between 1959 and 1989, this process intensified further. While only 5.0% of the region’s Kazakhs lived in the city in 1959, this figure increased to 13.4% by 1989 (Table 10). In the 1980s, this migration increasingly involved not only populations from the northern districts but also from the southern districts. Although the level of concentration of Kazakhs in the south changed only slightly by 1989 compared to 1959, the highest growth rates of the Kazakh population in the 1980s were recorded in Ust-Kamenogorsk, while the lowest were observed in the southern districts (Tables 7, 8).

Table 10 – Ethnic settlement in the regions of East Kazakhstan according to the 1939, 1959, 1989 censuses, %

Regions	1939	1959	1989
Total population	100	100	100
Ust-Kamenogorsk	3.8	21.7	34.7
Region 1	24.9	16.4	16.8
Region 2	53.9	48.5	36.1
Region 3	17.4	13.4	12.4
Kazakhs	100	100	100
Ust-Kamenogorsk	1.4	5.0	13.4
Region 1	54.9	56.7	54.0
Region 2	19.3	13.7	9.9

Region 3	24.4	24.3	22.7
Russians	100	100	100
Ust-Kamenogorsk	4.6	25.6	42.9
Region 1	16.0	7.2	2.7
Region 2	64.3	56.9	46.2
Region 3	15.1	10.3	8.2
Other ethnic groups	100	100	100
Ust-Kamenogorsk	3.9	25.1	40.0
Region 1	19.3	5.9	4.5
Region 2	51.2	54.5	42.8
Region 3	17.6	14.5	12.7

Source: Calculated based on Tables 4, 5, and 8.

The concentration of population in Ust-Kamenogorsk significantly affected employment patterns across various sectors of the national economy, particularly industry. While 20.6% of the total employed population in Kazakhstan worked in industry, this figure reached 29.9% in the EKR. The corresponding national average was 27.0%. The Kazakh population also began entering industrial occupations, gradually adapting to the economic conditions of their new place of residence; in fact, 14.6% of employed Kazakhs worked in industrial enterprises. This was slightly higher than the national average of 13.9% (Results of the 1989 All-Union Population Census, 1992: 82, 94).

Conclusions

Thus, the history of East Kazakhstan during the Soviet period can be divided into two stages with significantly different ethno-demographic development trends: 1926–1959 and 1959–1989. During the first stage, due to migration inflows, the population of non-titular ethnic groups and the total population increased significantly, primarily in the northern districts of the region. In contrast, the demographic indicators of the Kazakh ethnic group were negative, marked by a decline in both absolute numbers and relative share. During the second stage, new ethno-demographic patterns emerged: a substantial increase in the Kazakh population due to a demographic boom, alongside an increasingly evident migration outflow of Russians and other non-indigenous ethnic groups from the region.

The trend of Kazakh migration toward the industrial areas of the region (the northern districts) emerged in the 1960s, gained momentum in the 1970s, and became fully established in the 1980s. Concentration in industrially developed districts as well as in cities (especially Ust-Kamenogorsk) was, to varying degrees, characteristic of all ethnic groups in East Kazakhstan. By the end of the Soviet period, the region—formed from diverse ethnic groups previously divided by administrative, socio-economic, and socio-cultural boundaries—was acquiring greater cohesion and regional integrity. The period of ethnic differentiation in the settlement system was gradually coming to an end. The socio-economic and socio-cultural orientations of different ethnic groups increasingly shaped a unified urban space for all.

Source

SAEKR — State Archive of the East Kazakhstan Region

Источники

ГАВКО — Государственный архив Восточно-Казахстанской области

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CONTENTS

HISTORIOGRAPHY AND SOURCE STUDIES

Karimov M., Nasyrov M., Rakhmetullin E. THE LIFE OF SHAKARIM HAJI DURING THE SOVIET PERIOD: IN MEMORIES AND SOURCES	950
Sabitov Zh., Karatayev A. A. ABU SAID JANIBEK KHAN IN THE 1430S–1450S: NEW EVIDENCE FROM CHINESE SOURCES	966
Tylakhmetova A. S., Beisembayeva A. R., Tepkeev V. T. THE SOURCE BASE FOR THE STUDY OF THE LIFE AND STATE ACTIVITIES OF ABILMAMBET KHAN.....	980
Shabambayeva A. G., Abdrakhmanov B. N., Sadykova A. M. HISTORICAL DISCOURSE IN THE WORKS OF A. ZH. MASHANOV	995

HISTORY

Akhmetova G. M. THE MERCHANT CLASS AND TRADE RELATIONS OF NORTHEASTERN KAZAKHSTAN	1009
Dyusenova N. K. KAZAKH SOVIET MANAGERIAL ELITE DURING COLLECTIVIZATION IN KAZAKHSTAN	1027
Kuanbay O. B., Apendiyev T. A. JAPAN'S XIX CENTURY FAMILY REGISTRATION AND POPULATION CENSUS SYSTEM FEATURES (BASED ON ARCHIVE DOCUMENTS FROM THE MEIJI PERIOD)	1042
Mussagaliyeva A. S., Kozybayeva M. M. DISCUSSIONS ON THE ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL HISTORY OF KAZAKHSTAN DURING THE DISCUSSION OF THE ACADEMIC PUBLICATION "HISTORY OF THE KAZAKH SSR" IN THE 1950S	1060
Nurtazina N. D. THE REVIVAL OF SUFISM IN KAZAKHSTAN: SAID KURBANALI HAZRAT ISHAN (AKHMEDOV) AND HIS LEGACY	1078
Primkulova G., Sandybaeva A., Tastanbekov M. CULT AND RITUAL STRUCTURES OF TURKESTAN: HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS OF UNDERGROUND COMPLEXES (12th–19th CENTURIES).....	1100
Suleimenova D. K., Zhumabayeva A. A. THE ULUS OF JOCHI IN THE ERA OF THE BLACK DEATH.....	1117
Teleuova E. T., Sabol S. "BEYOND TERMS AND BEYOND RULES": IMPERIAL AUTHORITIES AND THE MUSLIM CLERGY OF THE STEPPE KRAI DURING THE 1910 CHOLERA EPIDEMIC.....	1128
Tretyakova M. S. THE ECONOMIC ACTIVITY OF ASHKENAZI JEWISH WOMEN IN THE STEPPE REGION AT THE TURN OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY	1143
Wang Y., Tuleshova U. Zh. RUSSIAN COLONIZATION OF THE KAZAKH STEPPE: RUSSIAN, KAZAKH, WESTERN, AND CHINESE HISTORIOGRAPHICAL PERSPECTIVES ON IMPERIAL EXPANSION AND COLONIAL TRANSFORMATION	1155

ANTHROPOLOGY

Ganiyeva A. S., Shulga V. A., Sakenov S. K. ARCHAEOLOGY OF TRADITIONAL KAZAKH WINTER SETTLEMENTS IN NORTHERN SARYARKA: EVIDENCE FROM THE ZHABAY WINTERING SITE.....	1175
Yergali G., Kalysh A. B. WEDDING RITUALS OF THE KAZAKHS OF CENTRAL KAZAKHSTAN: PRESERVATION OF TRADITIONS AND REGIONAL FEATURES.....	1193
Krasnobayeva N. L., Sarsembayeva G. A., Kassenova A. Zh. FEATURES OF THE POPULATION SETTLEMENT SYSTEM IN EAST KAZAKHSTAN REGION IN THE LATE XIX–XX CENTURIES: AN ETHNODEMOGRAPHIC PERSPECTIVE	1205
Khabibullin E. I., Asylguzhin R. R. ETHNOGENESIS OF THE BASHKIRS OF THE AY-YURYUZAN INTERFLUVE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE GOLDEN HORDE HERITAGE: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY ANALYSIS.....	1227

МАЗМҰНЫ

ТАРИХНАМА ЖӘНЕ ДЕРЕКТАНУ

Каримов М., Насыров М., Рахметуллин Е. КЕҢЕСТІК ҚУДАЛАУ КЕЗЕҢІНДЕГІ ШӘКӘРІМ ҚАЖЫ ӨМІРІ: ЕСТЕЛІКТЕР МЕН ДЕРЕКТЕРДЕ	950
Сабитов Ж., Қаратаев Ә. ӘБУСАИД ЖӘНІБЕКХАН 1430–1450 ЖЫЛДАРЫ: ҚЫТАЙ ДЕРЕК КӨЗДЕРІНДЕГІ ЖАҢА МӘЛІМЕТТЕР	966
Тылахметова А. С., Бейсембаева А. Р., Тепкеев В. Т. ӨБІЛМӘМБЕТХАННЫҢ ӨМІРІ МЕН МЕМЛЕКЕТТІК ҚЫЗМЕТІН ЗЕРТТЕУ ДІН ДЕРЕКТІК НЕГІЗІ	980
Шабамбаева А. Г., Абдрахманов Б. Н., Садыкова А. М. А. Ж. МАШАНОВ ШЫҒАРМАЛАРЫНДАҒЫ ТАРИХИ ДИСКУРС	995

ТАРИХ

Ахметова Г. М. СОЛТҮСТІК-ШЫҒЫС ҚАЗАҚСТАНДАҒЫ КӨПЕСТЕР МЕН САУДА БАЙЛАНЫСТАРЫ	1009
Дюсенова Н. К. ҚАЗАҚСТАНДАҒЫ ҰЖЫМДАСТЫРУ КЕЗІНДЕГІ ҚАЗАҚТЫҢ КЕҢЕСТІК БАСҚАРУШЫ ЭЛИТАСЫ	1027
Қуанбай О. Б., Әпендиев Т. Ә. ЖАПОНИЯНЫҢ ХІХ ҒАСЫРДАҒЫ ОТБАСЫН ТІРКЕУ МЕН ХАЛЫҚТЫ ЕСЕПКЕ АЛУ ЖҮЙЕСІ ЕРЕКШЕЛІКТЕРІ (МЭЙДЖИ ДӘУІРІ АРХИВТІК ҚҰЖАТТАРЫ НЕГІЗІНДЕ)	1042
Мұсағалиева А. С., Қозыбаева М. М. 1950-ЖЫЛДАРЫ «ҚАЗАҚ КСР ТАРИХЫ» АКАДЕМИЯЛЫҚ БАСЫЛЫМЫН ДАЙЫНДАУ ЖӘНЕ ТАЛҚЫЛАУ БАРЫСЫНДА ҚАЗАҚСТАННЫҢ ЕЖЕЛГІ ЖӘНЕ ОРТАҒАСЫРЛЫҚ ТАРИХЫНА ҚАТЫСТЫ ПІКІРТАЛАСТАР	1060
Нұртазина Н. Д. ҚАЗАҚСТАНДАҒЫ СОПЫЛЫҚТЫҢ ҚАЙТА ӨРЛЕУІ: САИД ҚҰРБАНӘЛІ ХАЗІРЕТ ИШАН (АХМЕДОВ) ЖӘНЕ ОНЫҢ МҰРАСЫ	1078
Примкулова Г., Сандыбаева А., Тастанбеков М. ТҮРКІСТАННЫҢ ДІНИ-ҒҰРЫПТЫҚ СӘУЛЕТ ЕСКЕРТКІШТЕРІ: ХІІ–ХІХ ҒҒ. ЖЕРАСТЫ КЕШЕНДЕРІНІҢ ТАРИХИ-СӘУЛЕТТІК ТАЛДАУ	1100
Сүлейменова Д. Қ., Жумабаева Ә. Ә.	1117
Телеуова Э. Т., Сабоп С. «МЕРЗІМНЕН БҰРЫН ЖӘНЕ ЕРЕЖЕДЕН ТЫС»: 1910 ЖЫЛҒЫ ТЫРЫСҚАҚ ІНДЕТІ КЕЗІНДЕГІ ДАЛА ӨЛКЕСІНІҢ ИМПЕРИЯ БИЛГІ МЕН МҰСЫЛМАН ДІНБАСЫЛАРЫ	1128
Третьякова М. С. ХІХ–ХХ ҒАСЫРЛАР ТОҒЫСЫНДАҒЫ ДАЛАЛЫҚ АЙМАҚТАҒЫ АШКЕНАЗИ ЕВРЕЙ ӨЙЕЛДЕРІНІҢ ЭКОНОМИКАЛЫҚ БЕЛСЕНДІЛІГІ	1143
Ятин Ван, Тулешова Ұ. Ж. РЕСЕЙДІҢ ҚАЗАҚ ДАЛАСЫН ОТАРЛАУЫ: ИМПЕРИЯЛЫҚ ЭКСПАНСИЯ МЕН ОТАРЛЫҚ ТРАНСФОРМАЦИЯНЫҢ ТАРИХНАМАСЫ	1155

АНТРОПОЛОГИЯ

Ганиева А. С., Шульга В. А., Сакенов С. Қ. СОЛТҮСТІК САРЫАРҚАДАҒЫ ДӘСТҮРЛІ ҚАЗАҚ ҚЫСТАУЛАРЫНЫҢ АРХЕОЛОГИЯСЫ: ЖАБАЙ ҚЫСТАУЫ МАТЕРИАЛДАРЫ НЕГІЗІНДЕГІ ЗЕРТТЕУ	1175
Ерғали Г., Қалыш А. Б. ОРТАЛЫҚ ҚАЗАҚСТАН ҚАЗАҚТАРЫНЫҢ ҮЙЛЕНУ ҒҰРЫПТАРЫ: ДӘСТҮРДІҢ САҚТАЛУЫ ЖӘНЕ АЙМАҚТЫҚ ЕРЕКШЕЛІКТЕРІ	1193
Краснобаева Н. Л., Сарсембаева Г. А., Касенова А. Ж. ШЫҒЫС ҚАЗАҚСТАН ХАЛҚЫНЫҢ ХІХ ҒАСЫРДЫҢ СОҢЫ – ХХ Ғ. ҚОНЫСТАНДЫРУ ЖҮЙЕСІНІҢ ЕРЕКШЕЛІКТЕРІ: ЭТНОДЕМОГРАФИЯЛЫҚ АСПЕКТІ	1205
Хабибуллин Э. И., Асылгузин Р. Р. АЛТЫН ОРДА МҰРАСЫ КОНТЕКСТІНДЕГІ АЙ-ЮРЮЗАН ӨЗЕНАРАЛЫҚ БАШҚҰРТТАРЫНЫҢ ЭТНОГЕНЕЗІ: ПӘНАРАЛЫҚ ТАЛДАУ	1227

СОДЕРЖАНИЕ

ИСТОРИОГРАФИЯ И ИСТОЧНИКОВЕДЕНИЕ

Каримов М., Насыров М., Рахметуллин Е. ЖИЗНЬ ШАКАРИМА КАЖЫ В ПЕРИОД СОВЕТСКИХ РЕПРЕССИЙ: В ВОСПОМИНАНИЯХ И ИСТОЧНИКАХ	950
Сабитов Ж., Каратаев А. А. АБУ САИД ЖАНИБЕК-ХАН В 1430–1450-Х ГГ.: НОВЫЕ ДАННЫЕ КИТАЙСКИХ ИСТОЧНИКОВ	966
Тылахметова А. С., Бейсембаева А. Р., Тепкеев В. Т. ИСТОЧНИКОВАЯ БАЗА ИССЛЕДОВАНИЯ ЖИЗНИ И ГОСУДАРСТВЕННОЙ ДЕЯТЕЛЬНОСТИ АБИЛМАМБЕТ-ХАНА	980
Шабамбаева А. Г., Абдрахманов Б. Н., Садыкова А. М. ИСТОРИЧЕСКИЙ ДИСКУРС В ПРОИЗВЕДЕНИЯХ А.Ж. МАШАНОВА	995

ИСТОРИЯ

Ахметова Г. М. КУПЕЧЕСТВО И ТОРГОВЫЕ СВЯЗИ СЕВЕРО-ВОСТОЧНОГО КАЗАХСТАНА	1009
Дюсенова Н. К. КАЗАХСКАЯ СОВЕТСКАЯ УПРАВЛЕНЧЕСКАЯ ЭЛИТА В ПЕРИОД КОЛЛЕКТИВИЗАЦИИ В КАЗАХСТАНЕ	1027
Куанбай О. Б., Апендиев Т. А. ОСОБЕННОСТИ СИСТЕМЫ СЕМЕЙНОГО УЧЕТА И ПЕРЕПИСИ НАСЕЛЕНИЯ В ЯПОНИИ XIX ВЕКА (НА ОСНОВЕ АРХИВНЫХ ДОКУМЕНТОВ ЭПОХИ МЭЙДЗИ)....	1042
Мусагалиева А. С., Козыбаева М. М. ДИСКУССИИ ПО ДРЕВНЕЙ И СРЕДНЕВЕКОВОЙ ИСТОРИИ КАЗАХСТАНА В ХОДЕ ОБСУЖДЕНИЯ АКАДЕМИЧЕСКОГО ИЗДАНИЯ «ИСТОРИЯ КАЗАХСКОЙ ССР» В 1950-Х ГГ.	1060
Нургазина Н. Д. ВОЗРОЖДЕНИЕ СУФИЗМА В КАЗАХСТАНЕ: САИД КУРБАНАЛИ ХАЗРАТ ИШАН (АХМЕДОВ) И ЕГО НАСЛЕДИЕ.....	1078
Примкулова Г., Сандыбаева А., Тастанбеков М. КУЛЬТОВО-РИТУАЛЬНЫЕ СООРУЖЕНИЯ ТУРКЕСТАНА: ИСТОРИКО-АРХИТЕКТУРНЫЙ АНАЛИЗ ПОДЗЕМНЫХ КОМПЛЕКСОВ XII–XIX ВВ. .	1100
Сулейменова Д. К., Жумабаева А. А. УЛУС ДЖУЧИ В ЭПОХУ «ЧЁРНОЙ СМЕРТИ».....	1117
Телеуова Э. Т., Сабоп С. ««ВНЕ СРОКА И ВНЕ НОРМЫ»: ИМПЕРСКАЯ ВЛАСТЬ И МУСУЛЬМАНСКОЕ ДУХОВЕНСТВО СТЕПНОГО КРАЯ В ПЕРИОД ЭПИДЕМИИ ХОЛЕРЫ 1910 ГОДА	1128
Третьякова М. С. ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКАЯ АКТИВНОСТЬ АШКЕНАЗСКИХ ЕВРЕЕК В СТЕПНОМ КРАЕ НА РУБЕЖЕ XIX–XX ВВ.	1143
Ван Я., Тулешова У. Ж. РОССИЙСКАЯ КОЛОНИЗАЦИЯ КАЗАХСКОЙ СТЕПИ: РОССИЙСКИЕ, КАЗАХСКИЕ, ЗАПАДНЫЕ И КИТАЙСКИЕ ИСТОРИОГРАФИЧЕСКИЕ ПЕРСПЕКТИВЫ ИЗУЧЕНИЯ ИМПЕРСКОЙ ЭКСПАНСИИ И КОЛОНИАЛЬНОЙ ТРАНСФОРМАЦИИ.....	1155

АНТРОПОЛОГИЯ

Ганиева А. С., Шульга В. А., Сакенов С. К. АРХЕОЛОГИЯ ТРАДИЦИОННЫХ КАЗАХСКИХ ЗИМОВОК СЕВЕРНОЙ САРЫАРКИ: МАТЕРИАЛЫ ИССЛЕДОВАНИЯ КЫСТАУ ЖАБАЙ.....	1175
Ергали Г., Калыш А. Б. СВАДЕБНОЙ ОБРЯДЫ КАЗАХОВ ЦЕНТРАЛЬНОГО КАЗАХСТАНА: СОХРАНЕНИЕ ТРАДИЦИЙ И РЕГИОНАЛЬНЫЕ ОСОБЕННОСТИ	1193
Краснобаева Н. Л., Сарсембаева Г. А., Касенова А. Ж. ОСОБЕННОСТИ СИСТЕМЫ РАССЕЛЕНИЯ НАСЕЛЕНИЯ ВОСТОЧНОГО КАЗАХСТАНА В КОНЦЕ XIX–XX ВВ.: ЭТНОДЕМОГРАФИЧЕСКИЙ АСПЕКТ	1205
Хабибуллин Э. И., Асылгузин Р. Р. ЭТНОГЕНЕЗ БАШКИР АЙСКО-ЮРЮЗАНСКОГО МЕЖДУРЕЧЬЯ В КОНТЕКСТЕ ЗОЛОТООРДЫНСКОГО НАСЛЕДИЯ: МЕЖДИСЦИПЛИНАРНЫЙ АНАЛИЗ	1227

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