

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COLAR RUSSIAN RESETTLEMENT POLICY IN TURKESTAN (THE SECOND HALF OF THE XIX CENTURY)

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Abstract

In article are characterized methods of the transmigration in Turkestan part of the population to parent states, their particularities, lit changes to economy and tax system, caused by increase to number Russian migrants.

Keywords

Parent state, Russian Tsarism, colony, transmigration, economic change, tax, migrants.

The tsarist government after the colonization of Turkestan issued many legal acts regulating the migration processes. Among the fundamental ones, the “Rules of resettlement” dated June 12, 1886 can be noted¹, Law of July 13, 1889, as well as the Law adopted on June 10, 1903², which was specifically aimed at settling the main agricultural and economically rich regions of the region by the Russians. It was called the “Rules on the voluntary relocation of rural inhabitants and townspeople to state lands in the Syrdarya, Fergana and Samarkand regions”³.

The legislative base of the migration movement at the time of the Stolypin agrarian reforms was substantially supplemented. In particular, by a decree of March 10, 1906, under the imperial Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Migration Board was established, and in Turkestan, the Syrdarya resettlement department was in charge of settling in the krai and in the Russian territories of the Bukhara emirate, the Khiva khanate and Northern Iran⁴. The law of December 19, 1910 defined the system of withdrawal of “surplus lands” from nomads⁵. The law of June 28, 1914, aimed at restricting the spontaneous migration flow, allowed only wealthy people of the Christian faith to migrate to Turkestan and if they had property of at least 1000 rubles⁶.

Relying on these documents, the tsarist government and the regional colonial administration, despite the incessant resistance of the indigenous population (cholera revolt of 1892 in Tashkent, the Andijan uprising of 1898 and other actions of the national liberation movement), purposefully pursued a line on the dynamic increase in the number of Russian immigrants and using them as one of the tools for the maximum

exploitation of the natural and human resources of the Central Asian region.

So, by 1900, the number of the Russian population, which arrived in the Transcaspian and Samarkand regions after the construction of the railway, exceeded 40 thousand people. But the number of Russian immigrants and their settlements in the Fergana and Syrdarya regions increased especially noticeably. For example, the beginning of the XX century. 48 resettlement villages appeared in Syrdarya region⁷. In the Fergana region during 1882-1900 more than 20 such settlements were formed ⁸. Moreover, along with the settlement of the countryside, a significant part of the settlers settled in the cities, near the oil fields, coal mines, etc. In the next 15 years, the number of resettlement villages in the Fergana region exceeded 60, in Samarkand - 14, and in Syrdarya - 147⁹.

By the time of the conquest of Central Asia, the diversified local handicraft and handicraft and agrarian production had a fairly high market-oriented product. The Central Asian Khanates traded with India, China, Iran, Afghanistan, England (through Kabul), Germany and Russia¹⁰. Moreover, already then cotton growing, production of silk mulch cocoons, livestock raw materials, representing an important article of the foreign trade turnover, dominated agriculture in the region.

The rich resource and economic potential made the region attractive in the eyes of the colonialists. And therefore, immediately after the conquest, the colonial authorities concentrated energetic efforts to increase export-oriented production and intensive export to the metropolis of valuable mineral raw materials, cotton fiber, and raw silk. At the same time, favorable conditions were created for the import of Russian industrial

products, measures were taken to minimize competition from local entrepreneurs and traders.

A significant role in the colonial economic policy of tsarism was assigned to the resettlement peasantry. However, in economic terms, it is largely not met the expectations. For a long time, Russian peasants could not adequately adapt to irrigated farming. As a result, their production figures, especially in the cotton industry, remained low. In particular, at the end of the XIX century. processing of one tithe allocated for cotton from Russian immigrants cost 85-100 rubles, and from local dehkans - 35-40 rubles.¹¹

The obvious negative consequences of the colonial-resettlement policy were expressed in limiting waffles, alienating hundreds of thousands of irrigated lands in favor of immigrants, in reducing the nomadic population migratory zones. For the urban population, they manifested themselves, firstly, in the division of large and medium-sized cities into the Russian (Novogorodskaya) part with a higher level of amenities, and the old town, whose inhabitants were subjected to great-power discrimination. Secondly, steady trends in the reduction of the scale of traditional handicraft production were identified. Extremely limited activity of local wholesalers both in the region and beyond through the introduction of high customs duties.

True, in a number of areas marked a noticeable economic development. The intensified capitalization of industry and agriculture, accompanied by the creation of the infrastructure of individual industries, their technical and technological renewal; the emergence of industrial and banking trading firms, the increasing marketability of agricultural

production, the differentiation of economic forms of labor contributed to the overall rise of the productive forces of Turkestan. To the same extent, the construction of railways from the Caspian Sea and Orenburg, although it had a military strategic mission, objectively served to positively transform the economic and social life of the Turkestan society.

Nevertheless, the positive changes were of a metered nature, carried out on a deformed basis, since all the efforts undertaken by the tsarist regime aimed at the development of Turkestan were entirely subordinated to the goals of the metropolis. The interests of the indigenous population of the region, if something was taken into account, invariably from imperial positions.

The colonial orientation of the transformational processes of forced Turkestan laid a deep imprint on the socio-economic situation of the people. In particular, in social terms, in addition to reviving the migration mobility of the indigenous population (kishlak - city), introducing its part to the industrial professions, the formation of the national squad of the working class, the second half of the XIX century. differed visible increase in negative trends. Among them, a sharp increase in the number of landless and smallholder dehkans; the ruin of most of the nomadic population, forced, like the landless dekhkanstvo, to leave their native villages in search of food in the cities; increased tax burden, including an increase in levies from residents of the old-city part of cities intended for the maintenance of the new-city part, etc. Against this background, as shown in the chapter, the policy of the colonial authorities to arrange and support the Russian immigrants, whose total number reached almost 800 thousand by 1916, was completely different in its substantive essence.¹².

Much of the settlers settled in cities, railway and fishing villages, with oil fields and mines. For example, in the Transcaspian region out of 100 thousand immigrants from Russia, only 7 thousand lived in the countryside¹³. In Samarkand, Syrdarya and Fergana regions, the number of immigrants who settled in cities and urban-type settlements also prevailed over the village.

Under the general patronizing policy of tsarism in relation to the resettlement population, nevertheless, differentiated approaches to its different groups were clearly manifested. Thus, the Russian rural population, to a greater extent than the urban population, enjoyed tax and tax privileges, deferments from military service, and had large land plots.

The settlers of the first periods of colonization, especially the Cossacks, became the owners of fairly large areas - from 50 to 60 dess. on the family. Peasants who resettled after 1900 did not receive such plots. Nevertheless, they had 10-15 times more land than the bulk of dehkans. In particular, making up less than 12-15% of the total population of the region, Russian peasants, officials, businessmen owned: in the Semirechensk region 60.3% of all lands, in Syrdarya region - 31.3%, in Samarkand, Fergana, Transcaspian regions - on average 8.4%¹⁴.

Tangible privileges in comparison with the indigenous population were also enjoyed by the urban Russian population: 2-3 times higher wages for the same nature and volume of work, exemption from a number of taxes imposed on the local population, etc.

At the same time, Russian Germans, Baltic Poles, Christian dissenters (Old Believers, Mennonites) and refugee Muslims from Eastern Turkestan (Uygurs, Dungans) resettled to Turkestan did not take care of the

authorities from the places of settlement with the support and humane help of the indigenous population.

The policy of Independence established in the Republic of Uzbekistan has given the scientists methodological, research opportunities to study and elucidate objectively the problems prohibited before. The present thesis deals with the investigation of the past history, helps to comprehend the problem deeper.

The author in his research work used the original documents kept at the funds of Central State Archives of the Republic of Uzbekistan, as well as the information collected at the Archives of Samarkand region. The author has obtained free access to different official texts and literature sources.

The dissertation consists of introduction, three chapters, conclusion and bibliography.

The introduction part is concentrated on the description of the objectives, task, actuality, novelty of the research, theoretical and practical significance of the thesis, and definition of scientific-methodological and spiritual basis of the investigation.

The main part of the thesis deals with the object of study, critical analysis of the existing view points on the problem, the results of own investigation are generalized.

The first chapter presents the detailed analysis of the content and significance of Russian Migration Policy and transformation of Turkestan into colony. Detailed analysis of the Migration Policy essence gives an evidence of Russia's strategic colonial aim in Turkestan.

Investigation of the problem on the basis of original documents and information obtained at archives permits the author to come to the following conclusion: 1) the Russian rulers seek to establish the military-political supremacy of the Russian Empire in Turkestan and begun the mass migration of orthodox population who could be the reliable support to the Russian army in the area. The immigrants were settled in privileged conditions that served as the good basis for the establishment of colonial rules of governing. They have envisaged the plan of transforming the territory of Turkestan to the comfortable military-strategic base.

Secondly, the study revealed the plan of Empire to use the conquest of material riches and labor resources of the territory for the economic development of Russian metropolis, thus and to escape the existing social tension in Russia.

The second chapter deals with the elaboration of Russian Tsarism Migration Policy and its realization.

At the early stages of the conquest of Turkestan and its transformation into colonial area the migrations from metropolis were mainly kazaks from Siberia and the Urals who were settled on the border line with Eastern Turkestan and Iran as well as on the area of the strategic roads by which main cities were connected. Many Russian peasants, poor part of the citizens and merchants have migrated illegally and felt themselves to be representatives of the state-ruler, the ruling people.

The colonial administration governed on behalf of the authoritative Great Empire and sought to conquer and confiscate the lands of the native people. They gave privileges to the Russian settlers by presenting them larger part of the lands and reducing the taxes.

But at the beginning of the 80th of the XIX century feeling the lack of irrigated lands and other agriculture resources, as well as taking into consideration the national and social complement of the migrated Russians and the absence of territory control, as well as the necessity of establishment of migration practice-order, the tsarism government began the elaboration of new migration policy. The present dissertation gives detailed analysis of the documents mentioned above and concentrates on the peculiarities of migration policy as well as on the changes in economics, taxation policy, and life conditions of the migrants from Russia.

The third chapter presents the investigation of the reasons, essence and the consequences of migration policy, its expansion in Turkestan at the end of the XIX and beginning of the XX centuries.

These reasons are the following:

- a) weakening of Russia is authority on international stage, especially in the East and Europe;
- b) existing of tense relations with a number of states (Japan, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Turkey);
- c) great need in mineral and agricultural raw materials produced in Turkestan, in the first place, cotton;
- d) the social crisis which was the result of the drought seasons in 1891-1892.

The process of migration became more intensive after Tashkent (1892) and Andijan rebellions.

The consequences of migration policy realized in colonial spirit influences the limited civil right position of the native population of

Turkestan, their economic-social status, and the attitude of colonists to their cultural values, system of education.

In conclusion the author has summarized the results of the investigation, gives comments on scientific-theoretical aspects of the problem, his opinion, suggestions and recommendations for future research.

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