

History and Prospects of Development of The Kazakh People in Uzbekistan

Bakhadir N. Isakov

Candidate of Historical Sciences, Uzbekistan State World Languages University, Uzbekistan

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Abstract: This article analyzes the history of the Kazakh people in Uzbekistan, and the demographic situation of the Kazakhs of Uzbekistan during the years of independence. The opportunities created for the development of the traditional cultural heritage of all nationalities and peoples living in multinational Uzbekistan are discussed.

Keywords: Interethnic harmony, nation, Kazakh national cultural center, repatriation policy.

Introduction: The history of mankind shows that the ideas of prosperity of nations and interethnic harmony are one of the most important factors of stability and development in all regions and countries.

In Uzbekistan, from the first years of independence, the issue of creating broad opportunities for the restoration and development of the traditional cultural heritage of all nations and ethnic groups living in the territory of the republic has become one of the priority areas of state policy. As the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.M.Mirziyoyev noted: "Today, representatives of more than 130 nations and ethnic groups live in our country in agreement and harmony, like children of one family. In this regard, the traditions of tolerance inherent in our people since time immemorial undoubtedly play an important role" [1].

METHODS

The article was prepared using generally recognized scientific methods – historiography, comparative historical and logical analysis, principles of systematicity and objectivity. At the same time, due to the demographic nature of this study, a quantitative method was used to analyze statistical data. Although no census has been conducted in Uzbekistan during the years of independence, demographic data are regularly published by the Statistical Agency under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan. If issues related to the history of diasporas began to attract the attention of researchers from all over the world in the late 1970s, then interest in the problem of diaspora arose in the

mid-1990s, despite the fact that representatives of more than 130 nationalities live in the newly independent states formed as a result of the collapse of the Soviet Union, including Uzbekistan. Of course, research in this area serves to ensure the stability of interethnic relations and the adoption of scientifically based programs for the implementation of a well-thought-out national policy.

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Over the years of independence, a number of detailed works have been carried out in Uzbekistan on issues of national policy and interethnic relations, the history of diasporas, their ethnogenesis, territorial distribution and migration of the population [2]. In recent years, interest in the history of ethnic diasporas has increased significantly, and several dissertations have been defended on this topic [3].

It should be noted that no separate studies have been conducted by domestic specialists on the topic of this

article. A number of studies have been conducted by researchers from neighboring Kazakhstan on issues related to the history of the Kazakh people living in Uzbekistan, but these studies only partially cover some aspects of the issues raised [4].

RESULTS

It is worth noting that representatives of all nationalities and ethnic groups living in our multinational country, considering the national idea, which is an expression of a common goal and aspiration, to be their support and support, in harmony with each other, with their worthy contribution take an active part in the positive changes taking place in the economic, political and spiritual spheres. Among these nationalities living in our country, a special place is occupied by representatives of the Kazakh nationality, which is the third largest ethnic group.

Regarding the status of the Kazakhs of Uzbekistan, President Sh.M.Mirziyoyev noted: “We are very glad that hundreds of thousands of our citizens of Kazakh nationality, peacefully living in our multinational country, make a significant contribution to all the

successes achieved by independent Uzbekistan. Among them are many elected representatives of the parliament and local authorities of Uzbekistan, as well as leaders of various levels. The fact that more than 600 citizens of Kazakh nationality of Uzbekistan have been awarded high state awards and titles over the years of independence is also a confirmation of their worthy contribution to the development of our country, earning respect and wide recognition among our people” [5]. If we turn to the history of the Kazakhs of Uzbekistan, we can admit that they are considered an autochthonous people and have long mixed with local peoples. It is worth noting that the largest number of Kazakhs living outside of Kazakhstan is in China, and among the Central Asian countries – in Uzbekistan, which, according to the Kazakh National Cultural Center of the Republic of Uzbekistan, amounted to 813 627 people as of January 1, 2020. The distribution and number of the Kazakh population in the Republic of Uzbekistan by region is as follows [6]:

The Republic of Karakalpakstan	-	294 965
<i>Regions:</i>		
Andijan	-	929
Bukhara	-	16 461
Fergana	-	983
Jizzakh	-	28 313
Kashkadarya	-	1948
Khorezm	-	10 588
Namangan	-	911
Navoi	-	36 759
Samarkand	-	5 020
Surkhandarya	-	2 705
Syrdarya	-	12 915
Tashkent	-	352 878
Tashkent city	-	48 252

If we look at the history of the Kazakhs of Uzbekistan, we can see that they, along with the indigenous peoples of Central Asia, have long led a nomadic lifestyle in the territories of the Bukhara, Khiva and Kokand khanates, and later in the territories of the Turkestan Governorate General and were mainly engaged in cattle breeding. As a result of the national-state demarcation carried out by the Soviet government in 1924-1925, some of them, like other indigenous peoples of the region, settled outside the borders of their national-territorial association. The bulk of the Kazakh population of Uzbekistan lives in the

regions bordering Kazakhstan, mainly in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, Tashkent, Navoi, Jizzakh regions and the city of Tashkent. About 60 percent of Kazakhs in Uzbekistan live in rural areas. They are successfully engaged in such areas as cotton growing, rice growing, animal husbandry, including karakul sheep breeding. The urban population mainly works in the field of education, health care, consumer services and other non-material sectors [7]. Over the years of independence, Uzbekistan has been a country with a stable population growth. However, there is a difference in the growth rates of nationalities in the

republic, and it can be noted that the proportion of Uzbeks has increased, which is explained, first of all, by the difference in birth rates, and secondly, by the influence of such a factor as the identity of nationalities. In particular, one of the factors that influenced the number of Kazakhs in Uzbekistan is the repatriation policy pursued by the government of Kazakhstan, aimed at returning Kazakhs from neighboring countries to their ethnic homeland for permanent residence. Repatriation policy is a complex process, and if in the 1990s the average annual rate of return of Kazakhs from Uzbekistan to their ethnic homeland was 73 thousand people, now this figure has dropped to 5 thousand people per year, that is, the number of Kazakhs returning to Kazakhstan living in Uzbekistan has significantly decreased [8]. About 70 000 ethnic Kazakhs from Uzbekistan moved to Kazakhstan permanently in 1989-1998, about 300 000 in 1999-2008, and more than 100 000 in 2009-2013 [9]. According to the last All-Union Population Census of 1989, there were 808 227 Kazakhs living in Uzbekistan, accounting for 4.1 percent of the population, making them the fourth largest ethnic group in the republic [10]. In 2006, the total population of Kazakhs in Uzbekistan was 899 195; although their numbers have increased numerically, their share of the total population has decreased from 4.1 percent to 3.4 percent due to increased repatriation to Kazakhstan [11]. In 2010, the number of Kazakhs in Uzbekistan was 831 200, which was 3 percent of the total population. In 2020, the population of Uzbekistan was 33 905 800, and the number of Kazakhs living in the republic was 813 627, or 2.4 percent [12]. Analysis of the above data shows that against the background of rapid growth in the total population of Uzbekistan, there is a steady decline in the share of Kazakhs, which can be explained by the above factors.

At this point, it is also appropriate to dwell on the activities of the Republican Kazakh National Cultural Center, which unites representatives of Kazakhs living in Uzbekistan and represents their socio-political, economic and cultural interests. As is known, in 1989, a number of national cultural centers began their activities in the republic. Among them is the Kazakh Information and Cultural Center under the Academy of Sciences of the Uzbek SSR, and as its successor in 1992, the Republican Kazakh National Cultural Center was established. Currently, the Republican Kazakh National Cultural Center is directly part of the Committee on Interethnic Relations and Friendship with Foreign Countries under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan. It is worth noting that the adoption of the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated May 19, 2017 №PF-5046 “On

measures to further improve interethnic relations and friendly relations with foreign countries”, the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated November 15, 2019 №PF-5876 “On approval of the Concept of state policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the sphere of interethnic relations”, the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated May 23, 2017 №PQ-2993 “On the organization of the activities of the Committee on Interethnic Relations and Friendly Relations with Foreign Countries under the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Uzbekistan”, as well as a number of other regulatory legal acts were of great importance. The Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On measures to further improve interethnic relations and friendly relations with foreign countries” is aimed at ensuring stability, peace and harmony in society, strengthening in the minds of citizens the feeling of belonging to a large, multinational united family, comprehensive support and further development of the activities of national cultural centers and friendship societies, expansion of cultural and educational ties with foreign countries. In particular, an important role was played by the creation of the Committee on Interethnic Relations and Friendly Relations with Foreign Countries under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the basis of the Republican International Cultural Center and the Council of Friendship Societies and Cultural and Educational Relations with Foreign Countries of Uzbekistan. It is worth noting that the Republican Kazakh National Cultural Center under the Committee on Interethnic Relations and Friendship with Foreign Countries under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan has branches in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, Tashkent city, as well as in the Tashkent, Bukhara, Navoi, Jizzakh, Syrdarya, Khorezm regions. The Uzbekistan-Kazakhstan Friendship Society also serves to strengthen friendly and cooperative relations between the two neighboring states.

CONCLUSIONS

In general, the analysis of the demographic situation of Kazakhs in Uzbekistan over the years of independence shows that, despite the insignificant increase in their total number, their share in the total population of the republic has decreased as a result of repatriation to Kazakhstan. Kazakhs in Uzbekistan successfully operate in the socio-political, economic and cultural life of our country, making a worthy contribution to the prosperity of our homeland.

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Calculated based on information from the Agency for Statistics under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Kazakh National Cultural Center of the Republic of Uzbekistan.