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## DEMOGRAPHIC PROCESSES IN KAZAKHSTAN IN THE 20-80s of 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

### Abstract

The article deals with the demographic processes in Kazakhstan in the 20th-60s in the 20th century. Special attention is paid to the analysis of the consequences of the starvation of the 1920s and 1930s and the consequences of the Great Patriotic War, which caused a disastrous decline in the population and a sharp deterioration in the main demographic indicators, namely, fertility and mortality, which led to depopulation of the population. The demographic history of this period is divided into two phases: the first (20-40s in the 20th century) is designated as a crisis period and the second phase (50-80s in the 20th century) is the period of demographic recovery, largely compensating for the losses of the 1920s-1940s.

The article examines the events that determined the negative outcomes of the first stage - the demographic consequences of the starvation of 1921-1922, the starvation of 1931-1933, losses during the Great Patriotic War. To a large extent, the problem (primarily the demographic consequences of the starvations of the 1920s and 1930s), is presented by the example of the Kazakh ethnic group, because due to the active migratory movements, the loss of non-Kazakh population in the territory of the Republic is difficult to identify.

**Key words:** Kazakhstan, demographic crises, compensatory periods, population, starvation of the 1920s, starvation of the 1930s, Civil War, Great Patriotic War.

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## XX ҒАСЫРДЫҢ 20-80 ЖЖ. ҚАЗАҚСТАНДАҒЫ ДЕМОГРАФИЯЛЫҚ ҮДЕРІСТЕР

### Аңдатпа

Мақалада XX ғасырдың 20-80 жылдарындағы Қазақстандағы демографиялық үрдістер туралы айтылады. 1920 - 1930 жылдардағы ашаршылық салдарларын талдауға, халық санының апатты қысқаруына және басты демографиялық көрсеткіштердің күрт нашарлауына әкеп соқтырған - туу мен өлім-жітімнің халықтың демографиясына әкеп соққан Ұлы Отан соғысының салдарларына ерекше назар аударылған. Атаулы демографиялық тарихтың уақытын екі кезеңге бөлуге болады: бірінші (XX ғ. 20-40 жж.) дағдарыс кезеңі және екінші кезең (XX ғ. 50-80 жж.) демографиялық қалпына келтіру кезеңі ретінде, 1920-1940-жылдардың шығындарын айтарлықтай мөлшерде өтейтін кезең ретінде белгіленген. Мақалада бірінші кезеңнің теріс нәтижелерін анықтаған оқиғалар - 1921-1922 жылдардағы ашаршылықтың демографиялық салдары, 1931-1933 жылдардағы ашаршылық, Ұлы Отан соғысы кезіндегі шығындар туралы айтылады. Мәселе көбіне (бірінші кезекте 1920 және 1930-шы жж. демографиялық ашаршылық салдары) қазақ этникалық тобының мысалында келтірілген, өйткені белсенді көші-қон қозғалыстарының салдарынан республикада ұлты қазақ емес халықтың азаюын анықтауда қиынындау.

**Түйін сөздер:** Қазақстан, демографиялық дағдарыстар, өтемдік кезеңдер, халық саны, 1920 жылдардағы ашаршылық, 1930 жылдардағы ашаршылық, азаматтық соғыс, Ұлы Отан соғысы

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## **ДЕМОГРАФИЧЕСКИЕ ПРОЦЕССЫ В КАЗАХСТАНЕ В 20-80-е гг. XX ВЕКА**

### *Аннотация*

В статье рассматриваются демографические процессы в Казахстане в 20-80-е гг. XX века. Особое внимание уделено анализу последствий голода 1920-х и 1930-х годов и Великой Отечественной войны, вызвавшие катастрофическое сокращение численности населения и резкое ухудшение главных демографических показателей - рождаемости и смертности, приведших к депопуляции населения. В демографической истории данного периода выделено два этапа: первый (20-40-е гг. XX в.) обозначен как кризисный период и второй этап (50-80 гг. XX в.) как период демографического восстановления, в значительной мере компенсировавший потери 1920-1940-х годов.

В статье рассматриваются события, определившие негативные итоги первого этапа – демографические последствия голода 1921-1922 гг., голода 1931-1933 гг., потери в годы Великой Отечественной войны. В значительной мере проблема (в первую очередь демографические последствия голода 1920-х и 1930-х гг.) представлена на примере казахского этноса, так как вследствие активных миграционных перемещений, потери неказахского населения на территории республики выявить сложно.

**Ключевые слова:** Казахстан, демографические кризисы, компенсаторные периоды, численность населения, голод 1920-х годов, голод 1930-х годов, гражданская война, Великая Отечественная война

The article “A look into the future: the modernization of public consciousness” by Elbasy N. Nazarbayev has become a platform which united researchers of Kazakhstan historical heritage. “Not a single country in the world, not a single nation experienced such a kink in the demographic situation, and did not face the abyss of the complete disappearance as the Kazakh people. We survived, managed to unite as a nation, we did not harden, did not become embittered, never accused anybody of the vicissitudes of the 20th century brutal tragedy” - spoke Elbasy in his addresses [1].

A demographic situation in any given period of historical time represents a stage of a long-term tendency of population development, which is the holder of certain social relations. Qualitative and quantitative characteristics of the population are a kind of barometer of the society, of a level of socio-economic and political development of the state. Therefore, it is so important to study the demographic history of Kazakhstan. The 20th century significantly stands out in it.

As early as in the second half of the 1990s, the strategy “Kazakhstan - 2030: prosperity, security and improving the well-being of all Kazakhstanis” emphasized: “A strong demographic and migration policy should be put forward as a national security priority. If our government bodies, as before, take this indifferently, then on the threshold of the 21st century we will enter after Russia into a “demographic cross” situation, when the population is decreasing not only due to external migration processes, but also naturally . This trend should be immediately stopped ”[2]. Defining the negative features of modern development, N.A. Nazarbayev pointed to depopulation, "which is dangerous from any point of view. Since 1992, for the first time in the 50 post-war years, the population of the republic began to decline ”[3].

In the XXth century history of the population of Kazakhstan there were periods of deep downs and ups, i.e. demographic crises and compensations. Demographic crises, which are catastrophic declines in the population, a dramatic deterioration in the main demographic indicators - fertility and mortality,

actually led to depopulation. However, as a rule, crises are accompanied by compensatory periods. Therefore, the study of the reproduction processes of Kazakhstan population in the XX century as undulating, inertial, representing drops and rises, crises and compensations will allow, in our opinion, to study these processes profoundly and develop tools to improve the modern demographic situation in Kazakhstan.

The sources used for solving the problem were the censuses of 1920, 1926, 1939 and 1959 and "The Book of Memory of Kazakhstan. Consolidated volume", which quite exhaustively reflect the demographic consequences of the Great Patriotic War [4]. There are tabulated statistical materials on the irretrievable losses of Kazakhstani soldiers on the fronts of the Great Patriotic War by types of losses (killed in battle, died in hospitals from wounds and diseases, died in captivity, did not return from captivity, missing people), which are based on reports of the work groups of "Book of Memory of Kazakhstan" and the regional administrations. The separate tables summarize the data on irretrievable losses of the Great Patriotic War by nationalities and ages of deceased.

Paying attention to the lack of knowledge and the complexity of the problems considered, the authors believe that the posed questions need further, more thorough study. Demographic compensation, as a part of the history of Kazakhstan population, is still insufficiently studied.

Two stages can be distinguished in the demographic history of Soviet Kazakhstan. The first (20-40s of the XX century) was characterized by demographic crises. The feature of the second stage (50-80 years of the twentieth century) was the demographic recovery, which largely compensated for the losses of the previous three decades of the 1920-1940s.

Having considered the first stage, we can note that the winter of 1921-1922, which was long, snowy, accompanied by ice formation, caused a massive cattle death. In 1921, in the Volga region, the western regions of Kazakhstan, there was a severe drought and the massive invasion of agricultural pests, resulted in the harvest loss of cereal crops and herbs in the Orenburg, Aktobe, Ural, Kustanai provinces and in the Adaevsky area.

The refugees who were starving in the Volga region and the internal provinces of the KASSR, which flooded the Akmola province, violated the food balance in it. The overpopulation of cities and overcrowding of railway stations caused increased outbreaks of cholera and typhoid epidemics, and mass mortality due to hunger and diseases spread in the Petropavlovsk, Kokchetav counties and in Bagalinsky and Orginsky districts of Atbasar county [5]. In the Semipalatinsk area there was also a famine among the local population and the evacuated people. A peculiarity of Kazakhstan was also the fact that the restitution of the cultivated lands to the nomads "entailed an immediate decline in agricultural production" [6].

Estimation of a disaster scale seems to be complicated. The statistics for this period are contradictory. According to our assessment, about 17.8% of the Kazakh population of the KASSR became victims of hunger (excluding losses in the Dzhetysuy and Syr-Darya provinces, which joined the republic in 1924). In Aktobe province, losses evaluated as 39.1% of the Kazakh population in 1920, Kustanai - 37.6%, Akmola - 23.7%, Ural - 22.9%, Bukeevskaya - 14.6%, Orenburg - 18.1%, Adaevsk district - 2.6%. Due to migrations to more prosperous regions, in comparison with starving to death ones, the Kazakh population increased in the Semipalatinsk province (by 3.7%) [7].

The famine of 1931-1933 had even more catastrophic consequences, the main reasons for which were sedarization and collectivization. The most complete coverage of these events in the early 1930s. can be found in the article by Zh.A. Abylkhodzhin, M.K. Kozybaev, M. B. Tatimova [8]. This problem was raised in other publications, journalistic articles. There are many publications about the famine and following losses in the 1930s. There are different opinions about the number of starving people and those who died of starvation. We give the calculations of different authors. Zh.B. Abylkhodzhin, M.K. Kozybaev, M. B. Tatimov in the article mentioned above cited one of the first figures - 1 750 thousand people, in M.B. Tatimov's book 2.5 million dead and 616 thousand irrevocably migrated are mentioned. M.Kh. Asylbekov believes that by the beginning of 1934 about 770 thousand Kazakhs remained in Kazakhstan.

Losses of Kazakhs in the 1930s amounted to 47.3% of the ethnic group in the pre-crisis 1930. The Kazakhs of the east part of the republic suffered the most, losses here accounted for 64.5% of the ethnic group in 1930. The most significant migration was observed in this region, primarily in the border areas of the Russian Federation and China. More than half of the ethnic group (52.3%) was lost in Northern Kazakhstan. Western Kazakhstan lost 45.0% of Kazakhs, Southern - 42.9%. The least casualties (15.6% of the ethnic group) were recorded in Central Kazakhstan, but not because the famine passed this region,

but due to the migration of starving people from other areas, partially compensating for the loss of the local population [9]

The principle for the calculations of the Kazakhs who suffered from hunger is the change in the population age structure between the censuses of 1920 and 1926. (famine of 1921-1922) and censuses of 1926 and 1939. (famine 1931-1933). There was traced the number of people from each age group who survived from 1920 to 1926 (from 1926 to 1939). The changes in each age group were revealed. The loss of the Kazakhs at this time is the discrepancy between the indicators of the estimated population in each age group with a real result, taking into account natural mortality. We emphasize that the losses recorded using this technique include people affected by the famine of the 1920s and 1930s. (dead and migrated), repressed, exiled, etc. Therefore, these are the general losses of the Kazakhs in the 1920-30s. The scale of this tragedy in Kazakhstan is evidenced by the dynamics of its population in 1930-1936 compiled by the Republican Office of National Economic Accounting : 1930 - 5873.0 thousand, 1931 - 5114.0 thousand, 1932 - 3227, 0 thousand, 1933 - 2493.5 thousand, 1934 - 2681.8 thousand people, 1935, 2926 thousand, 1936 - 3287.9 thousand. In total, according to these data, the population of Kazakhstan decreased during 1930-1936 by 2585.1 thousand people [10].

One of the signs the situation developed in those years in Kazakhstan was crisis is the mass migrations of people to neighboring regions, including foreign ones. According to I.E. Zelenin in 1932-1933. up to 400 thousand collective farms migrated (at least 2 million people) [11, P.6]. The authors of the article from the Kazakhstan Tragedy indicate the number of 1030 thousand people. 616 thousand out of those left irrevocably and 414 thousand returned later [8, P.67]. According to experts, about 200 thousand went abroad beyond retrieve - to China, Mongolia, Afghanistan, Iran and Turkey [10, P.286].

Thus, for fifteen years, in the 1926-1939 census period, the population of the republic increased by only 2.6% or 0.22% per year. The main reasons that influenced the demographic structure of the population were, on the one hand, the famine of the early 1930s, and, on the other hand, migration processes. The famine was the reason for the sharp decline in the population, meanwhile the migration of people from the central regions of Russia, Ukraine and deported peoples compensated for the decline and contributed to some increase. Urbanization processes continued dynamically through the implementation of the government's ambitious industrial plans. The number of the Kazakh population and its share in the population of Kazakhstan decreased. For the first time in their historical homeland, the Kazakhs became a minority. Most of the indigenous population was represented by rural residents, their share in the number of the townspeople was insignificant. On the contrary, representatives of other ethnic groups were mainly urban citizens. The entire considered period was characterized by a sharp decrease in the birth rate, an increase in mortality, and a natural decline, which is still named as depopulation, primarily the Kazakh one.

During World War II, 1,196.2 thousand people were mobilized (from June 22, 1941 to December 31, 1945). The irretrievable losses of the Kazakh soldiers were enormous. Irreversible losses include those who were killed, missing, captured, died in medical institutions or died in captivity. The "Kazakhstan Memory Book" cites the number of irretrievable losses - 601 011 people: 279.7 thousand people were killed on the battlefield, 42.8 thousand people died in hospitals from wounds and deceases, 7 thousand ones died in captivity, 271.5 thousand people were missing [4, P.272].

After the publication of the Book of Memory, the mournful list was replenished with new data: Kazakhstan lost 602,939 people on the fronts of World War II [12]. Combat losses amounted to 50.5% of the total number mobilized. The main losses fell to the generation from 18 to 30 years - 27.9% of the number of mobilized ages [4, P.272]. However, each war, in addition to direct losses, also bears indirect losses associated with such demographic processes as fertility, mortality and nuptiality of the population.

The war had a serious impact on the reproduction processes of Kazakhstan population. Normal family relationships were broken, the birth rate went down, the type of mortality changed. The quality of the demographic system was extremely low. In many regions of Kazakhstan, the death rate exceeded the birth rate.

Because of the large population losses during the war years, a significant imbalance in the number of men and women was formed in the postwar years. Thus, in 1959 (14 years after the end of the war), there were 876 men per one thousand women in the age group of 30-34, 683 men of 35-39, 694 men of 40-44, and 704 men of 45-49 respectively [thirteen; with. 67].

In the age structure of the population according to the 1959 census, there is a sharp drop in the age groups of men from 35 to 60 years. These are people whose age by 1941 was from 18 to 40 years. In the age group from 30 to 34 years old men accounted for 8.4% of the population, 35-39 years old - 4.1%, 40-44 years old - 3.8%, 45-49 years old - 4.0%, 50-54 years old - 3.5% [13, p. 68].

The second period (50s-80s of the twentieth century) largely offset the losses of the 1920s-1940s. During this period, a countably new demographic system emerges, natural growth increases in one decade (1950-1960) by 18.2% and in 1960 reaches the highest level in Kazakhstan history - 30.6 per 1000 population [14; S. 74;]. This is exactly the case that is called the population explosion in demographic studies.

The population explosion is an integral part of the demographic transition when there is a movement from one type of reproduction to another (from the traditional, agrarian type of reproduction - to the modern, industrial one).

The peculiarity of the demographic transition in Kazakhstan includes the ethnic differentiation of its phases passage. Here, of course, you need to pay attention to the interaction of ethnosocial and demographic processes. Thus, as a result of demographic catastrophes of the Kazakhs in the first half of the twentieth century and the influx of immigrants from other republics of the Soviet Union, the "majority" of the population, especially in the cities, became "European" ethnic groups (primarily Russians). The majority of Kazakhs still lived in rural areas (according to the data of the 1959 All-Union Population Census - 75.7% of the ethnic group, 1970 - 73.7%) [15, S.7-12]. A rural lifestyle tends to preserve traditional reproductive behavior.

The demographic explosion of the Kazakhs in the 1950-60s can be considered to be that unique event in the history of Kazakhstan of the twentieth century, when not only partial compensation of previous numerical losses occurred, but also a new trend was established - the beginning of demographic and social modernization with the effect of "demographic waves", which gives favorable opportunities for further development of the republic population.

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