

## Dynamics of Resettlement of the Population in the Area of the Semirechensk Territory in the Beginning of XIX – XX Century

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### Abstract

The aim of this article is to reveal the stages of migration movement of Russian peasants in Turkestan, particularly to the area of Semirechensk from the European Russia: from the West Siberian provinces, Tomsk, Tobolsk, Akmola, Semipalatinsk and other regions. The article reveals the activities of the government and the State Council of Russia on the organization of resettlement within the Semirechensk region: reorganization and association of the Resettlement Department to the General Administration of Lands and Agriculture, the creation of a special party for the formation of temporary resettlement sites in the Semirechensk area; causes for register the resettlement sites. It is pointed out that since the beginning of the XX century, the huge rate of migration has been observed in the Semirechie, so by the end of 1911, 15,963 immigrant families have arrived here, for a total of about 100,000 persons of both sexes. The data are provided on how many land sites have been prepared for the immigrated peasants, of which square they were, the quantity of land sites per capita, information about the educated Russian settlements and settlers in the Semirechie in the beginning of XX century, according to the annual report data of the military governors in the Semirechensk region from 1906 to 1915. It is concluded that after the October Revolution, the new Soviet government did not pay much attention to the Russian peasants, and in this area the old colonial policy would have been continued.

**Keywords:** Semirechensk region, agricultural policy, tsarism resettlement policy, Russian peasant migrants, resettlement areas

### 1. Introduction

In Russia, peasantry constituted the overwhelming majority of the population, providing a huge impact on all areas of social and economic, social and political life of the country. After the reform of 1861, which marked the turn of Russia to the path of capitalist development, agrarian problem in all its aspects – the land, the peasant, social, agricultural – arose in the unprecedented actuality.

Studying the history of the peasantry, the agrarian peasant issues in general leads to a more in-depth and wide clarification of a number of fundamental problems of Russian history in the pre-revolutionary period, the definition of the specific contribution of masses in the economic, social and cultural development of society.

As the numerous years of experience in researches in the Soviet and post-Soviet historical science, one of the main forms of agricultural research is the development of its regional analysis, which allows to reveal general patterns as well as the specific features of the history of the peasantry due to natural geographical, historical, ethnic and other factors.

Turkestan, and in Semirechie in particular, in the historical, geographical, cultural, demographic and economic aspects – was an inseparable part of the Russian state. Together with the entire country, after annexing to Russia, they started to develop in the common economic direction. Its historical development is determined by the laws common to Russia as a whole.

At the same time, some factors were in use that determined the differences in the agricultural development of these regions. Unlike the European Russia, being the long ago populated region and relatively economically developed center, Turkestan in the second half of XIX – early XX century, was marginal, being not populated by the Russian peasantry, not quite involved in the farming culture of Russia.

In the center of the country, capitalism developed in depth, growing and improving within sufficiently settled and developed territory. In Turkestan, and in the Semirechie in particular, capitalist relations developed mainly in breadth, as the process of establishing the capitalist relations in the newly developed areas by Russian settlers continued.

## 2. Methodology

Understanding the regional processes in the context of Russia's imperial policy and interaction of the Kazakh and Kyrgyz peoples with Russian immigrants poses a number of challenges that must be addressed using a set of theoretical and methodological principles and approaches that can give a general characteristic of the resettlement process in the Semirechie, identify local variants, the degree of mutual influence peoples living in the region. It is important to use the method of historical and typological generalizations, comparative historical approach. The analysis of sources of Moscow, St. Petersburg, Tashkent archives was provided, as well as statistical data published before the revolution were analyzed, in particular, "The Materials of Commission ..." by P. P. Rummyantsev. The methods of systematic analysis and the method and historical reconstruction were applied.

## 3. Results

One of the major tasks of Russian policy in Turkestan was its colonization by the Russian population. The government wanted it to be not only a military, Cossack, colonization, but also civil, peasant. It took a number of measures to resettle peasants in the Asian part of Russia within the period of XIX – early XX century. The Land Code of 1891 terribly limited Kazakh land tenure and in the next two decades, hundreds of thousands of immigrants flocked from European Russia to Kazakhstan and Turkestan.

Even in 1895 Semirechensk area was closed for the resettlement of peasants in relation to the need to resolve the Cossack colonization issues in this area. However, unrestricted and unregistered relocation was observed, which lasted until 1904. In 1902, a large number of immigrants came to Semirechie, mainly from the West Siberian provinces and regions (Tomsk, Tobolsk, Akmola and Semipalatinsk) – 2,228 families of 11,687 people. Of these, only 6.8% failed to rank in rural communities and receive areas of land, 25.7% spent a winter in flats in the hope to receive land areas in the next spring. However, the greater part of immigrants (67.4% of arrived) went back, believing that the Land-tax Commission will not be able to give them land (Russian State Historical Archive of the Russian Federation. F. 391. Op. 3. D.487. pp. 6, 46).

For the resettlement of a huge number of immigrants, large amounts of land were needed in Semirechie. But there was no free land and there was no place to take it, except for two sources: resettle nomads, providing stricter borders in their land where they spent the winters and check their agricultural lands; construction of irrigation facilities and irrigation of new lands specifically for resettlement. The total land area in Turkestan, which was about to get irrigated was 300 thousand acres. In addition, 1 million acres of land was drafted for irrigation. The entire administration of the region – from district chiefs to Governor-General – believed that irrigation of free land is the only way to create the resettlement land fund. In opinion of the permanent representatives of Turkestan administration, in Turkestan there is not enough available land, so they were suspected in nomad support trends. These officials were fired from the Turkestan resettlement organization, the aim of which was to create the land fund for immigrants.

The new direction in the resettlement policy in the country has been issued by the laws of 12 March 1903 and 6 June 1904 that outlined the planned organization of resettlements out of European Russia and thereby necessitated the opening of the land survey work in Turkestan. During the revolution of 1905-1907, the Government dramatically changed the agricultural policy and attitude towards migration movement. From then, the immigration policy was an integral part of the Stolypin agrarian policy.

In January 1904, at the Ministry of Agriculture and State Property of the State Council of Russia, a special party was formed to create the temporary resettlement sites in Semirechensk area. The sum of 109,090 rubles was allocated to provide the land survey work, as by that time, about 16 thousand free will settlers lived there without having the registered land areas (Russian State Military History Archive. F. 400. Op.1. D.3243. pp. 7a, 21). The titular counselor O. A. Shkapsky, the former Syr-Darya regional board official on agricultural policy was appointed the head of the party that was about to create the sites for resettlements in the area of Semirechensk (RSHA F.400.Op.1. D.3243. p. 210). The government's decision on the establishment of resettlement sites was due, firstly, the need to register free will settlers from European Russia fast, and secondly, the fear of possible crop failures in Siberia that promised a huge influx of immigrants to Semirechie again, attracted by the abundance of bread and empty spaces with rich agricultural land (RSHA F.400. Op.1. D.3243. p. 21), and thirdly,

political considerations, for the consolidation of Russian power in the region" because it was located close to China and to fanatically inspired population of Fergana" (RSHA F.400.Op.1. D.3158. p. 5).

In 1905, followed by a reorganization and Resettlement Department accession to the General Administration of Land Management and Agriculture (Bekmakhanov, 1986) the Semirechensk resettlement Party was created, the aims of which were to identify the rules of the land policy to ensure the Kyrgyz economy, the definition of land "surplus", resulting from the vesting of land nomads that after distributing the colonization policy in the region by peasants immigrants. In 1906, in Semirechie, the colonization era opened the road to a temporary resettlement Party, which was engaged in helping immigrants.

Land survey work in the Semirechie from 1906 to 1909 was not as systematic. However, despite this, the settlers did not stop arriving in the Semirechie. And, if by January 1, 1908, in the Semirechie, according to registry data, there were – 28493 men and 24400 women, but only 52 893 people, by the end of 1911 were added to this number; 15,963 moved families with 48,747 men, for a total of about 100,000 both sexes, indicating the tremendous pace of resettlement area (RSHA F. 391. Op. 3. D.487. pp. 6, 46).

What were the Russian immigrants in the early XX century? These were mostly well-off peasants, fearing ruin of homeland because of the economic crisis, the revolution of 1905-1907. They were also poor smallholder farmers, uneducated, illiterate, religious, with a limited horizon. Until 1910, Semirechensk area was officially closed for relocation, and peasants who came later were self-willed persons. P. P. Rumyantsev, the head for the statistical work in the field of Semirechensk, pointed out, in comparison with the Cossacks and peasants in the old times, self-willed immigrants were more energetic and adventurous elements, as they came to new places without any benefits from the government, but with their energy and wish for enterprise. In most cases, this only affected the ability to capture the "ready made lands of Kirghizs" (Rumyantsev, 1911). Naturally, in this way many farmers went bankrupt. 36.7% of families who migrated to Turkistan from 1906 to 1913, had no profits without any property, and 60.9% – were left with no money, so in the early years of residence in Semirechensk, peasants had to work hard, being engaged as laborers with Russian settlers (Sapelkin, 1977).

The peasants came to the Semirechensk region in the hope of a better life, for the purchase of large areas of land. But it turned out in fact, that it was worth the same problem as in European Russia –lack of land, the land belongs to the nomads, "natives." Deceived Russian peasantry, destroyed and disseminated, led the way to Turkestan without being already able to return to their homeland, was forced to make every effort to survive: arbitrarily they seized and plowed the land of nomads, worked out temporary and then permanent buildings, rented land from the Kazakhs and Kyrgyzs, bribed "native" stewards for sentences of Kyrgyz companies to lease land, or bribed officials resettlement organizations to highlight convenient and fertile land.

After used to live in Russia in mostly mono-ethnic provinces – Voronezh, Kursk, Penza, Poltava, Ekaterinoslav et al. – settlers could not understand and accept another culture, unfamiliar customs and prejudices of local residents. All this compelled the new arrivals to mobilize all their energy to establish themselves among the environment alien to him and live in a closed society. Different levels of socio-economic development policy of the government, including confiscation the land from the nomads, economic and political powerlessness in the past caused the situation that all these immigrants have shaped the psychology of the privileged nation, promoted contempt for the local population up to the "negation of the individual in the natives" (Miymanbaeva, 1997) .

According to the developed program of resettlement of peasants in the Asian part of Russia since 1907, the government has allocated a loan in the amount of \$ 100 to each family that came to Semirechie. In addition to personal loans, the government provided loans to peasant society to provide everything necessary to construct villages, barns, mills, brick factories, providing expenses to establish the well-being for immigrants, building schools and churches, ensuring the delivery of timber from state forests and forest roads repaired (RSHA F. 391. Op.3. D. 867. pp. 2-3.). The government also provided food aid to displaced persons, aid in the organization of state-owned warehouse tools and seeds, where settlers could buy agricultural machinery and various equipment (RSHA F. 391. Op.3. D. 790. p. 1.).

The head of colonization affairs in Semirechensk S. N. Veletsky in 1906 reported that colonization processes were typical as for three sub-regions that he divided Semirechensk region into: 1) Pishpek, 2) Lepsinsk; 3) Kopal. In 1906, it was found out that in Pishpek, there were 6 volosts; in Verny– 3 volosts; in 1907, 8 volosts were in Lepsinsk and one volost in Kopal. In 1908, Kopal district was reported for 6 volosts in Przhevalsky and Dzharkentsky region, there were 6 volosts in each (RSHA F. 391. Op.3. D. 1354. F. 1 vol.).

Due to the large influx of peasant settlers in 1908, the military governor announced Semirechye and Semirechensk area closed to the resettlement area, "Semirechenskaya area is currently closed for relocation, since spare resettlement sites for immediate removal are not available, so all going in the Semirechye will be

convinced as self-will immigrants; they must remember that this field they can not capture, or withdraw it by superiority, otherwise this will lead them to be prosecuted seriously and generally in a lot of grief and misery, both for migrants and their families (RSHA F.391. Op.3. D.487. pp. 6,10). This message has been sent to all the provinces, from which people usually went in the Semirechensk as settlers, particularly in Poltava, Voronezh, Tambov, because until 1912 the majority of immigrants were originated from these provinces (Central State Archive of the Kyrgyz Republic F.1. Op.1. D.1.Ll.15,16; F.1. Op.1. E.6. p.1).

The head of resettlements issues affairs in Semirechye area S.N.Veletsky, reported on the status of the resettlement case, pointing out that from 1906 to 1910 the harvested land area of 454 1456080 acres was taken by immigrants in 318 land areas. 1,018,182 acres to 82,689 persons were distributed for other needs –to Cossacks, Kyrgyzs, into state tax needs; the spare areas in the forest cottages and other were measured in 136 plots with the area 43,899 acres.

The data on land for the needs of settlers by volosts in the Semirechensk was as follows:

Verny County	-	30 areas of square of	87961 acresfor	8531 persons
Pishpek County	-	71 areas	«- 261687 acresfor	17197 « -
Przhevalsk County	-	47 areas	« - 145100 acresfor	13014 « -
Jarckent County	-	20 areas	« - 91697 acresfor	6288 « -
Kopalsk County	-	61 areas	« - 117050 acresfor	13248 « -
Lepsinks County	-	89 areas- «	-314667 acresfor	24416 « -

In Semirechye, in the period from 1907 to 1913 214 villages and 26 hamlets were established; 21603 families got ready made living areas; 13,826 families were enrolled. The Table 1 shows that the largest number of educated villages accounts for 1911 and 1912, when the area was closed to immigrants. Most new villages were opened in Kopalsk County- 36; in Lepsinsk– 32; in Przhevalsk County – 21; in the Jarckent County, as the most remote and mountainous – only 7 villages. In the war years, there was a large number of unsettled peasant families who had gone back – in 1553 to their families for three years.

In a way, many farmers went bankrupt. 36.7% of families who migrated to Turkistan from 1906 to 1913, got no profits without any property, and 60.9% – with no money, so in the early years of residence in the Semirechye, peasants had to work very hard (Miymanbaeva, 1997).

Ruined and desperate on the way to Turkestan and not having already able to return to their homeland, the peasantry, who found no earnings here, was forced to make every effort to survive: immigrants illegally seized and plowed land of nomads, built temporary and then permanent structures, rented land from the nomads, migrants organization bribed officials to highlight convenient and fertile land. Corruption, fraud, resourcefulness rose to the widest scale.

Table 1. Information about the educated Russian settlements and settlers in the Semirechye in the beginning of XX century

Years	Pishpek		Przhevalsk		Verny		Kopalsk		Lepsinsk		Jarckent		In overall		Settled out		Registered		Not settled	
	villages	farms	villages	farms	villages	farms	villages	farms	villages	farms	villages	farms	families	persons	families	men	families	persons		
1906																				15040
1907	10												1022	3357						28493
														male sex						male sex
														2967						24400
														female sex						female sex
1909	1		3		4	-	9	1	18				1531	4794						
1910	2		8		6	1	4	2	23				4081	22565						
1911	5		12	14	5	12	16	2	52	14	3906	12403						11453		
1912	9	2	9	10	8	24	16	5	71	12	3978	12583	5423	19143						

1913	3	5	10	2	4	24	2344	7465	3901	13546	3000				
1914	7	3	4	2		16	2767	8466	3235	10531	4405	16603			
1915							1974	5977	1262	3693	3222	11606			
Total	37	2	40	24	23	51	49	14	214	26	21603	67610	13821	57366	19030

Based on the annual reports of the military governor of the area of Semirechensk (Basedon: RSHA.F.400.Op.1. D.3485.p.27ob., 36, 37ob. F.400. Op.1. D.3891. p. 21 ob.; F.400.Op.1.D.4094. p.3 ob.; F.400.Op.1.D.4164. p.5; F.400. Op.1. D.4295. p.3 ob.; F.400. Op.1. D.4370. p.4 ob.; F.400.Op.1.D.4493. p.5 ob., 6; F.400. Op.1. D.4578. p.7 ob.,8)

After moving to the Urals, particularly to Turkestan, in Semirechye, farmers who settled on confiscated from local nomadic population, despite the fact that there were people from different provinces of Russia, provided land management in their villages, maintaining control by electing agriculture headman, who solved many administrative matters – matters of tax collection, building churches, schools, hospitals or medical assistant's point, public works, etc., the decisions is attached to a village meeting.

In the first five years of life in Semerichye, peasants were free of all taxes. Within five years, they had to pay only 50% taxes and only 10 years after the settlement they had to pay all the taxes. In Turkestan, men older than 15 years at the time of relocation had the right to postpone military service for six years.

Immigrants, feeling care from government about land issues, started to bring claims to administration to obtain equal rights with the nomads, justifying it this way: "As we are involved in military services, unlike Kyrgyzs, so we, Russians, have more rights to land than the Kyrgyzs. " It does not consider that this historical land of the Kazakhs and Kyrgyzs, as it was theirs for thousands of years in which they had their traditional economy and for centuries maintained the ecological balance. The arbitrariness of immigrants came to the point that they make demands on removal according to the Russian settees desires to have land, as "the administration took under arable farming the land, which they point" (Central State Archive of the Republic of Uzbekistan. F.1. Op.17. D. 811.p.37, and 38 vol.). The Government's commitment to adopt Russian immigrants after the Andijan uprising in 1898 contributed to an increase in armed attacks on the Kazakhs and Kyrgyz, allegedly in self-defense.

February revolution and changes of monarchy to republic have not changed the issues of Russian "aliens." After the 1916 uprising, the government created major misunderstandings between Russian and Kyrgyz, ordered to hold nomads temporarily in areas where there are no Russian population, for example, in the mountains, deserts and semi-deserts. The remaining free Kyrgyz land, the Land Committee rented out to everyone at a set price, and the money went, allegedly in favor of the Kirghizs (State Archive of Almaty region. F.136. Op.1. D.21. L. 53, 54, 54)

Having heard about these liberated lands, attracted farmers from neighboring counties and even regions, especially from the southern part of the Jarckent County and Syr-Darya region tried to move here. Thus, the internal colonization area, relocating to the eastern part of the Przewalski County without permission of the Land Committee started. The Land Committee and The Land Commission had to take all measures to prevent this, but, because of the general devastation, the fight was unsuccessful, the number of new resettlement villages increased.

#### 4. Discussion

The problem of the dynamics of Russian peasant resettlement in the Semirechenks was discussed in historiography to solve the problem of socio-economic status of Russian immigrants by known historians P. G. Galuzo, A. A. Sapelkinym, N. E. Bekmahanovoyup to the end of XIX – XX century. There were no researches on this issue in the post-October period. In Soviet times, historians have paid more attention to national history and the problem was actively developed.

#### 5. Conclusion

The October Revolution revived the peasant faith in the saving of space and hope to expand the land from other nationalities. Moved the community was closed in thickness, absorbing almost a precinct-homestead land-use as a rival and annoying example. Community, with its charge chrome mechanism revived. Stolypin reforms was a measure of the peasant community. In 1917-1918, in the Semirechye, 7 villages of self-will settled persons were formed (RSHA F.136. Op.1. d.6. l. 103 vol.). It should be pointed out that also that such impunity free settled land seizures led to the resettlement as for the pre-resettled villages. For instance, from the Preobrazhenskyvillage, 70 yards moved, but according to the list for resettlement there were still 300 yards

(RSHA F.136. Op.1. D.21.1. and 58 vol.). The Head of Naryn County Rabkrin pointed out that the period of 1918 and 1919 were the "years of Russian national dominance", all the Soviet construction "followed the path of proprietary satisfying of appetites and interests of the Russian population" (Archive of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan. F. 666. Op. 1. D. 198. p. 26).

Between 1918 and 1919, in the territory of Semirechye, the number of Russian towns increased. In general, if we talk about the policy of Soviet power in relation to Russian peasant settlers in the Semirechensk, we can say that in the first stage after the fulfillment of the October Revolution, the new government, busy setting it on the ground, did not pay more attention to the names of Russian peasants and locals of how to continue the previous colonial policy, and with the beginning of the policy of "war communism" to the peasants, themore stringent measures were adopted, due to the requirements of the general policy of the country to the peasantry.

Russian peasants in many districts and villages, especially the villages Steppe, Balta, Stavropolka et al., have repeatedly complained that they are victims of separate raids Kazakh horse gangs who are forcibly drove by and secretly owned by farmers and young working cattle directly from arable land and pasture, and then traveling alone, and peasants resisting were beaten half to death, and after the raid, they were robbed by peasants and offered their services to the tracing of stolen cattle for a fee.

The Regional Office of Agriculture in May 1925, made review of Land Management. The work of 14 counties of Pishpek, Karakol and Naryn regions was analyzed, while 333 community land areas were found, of which 180 with the composition of households of 36225 Russian emigrant population, and 53 with the composition of 14036 households of the indigenous population, but only 50 251 farms that were granted 1,204,773 tithes in the main plots and 142,661 acres were revealed to stay in general use. On the issue of land use and ownership of land, the Regional Courtreviewed and approved 33 cassation appeals of 32 land communities and four cases in the regional commission on land and water disputes were resolved.

Provincial Department of Agriculture and land committees were under the land reform to bring to the attention of the population that the land is state property, in the essence of socialization of the land; it ensured that farmers should not commit acts of sale of land; monitor the timeliness of the peasants of winter crops and autumn tillage; and organize public assistance household with no working cattle and agricultural machinery; deliver the list of grass grown lands to the Military Revolutionary Committee, detailing what areas are and how many there are and what harvest is expected to collect from one of tithing. Lists were required to collect fodder at a certain rate.

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