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SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITIONS OF THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE IN KAZAKHSTAN AS A MECHANISM FOR THE FORMATION OF COLONIAL KNOWLEDGE (late 19th – early 20th centuries)

The purpose of this study is to examine scientific expeditions of the Russian Empire conducted in the territory of Kazakhstan in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries as a mechanism for the formation of colonial knowledge. The research aims to identify the role of expeditionary materials in the accumulation, systematization, and interpretation of data on the socio-economic, demographic, and economic characteristics of the region within the framework of imperial scientific and administrative practices. In this context, the study provides a historiographical and source-critical analysis of scientific and statistical expedition materials.

The research is based on a combination of historical analysis and source criticism. Comparative-historical methods, as well as methods of analysis and synthesis, are used to examine expeditionary data and to determine their relevance to the studied period. In addition, retrospective, structural-analytical, and comparative approaches are applied, allowing scientific expeditions to be considered as an institutional mechanism for the production and legitimization of colonial knowledge. Particular attention is paid to the principles of data collection, classification, and use within imperial scientific discourse.

The study demonstrates that the materials of scientific expeditions of the Russian Empire played a key role in shaping systematic knowledge about Kazakhstan. It is established that a significant portion of expeditionary sources belongs to descriptive and analytical documents reflecting the socio-economic and economic characteristics of the region. The analysis shows that the collected data were used not only for scholarly purposes but also in imperial administrative practice, which influenced the methods of interpretation and structuring of knowledge.

The study concludes that scientific expeditions of the Russian Empire constituted an important mechanism for the formation of colonial knowledge about Kazakhstan in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. On the one hand, expeditionary materials represent the results of scientific research; on the other hand, they reflect the objectives and interests of imperial governance. The author argues that the analyzed sources can be classified into socio-economic and administrative-statistical materials based on their content.

Keywords: scientific expeditions, colonial knowledge, Russian Empire, Kazakh steppe, statistical materials, socio-economic data, imperial governance.

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Қазақстан аумағындағы Ресей империясының ғылыми экспедициялары отарлық білімді қалыптастыру тетігі ретінде (XIX ғасырдың соңы – XX ғасырдың басы)

XIX ғасырдың соңы – XX ғасырдың басында Қазақстан аумағында жүзеге асырылған Ресей империясының ғылыми экспедицияларының қызметін отарлық білімді қалыптастыру тетігі ретінде қарастыру. Зерттеудің негізгі мақсаты – экспедициялық материалдар негізінде империялық ғылыми практикалардың, деректерді жинау, жүйелеу және интерпретациялау әдістерінің Қазақстан туралы отарлық танымды қалыптастырудағы рөлін айқындау. Осы мақсатта ғылыми және статистикалық экспедициялардың материалдарына тарихнамалық және деректанулық талдау жүргізіледі.

Зерттеу барысында тарихи талдау мен деректанулық сын әдістері кешенді түрде қолданылды. Экспедициялық материалдарды зерделеу үшін салыстырмалы-тарихи әдіс, дереккөздердің

кезеңге сәйкестігін анықтау, тарихи деректерді талдау және синтездеу әдістері пайдаланылды. Сонымен қатар ретроспективті, құрылымдық-талдамалық және салыстырмалы әдістер қолданылып, ғылыми экспедициялар империялық басқару мен білім өндіру жүйесінің институционалдық құрамдас бөлігі ретінде қарастырылды. Экспедициялық деректердің әлеуметтік-экономикалық мазмұнына, оларды жүйелеу қағидаттарына және қолданылу бағыттарына ерекше назар аударылды.

Зерттеу нәтижесінде ғылыми экспедициялар материалдарының Қазақстан туралы әлеуметтік-экономикалық, демографиялық және шаруашылық сипаттағы мәліметтерді жинақтауда шешуші рөл атқарғаны анықталды. Экспедициялық деректердің басым бөлігі сипаттамалық-талдамалық құжаттар қатарына жататыны және олардың империялық ғылыми дискурс аясында жүйеленгені көрсетілді. Сонымен қатар алынған мәліметтердің отарлық әкімшілік тәжірибеде қолданылу мүмкіндіктері мен шектеулері айқындалды.

Зерттеу барысында Ресей империясының ғылыми экспедициялары Қазақстан туралы отарлық білімді қалыптастырудың маңызды механизмі болғаны анықталды. Экспедициялық материалдар бір жағынан ғылыми сипатта жинақталған деректерді қамтыса, екінші жағынан империялық басқару қажеттіліктеріне сәйкес жүйеленген. Автор зерттелген дереккөздерді мазмұнына қарай әлеуметтік-экономикалық сипаттағы және әкімшілік-статистикалық бағыттағы материалдар ретінде топтастыруға болады деген қорытындыға келеді.

Түйін сөздер: ғылыми экспедициялар, отарлық білім, Ресей империясы, Қазақ даласы, статистикалық материалдар, әлеуметтік-экономикалық деректер, империялық басқару,

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**Научные экспедиции российской империи
в Казахстане как механизм формирования колониального знания
(конец XIX – начало XX века)**

Научные экспедиции Российской империи, осуществлявшиеся на территории Казахстана в конце XIX – начале XX вв., рассматриваются нами как механизм формирования колониального знания. Основной целью исследования является выявление роли экспедиционных материалов в процессе накопления, систематизации и интерпретации сведений о социально-экономических, демографических и хозяйственных особенностях региона в рамках имперской научной и административной практики. В этой связи проводится историографический и источниковедческий анализ материалов научных и статистических экспедиций.

В ходе исследования применялись методы исторического анализа и источниковедческой критики. Для изучения экспедиционных материалов использовались сравнительно-исторический метод, методы анализа и синтеза, а также определение соответствия источников изучаемому периоду. Дополнительно применялись ретроспективный, структурно-аналитический и сравнительный методы, позволяющие рассматривать научные экспедиции как институциональный механизм производства и легитимации колониального знания. Особое внимание уделялось анализу принципов сбора, классификации и использования экспедиционных данных.

В результате исследования установлено, что материалы научных экспедиций Российской империи сыграли ключевую роль в формировании систематизированных знаний о Казахстане. Показано, что значительная часть экспедиционных источников относится к описательно-аналитическим документам, отражающим социально-экономические и хозяйственные характеристики региона. Выявлено, что полученные данные использовались не только в научных целях, но и в практике имперского управления, что определяло особенности их интерпретации и структурирования.

Сделан вывод о том, что научные экспедиции Российской империи являлись важным механизмом формирования колониального знания о Казахстане в конце XIX – начале XX вв. Экспедиционные материалы, с одной стороны, представляли собой результат научного изучения региона, с другой – отражали задачи и интересы имперской административной системы. Авторы приходят к выводу о возможности классификации изученных источников по их содержанию на социально-экономические и административно-статистические материалы.

Ключевые слова: научные экспедиции, колониальное знание, Российская империя, статистические материалы, Казахская степь, имперское управление.

Introduction

The Kazakh Steppe became an important object of scientific and administrative interest for the Russian Empire in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. As imperial borders expanded southward and eastward, the demand for reliable and systematically organized information about newly incorporated territories increased significantly. In this context, scientific and statistical expeditions emerged as a key instrument for acquiring comprehensive data on the natural environment, population distribution, economic practices, and land use of the steppe regions.

These expeditions were not isolated scholarly initiatives but were embedded in broader imperial strategies of governance and territorial integration. The knowledge produced through expeditionary research played a crucial role in shaping administrative decision-making, economic planning, and policies related to land management and population regulation. At the same time, expeditionary materials contributed to the formation of specific analytical frameworks through which the Kazakh Steppe was interpreted and represented within imperial scientific discourse.

The scientific relevance of this study lies in its focus on expeditionary materials not only as a source of empirical data but also as a mechanism of knowledge production that influenced both academic research and imperial governance practices. Despite the extensive use of expeditionary statistics in historical and economic studies, the methodological foundations and interpretative functions of these materials remain insufficiently explored. By analyzing scientific expeditions as an institutionalized form of data collection and knowledge construction, this study seeks to contribute to a more nuanced understanding of the relationship between science, administration, and economic analysis in the context of imperial expansion.

Materials and methods

The study uses comparative historical analysis to identify changes in research aims and practices across different stages of imperial expansion. The statistical data contained in expedition records are subject to critical analysis in light of the conditions under which they were collected, the classification systems used, and the administrative purposes for which they were created. Discourse analysis is used to examine how scientific language and statistical

reasoning were used to justify imperial land and resettlement policies. This study is based on a qualitative historical analysis of scientific and statistical expeditions conducted by the Russian Empire in the Kazakh steppe from the late XIXth to the early XXth centuries. The research utilizes an interdisciplinary methodological approach, combining methods from historical geography, the history of science, and colonial studies. Archival sources include official expedition reports, correspondence between expedition members, statistical surveys, administrative documents of imperial institutions, and cartographic materials related to the Kazakh steppe. Particular attention is paid to the materials of the Shcherbina expedition, including statistical tables, methodological instructions, and analytical conclusions prepared by the participants.

Historiography of the problem

In the study of the national history of the Kazakh people, the study of the origin of tribes and clans is a very difficult and laborious task. At the same time, the contributions of Kh. Argynbayev, M.S. Mukanov, V. Vostrov to the study of the three Kazakh zhuzes are enormous. It should be noted that the comparative analysis of the genealogy of the Elder (Uly), Middle (Orta) and Junior (Kishi) zhuz with the source "*Materials on Kyrgyz Land Use*" is of great value.

Even academic scientific textbooks could not provide accurate information about the history and activities of the expeditions of F. Shcherbina, V. Kuznetsov, P. Rumyantsev and the research parties of P. Skryplev and A. Khvorostansky, which are evidence of Russia's colonial policy. Only in the 3rd volume of the History of the Kazakh SSR of 1979, it was briefly mentioned that "the work of the expedition led by the famous researcher F. Shcherbina, who studied Kazakhstan, began in 1896 and lasted until 1902" (History of the Kazakh SSR., 1979). This information itself is not given correctly. After all, the expedition was carried out in 1896-1903. Although this is a minor difference, such shortcomings should not be present in an academic book.

And in the 3rd volume of the five-volume academic history of Kazakhstan after independence, F. Shcherbina's expedition was incorrectly dated to 1896-1902 (History of Kazakhstan, 2002). In another part of the book, it is mentioned that the materials collected by F. Shcherbina have not lost their current value, and it is again confusing researchers by saying that they were carried out in 1896-1900

(History of Kazakhstan, 2002). On page 428 of the academic work, it is stated that F. Shcherbina's expedition was carried out in 1896-1903. It is clear that three different dates in one book lead to confusion. However, this study highly appreciated the value of the materials of the expedition, which was commissioned by Tsarist Russia.

Researcher T.P. Volkova is one of the first researchers to conduct a full-fledged documentary analysis of the materials collected by the F.A. Shcherbina expedition. She considered the information capabilities of the "Materials on Kyrgyz Land Use" and developed a method for verifying the authenticity of these data and their use. T.P. Volkova proved that the quantitatively authentic data in the "Materials on Kyrgyz Land Use" data source exceeded the questionable data and concluded that the overall authenticity of this data is high (Volkova, 1982).

Researcher T.P. Volkova (Petrova, 1980), published several articles of great scientific importance analyzing the methods of calculating budget statistics (Volkova, 1988). It is worth noting that, although the work of the researcher is distinguished by extensive research and the use of mathematical methods, in most cases he was guided by the Marxist-Leninist methodology in studying the history of traditional Kazakh society. However, the methods used in the above-mentioned works of the author guided our research work.

In our study, two fundamental monographs by N.E. Bekmakhanova occupy a special place. The work widely uses valuable and rare data and literature, as well as materials from the population censuses of 1897, 1916, and 1917. These data greatly helped the author in a comprehensive study of the Akmola, Semipalatinsk, Uralsk, Torgai, and Syrdarya regions. The researcher showed in his work that the land quota established by F. Shcherbina for the Kazakhs and Kyrgyz provided nomads with land only for a temporary period, before moving to a settled life (Bekmakhanova, 1980).

In addition, specific and comparative information on this topic is often found in the works of M.Kh. Asylbekov, M.B. Tatimov, G.K. Krongard, M.N. Sydykov. The works of M.K. Koygeldiev, O.Kh. Mukhatova, R.M. Tashtemkhanova, K.R. Nesipbayeva, T.A. Tolebayev devoted to a comprehensive study of agrarian relations and the colonial policy of the tsarist government in Kazakhstan in the late XIXth – early XXth centuries, are also valuable in that they shed light on many issues

and provide a direction for systematic historical and historiographical research.

Among the valuable data that preserved legal documents and special instructions related to the expedition, the following can be mentioned in particular: "Materials on the History of the Political System of Kazakhstan", "Collection of Legislations on the Kyrgyz of the Steppe Regions", "Kazakh-Russian Relations in the XVIII-XIX Centuries", and the 2nd part of the 2-part collection "The Past of Kazakhstan in Sources and Materials" edited by S. Asfendiyarov and P. Kunte.

The collection of documents and materials "Agrarian History of Kazakhstan (end of the XIX-beginning of the XX centuries)" compiled by S. N. Maltusynov, published in 2006, contains rich factual information from more than 510 Russian and Kazakh archives and rare works, which is of great importance for clarifying some issues on our topic. There are valuable information on legal reforms, instructions, colonization, and resettlement of tsarist Russia is selected. The documents in this collection are "Undoubtedly the rights of the state to the lands of the Steppe region", "Colonizing the steppe, the Russian government stands on the ground", "The seizure of winter camps and the demolition of Kyrgyz buildings with them is a completely legal action", "The Kyrgyz population in many places reacted hostilely to the seizure of land", "Agrarian question in the first State Duma", "Attitude of deputies of the second State Duma to agrarian policy "Stolypin", "Agrarian question in the third State Duma: mass resettlement of peasants and methods of seizing land on the outskirts of the Empire", "Agrarian question in the fourth State Duma: from resettlement to policy of resettlement and displacement". Classification of documents in this way is very useful for researchers to work correctly and quickly.

Among individual researchers, the reports and statistical data of statisticians A.A. Kaufman, F. Shcherbina, L. Chermak, P. Skryplev, P. Rummyantsev, P. Khvorostansky related to the resettlement process were used as a relatively valuable source of information. For example, P.P. Rummyantsev in his work provided valuable information related to the social situation and tribal composition, economy and history of the Kazakhs.

Based on the author's research (Naziya A. Tasilova), M. Alimbai and G. Orynbayeva, along with A. Abil and A. Kuzembaiuly, conducted a critical assessment of the «*Materials on Kyrgyz Land Use*» compiled by expeditionary teams. Their studies, published in the journal *Bylye Gody*, substantiated

the high scholarly value of this source corpus (Abil & Kuzembaiuly, 2021). Particular attention in these works is devoted to the monograph by N. A. Tassilova, published in 2017, which is highlighted as one of the fundamental contributions to the study of this body of sources (Alimbai & Orynbayeva, 2019).

Of special relevance to the present study are interpretations proposed by scholars working outside the post-Soviet academic context, most notably Ian Campbell, a specialist in the history of the Russian Empire's borderlands. In his 2017 monograph *Knowledge and the Ends of Empire: Kazakh Intermediaries and Russian Rule on the Steppe, 1731–1917*, Campbell argues that imperial control over the Kazakh Steppe evolved incrementally and cumulatively, gradually strengthening over time despite recurrent uprisings and various forms of resistance.

Campbell further notes that during the initial stages of incorporating the steppe regions into the imperial system, the Russian administration lacked both a coherent governance strategy and sufficient knowledge of the region's socio-economic conditions and spatial organization. As administrative practice and scholarly inquiry expanded, more stable conceptual frameworks for colonial governance and the economic appropriation of steppe space began to emerge (Campbell, 2017). According to the author, on the eve of the reforms of the 1860s the situation remained contradictory, characterized by the absence of a clear and systematic vision of future administrative arrangements. The consolidation of a more coherent and consistent model of governance thus required an additional period during which the Kazakh Steppe underwent both institutional and intellectual forms of "appropriation".

Research results

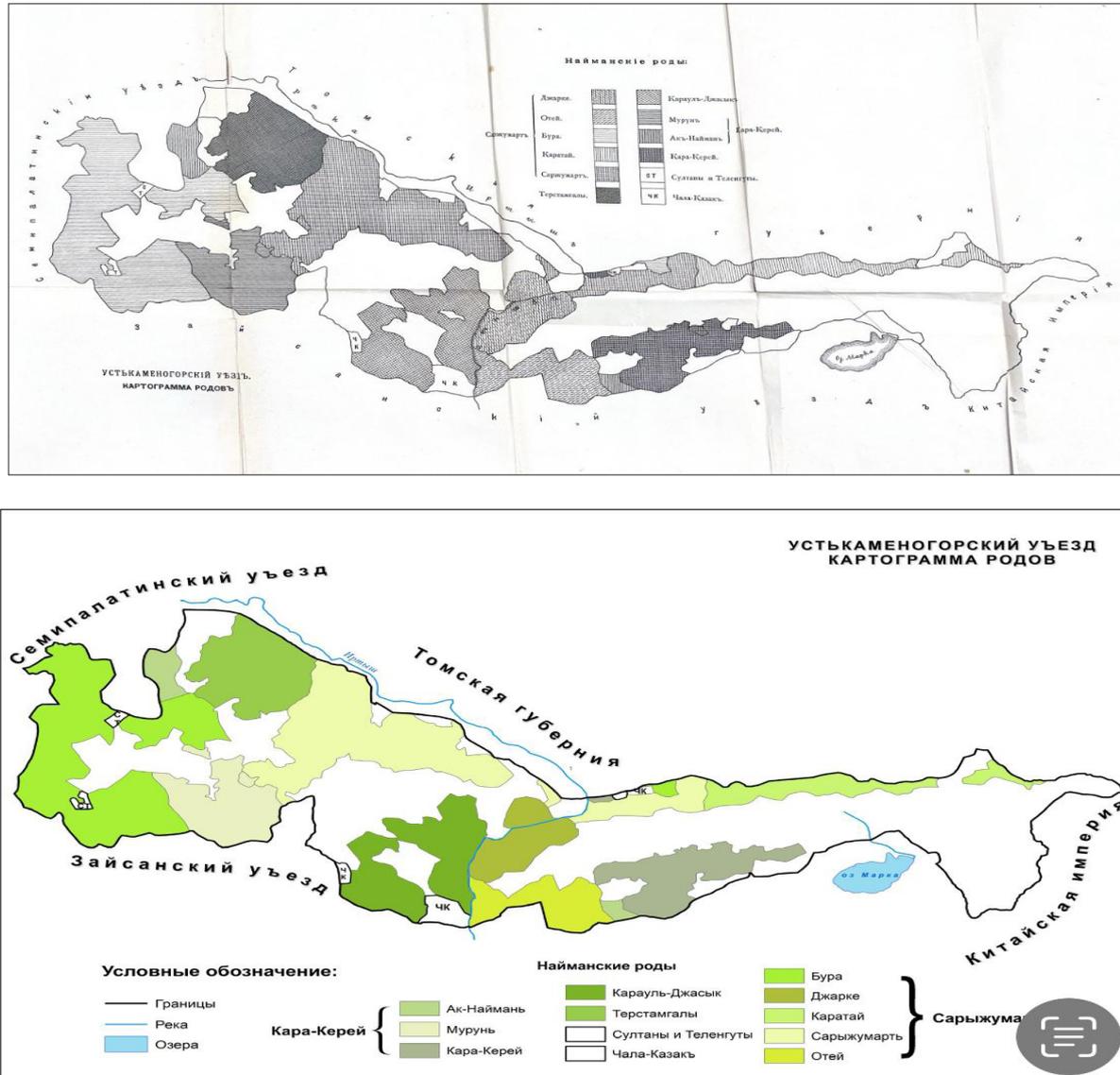
Scientific expeditions of the Russian Empire to the Kazakh Steppe during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries played a crucial role in the imperial expansion, knowledge production, and administrative integration of Central Asia. These expeditions combined geographical, ethnographic, natural-scientific, and strategic objectives, reflecting the close relationship between science and empire in the modern period. Many expeditions included specialists from different disciplines, including geographers, statisticians, agronomists, ethnographers, and military officers. This interdisciplinary composition reflected the comprehensive nature of imperial objectives.

M. Kul-Muhammed, studying the works of F. Shcherbina, L. Chermak, A. Bokeikhan, emphasizes their anti-colonial stance. For example, L. Chermak supported Shcherbina's norms. He wrote: "Reducing the norm is a deliberate destruction of the Kyrgyz economy, subjecting them to starvation, and even forcing them to abandon their usual profession" – this is evidenced by his writing (Kul-Muhammed, 1998). L.K. Chermak also wrote the work "Forms of Kyrgyz Land Use" and edited the preface and chapters of «Materials on Kyrgyz Land Use». Bokeikhanov said about him: "This was a man who would not deviate from the path of science, from his own opinion, even if Tsar Alexander ordered him to do so, even if he was offered gold as high as the Altai Mountains" – and highly appreciated L. Chermak's loyalty to science (Bokeikhanov, 1994).

At this time, the headquarters of the expedition in Omsk was placed under strict police control. After all, Nicholay II was informed about them by the Ministry of Internal Affairs V.D. Dal that "the expedition members were conducting anti-government propaganda among the population". And Nicholay II urgently adopted a resolution to dismiss all researchers from their posts. In June 1903, all members were arrested for their anti-government political orientations, and the Omsk bureau was closed. There is still no clear information about the reasons for the suspension of the expedition's work and the anti-government positions of the researchers. Thus, the processing of the remaining materials continued in St. Petersburg. Although the expedition was disbanded, the materials it collected were published in volumes until 1909.

1896-1903. When creating this expedition, which aimed to study all the districts of the steppe region, the Ministry of State Property intended to use the results of the research for conducting land policy in Kazakhstan. The task of the expedition was to study and describe the territory from a natural and historical perspective, to determine the significance of villages and bolyas in this issue, methods of economic management and land use, and to determine the amount of land required for nomadic and semi-nomadic farms and to determine its volume for settlement. Particular attention was paid to economic and statistical research for the purpose of resettling peasants relocated from the central provinces of Russia (National Encyclopedia of Kazakhstan, 2007).

Figure 1. The maps of the Naiman clans have been reconstructed through the application of modern software-based methodological approaches



The expedition materials were used by the tsarist government to intensify the seizure of “surplus” lands from the Kazakhs by force. These materials are an unparalleled source of information about the state of the Kazakh economy at the end of the XIXth and beginning of the XXth centuries. The expedition members concluded that the land norms were exaggerated, that nomadic Kazakhs did not need large areas, since they were gradually moving to settled life and agriculture (National Encyclopedia of Kazakhstan, 2007).

However, in the reorganized research after the Shcherbina expedition, these norms were reduced even more. At the same time, A. Bokeikhan sup-

ported Shcherbina’s norms. However, the expedition led by F. Shcherbina is also notable for providing a scientific basis for the colonization policy of the tsarist Russian government and for conducting a comprehensive study of the history of the Kazakh people.

In the document entitled “Report on work in the Turgai and Ural regions for 1905” you can find a lot of information about their salaries, additional necessary tools, and the amount of money paid for their travel and housing.

According to the information of the «Materials on Kyrgyz Land Use», in 1904 the first work in the Turgai-Ural regions was carried out by statisticians

Karlsou, L.N. Rum and T.I. Sedelnikov, who was a deputy of the First State Duma. Later, Batmanov and N.P. Chevalier joined them. The specialists who studied the geography, nature and vegetation of the country were 2 hydraulic engineers – Reinwald and Mironov, mining engineer Kazitsin, geologist V.P. Semenov. Not much has been written about the members of this named statistical party in scientific works.

L.N. Rum was born on May 19, 1869, and studied at the Perm and Chernigov gymnasiums. In 1889, he entered the medical faculty of Kazan University, and in 1891 transferred to the law faculty. In 1892-1894, he participated in various circles and studied at several lyceums (Habizhanova, et. al., 2003). In 1898, for keeping illegal publications, he was placed under strict control and exiled to the Vologda prov-

ince. In 1901, he was called to serve in the Ministry of Land and State Property. There, L.N. Rum worked as a senior topographer in the Perm-Vologda resettlement organization, and in 1904 he edited the collection “Results of economic research of the peasant population of the Ust-Sysolsky district of the Vologda province”. In October of the same year, he was sent to Orenburg.

The table below contains information about the composition of researchers who worked in the Turgai-Ural research party and their salaries. According to the information obtained from documents stored in Central State Archive of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the salary of the party head is lower than the salary of the head of the statistics department. We explain this by the fact that the head of the statistics department works more than the party head.

Table 1. Information on the composition and salaries of the Turgai-Ural research party

Service	Number of specialists	Salary	
		Person	Everyone
Party leader	1	1000	1000 ruble
Head of Statistics Department	1	2100	2100 ruble
Worker	4	1800	7200 ruble
Agronomist	2	1425	2850 ruble
Head of the Technical Department	1	1425	1425 ruble
Senior topographer	3	1150	3450 ruble
Topographers	13	950	12350 ruble
Topographers who send around	17	50	850 ruble
For assistants (registration)	6	150	900 ruble
Overall	48	10050	32150 ruble

Note: (Head of resettlement affairs in the Turgaysko-Ural district, p.33)

The organization of statistical research and editing of data was carried out by the head of the statistics department, P.A. Khvorostansky. Although the party’s leadership and management were officially assigned to Tsabel, P. Khvorostansky carried out the research work from beginning to end.

P. Khvorostansky was one of the experienced people who participated in the Shcherbina expedition. He personally edited all 7 volumes dedicated to the districts of the Turgai-Ural region, wrote the preface and additional sections. P.A. Khvorostansky

wrote a number of works related to the resettlement process. His studies “The issue of the settlement of the southern districts of the Semipalatinsk region”, “The Kyrgyz question in connection with the colonization of the steppe”, “The evolution of the Kyrgyz economy in the Turgai region: a statistical and economic essay” and others were published.

In general, there is not much information about the members of the statistical party that studied the Turgai-Ural districts. These researchers were often guided by Shcherbina’s methods in their work.

Table 2. Expeditions and statistical parties that explored the lands of Kazakhstan in the late XIXth – early XXth centuries

Leaders of expeditions and research parties and years of research	Areas where research was conducted	The resulting statistical data and their total number
F.A. Shcherbina 1896-1903	Akmola, Semey, Turgay regions	Materials on Kyrgyz land use, collected and developed by the expedition to study the steppe regions. Volume 13.
V. Kuznetsov 1907-1909	Akmola region	Kyrgyz household in Akmola region. Repeated research 1907-1909. 5 volumes.
P.A. Skryplev 1906-1913	Syr-Darya region	Materials on Kyrgyz land use collected and developed by the Syr-Dari Statistical Party. 5 volumes.
P.P. Rumyantsev 1909-1913	Zhetysay region	Materials for the inspection of domestic and Russian-Storozhilche economy and land use in the Semirechensk region. 7 volumes.
P.A. Hvorostansky 1904-1912	Uralsk, Turgay regions	Materials on Kyrgyz land use collected and developed by the Statistical Party of the Turgai-Ural Migration District. 7 volumes.
A.V. Perepletchikov 1910-1911	Semey region	Material for re-examination in 1910-1911. Farming and land use in the Kyrgyz Semipalatinsk region. 3 volumes.

In Central Russia, the resettlement of peasants took place on a large scale in the 70-80s of the XIXth century. Due to the agrarian crisis and the abolition of serfdom. Due to the aggravation of the agrarian problem and the strengthening of the peasant movement in Russia, the Tsarist government made an urgent turn to the resettlement policy. They believed that by resettling peasants in the outlying regions, they could quell agrarian conflicts in the densely populated provinces of European Russia. The region where the peasants were intensively resettled was Kazakhstan.

The statistical study in the Syr-Darya region was carried out on the basis of preliminary observation work. The program and methodology developed by F. Shcherbina were used in the Steppe regions. After this observation, it was found that the problems of F. Shcherbina's program related to livestock farming can be used in the Syr-Darya region without any changes, and the questions related to land use do not correspond at all to the specifics of the Turkestan region.

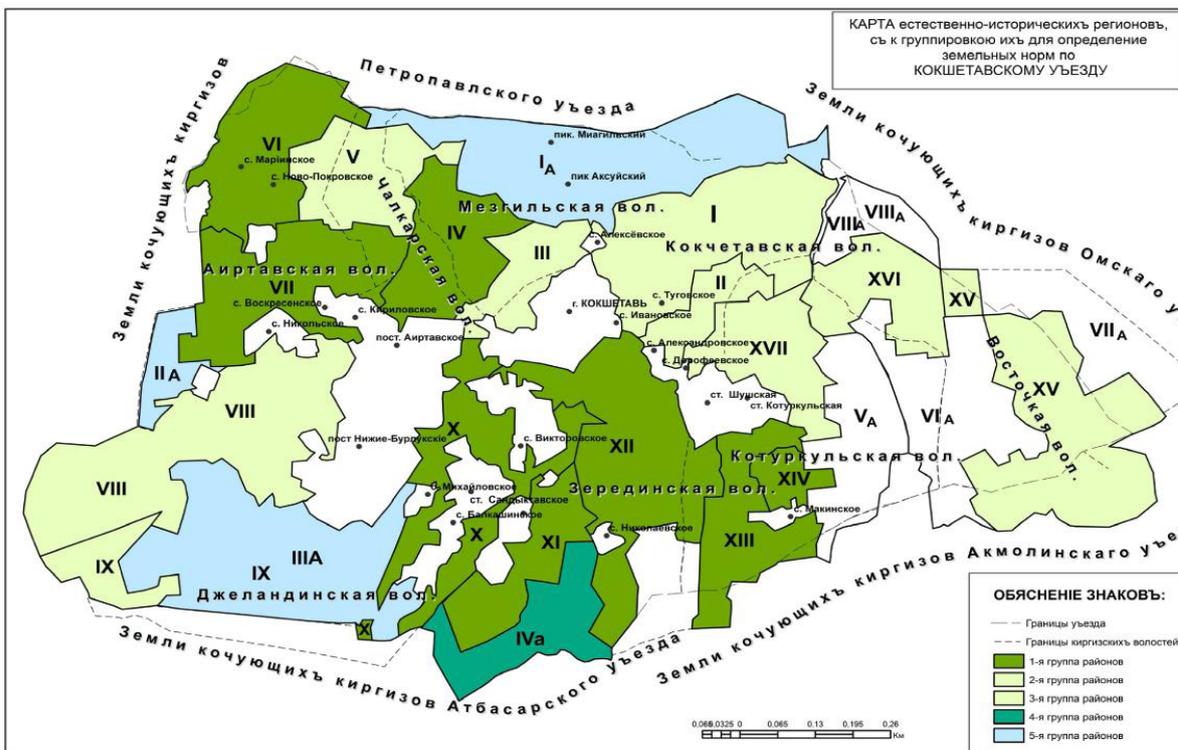
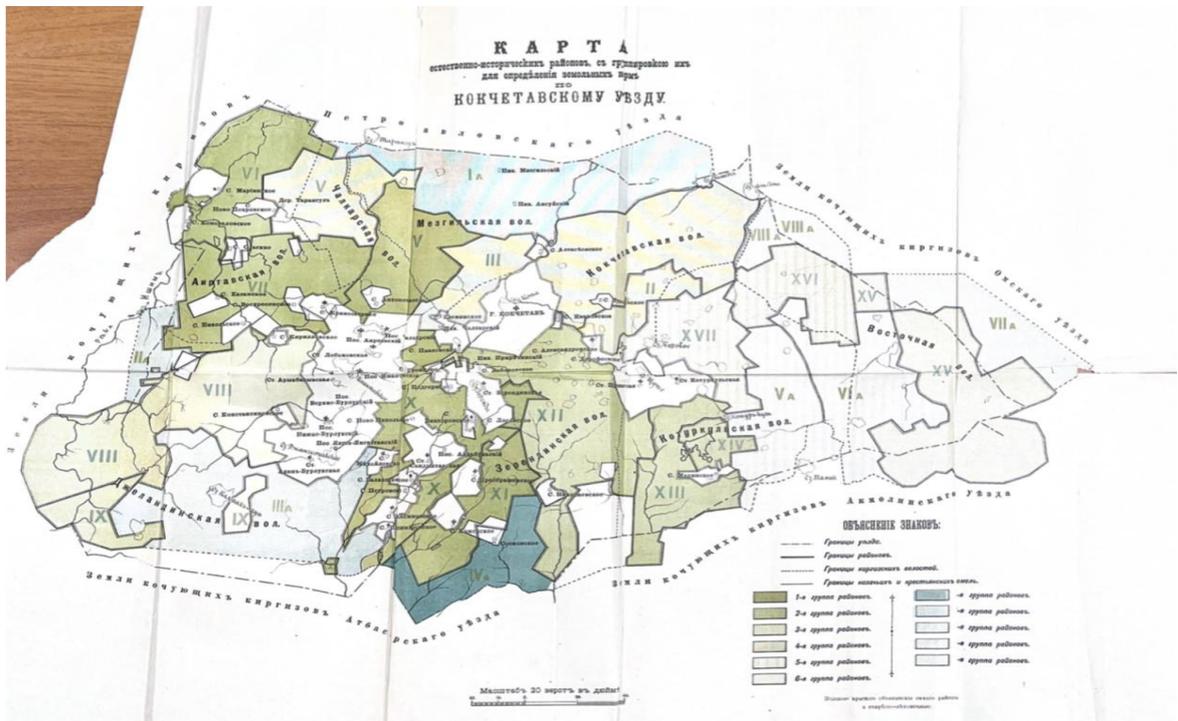
The main feature of the Turkestan region, due to its climatic conditions, was the need to use irrigation ditches and canals for farming. Another feature was that farming was well developed in the region. Regarding the peculiarities of land use of the Kazakh people in this region, the periodical "Journal of the Meeting on Land Management in Kyrgyzstan" stated that "The nomads of Turkestan (Kazakhs) have their own peculiarities in terms of economy and land

use compared to the Kazakhs of the Steppe region. The basis of land cultivation in Turkestan is manual irrigation. Irrigation of the land gives a good harvest of various industrial and food plants" (Agrarian history of Kazakhstan (late 19th – early 20th centuries), 2006). Therefore, a number of changes were made to the research program regarding agriculture, and some questions regarding animal husbandry were shortened.

The Kazakh program, which describes the general economic situation of the statistical parties, consists of the following issues:

1. Tribal initiation;
2. History of agricultural villages;
3. Irrigation;
4. Forms of land use;
5. Animal husbandry;
6. Haymaking;
7. Gardening and orchards;
8. Forest areas;
9. Land leasing;
10. Profession and wages;
11. Fees and taxes;
12. Features of the Kazakh family;
13. Common economic affairs;
14. Trade;
15. Credit;
16. The needs of the population;
17. Land cultivation;
18. Natural conditions (Materials on Kyrgyz land use in the Syrdarya region, 1908).

Figure 2. At present, the reconstruction of these maps is being carried out using modern methodological approaches, which allows for a more accurate representation of historical spatial data. In particular, the map of the Kokshetau Uyezd has been reconstructed



This program consisted of 18 main issues. Its peculiarity was that the issue of “Irrigation” was not included in the 17-chapter program developed by F. Shcherbina. The research batches were conducted using the following methodology:

1. Household cards were compiled. Their content included questions about the number of residents, houses and buildings, hired workers, agricultural equipment, livestock, fields and haymaking, residents’ occupations and the use of crops and animal products, as well as small inquiries.

2. The winter fodder and hay accounting card was created for only 10% of all registered farms. It included information on the number of days the livestock was tied up and the amount of fodder it needed. This information provided the basis for calculating the amount of hay.

3. Rural forms were compiled, the content of which included questions about water sources near wintering areas and their size, irrigation systems and soil, fields, water and land use, crops in irrigated and non-irrigated fields, migration, and grazing. Such rural forms were used as the main settlement type of the farm village.

4. Community forms were created to determine the land use procedures of livestock farmers. They included questions such as the procedure for using common pastures, migration, grazing, guarding, and leasing pastures.

5. Budget forms were compiled to determine the composition and annual turnover of the Kazakh economy. A total of 59 budgets were compiled here. Each question in these forms consisted of small, detailed inquiries, so as a result, specific information was obtained. Based on this information, the needs of the average Kazakh family and the ways and means to satisfy them were determined.

6. Forms describing the nature and history of the region collected information about the region’s weather, water resources, topography, soil fertility, and vegetation.

During the research, topographers mapped Kazakh lands on a scale of 1 verst. In particular, they photographed the land use boundaries of various communities, ditches and winter pastures, roads and fields, mountains and rocks. These maps were convenient for dividing the districts into districts and were necessary for identifying pastures and rivers and lakes, and determining suitable areas for farming.

The internal structure of each volume of this resource necessarily includes 1) text (literary), 2) tables (statistical), 3) maps. Although the text of the

resource is planned on the basis of the same program, it is written in different structures that are not similar to each other. Here, it is written about the historical characteristics of each district, land use, territory, geography and natural features, the location and migration of clans and tribes, the schedule of clans and tribes, the economy of districts and their differences from other districts. Also, the text of each volume necessarily provides information on land use forms, land cultivation, livestock farming, crafts, leases and the history of districts. Of course, the content discrepancies found in the document, in our opinion, were due to the specifics of each district and the author of the text.

The following information is stored in the «Materials on Kyrgyz Land Use» regarding the clan-tribal structure of Kazakh society:

- settlement of clans in each uyezd, bolys, and village;
- genealogical tables of clans-tribes;
- their migration processes and territories (rivers, lakes, and place names);
- reasons and history of settlement and migration of clans-tribes in the 17th-20th centuries;
- preservation of legends and stories in the process of traditional oral history telling about clans;
- maps of the location of clans-tribes;
- total number of people and households in clans;
- total number of people in uyezds and bolys;
- data on traditional Kazakh livestock farming include the following information:
 - types and numbers of Kazakh livestock by region and uyezd, age characteristics, calving;
 - their pastures: wintering, summering, grazing, greening;
 - types and methods of preparation of dishes made from animal products;
 - time of shearing of animal wool and use of meat;
 - sewing of clothes using animal wool and skin.

Information on agriculture, land use and land norms and livestock units required for an average farm for each district, as well as budget calculations can be obtained from the «Materials on Kyrgyz Land Use».

Conclusion

During the documentary analysis of the “Land Use Materials of the Kyrgyz (Kazakhs)...” published at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries as a source of data on the tribal structure of traditional Kazakh society, the history of the

organization of statistical studies related to Kazakh tribes and their peculiarities of information collection were first revealed, the main principles and methods of analyzing statistical data on tribes and tribes were identified, and some problems of using the «Materials on Kyrgyz Land Use» as historical data for studying the ethnic and social structure of traditional Kazakh society were revealed and ways to solve them were proposed. Determining the objectivity of information in statistical data was directly related to the methodology and prerequisites for its collection, and the composition of its researchers. The team involved in collecting the «Materials on Kyrgyz Land Use» data source consisted of educated and qualified specialists. Among them were statisticians, agronomists, geologists, topographers, registrars and accountants with higher education.

«Materials on Kyrgyz Land Use» analyzes, in the late 19th – early 20th centuries, large-scale expeditionary work was carried out in the Akmola, Semey, Turgay, Ural, Syrdarya regions of Kazakhstan, as a result of which in 1896-1903. 12 uyezds of Akmola, Semey, Turgay regions, in 1904-1912. 7 uyezds of Turgay and Ural regions, in 1906-1913. 4 uyezds of Syrdarya region were taken into the ob-

ject of research. As a result, in 1898-1915. a source of data consisting of 27 volumes appeared. These data were printed and published in printing houses of various central cities several years after the research.

In general, many researchers are confused when using «Materials on Kyrgyz Land Use». They think that almost all of these 27 volumes were collected by the expedition led by F. Shcherbina. Analyzing the data in its entirety, we found that, firstly, the data collection teams covered different regions and counties in different years, secondly, the data collection and compilation teams and editors were different people. The data itself, which was produced after a year of research, was reviewed by different editors. And, thirdly, the data sources were published in different years and in different cities.

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