



RESETTLEMENT AND LIVING CONDITIONS OF THE POPULATION EVACUATED FROM RUSSIA TO THE SYRDARYA (SECOND HALF OF THE XIX CENTURY)

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Annotation

The resettlement policy of the Russian Empire has deep roots, but in our article we did not want to go beyond the scope of our own research. Therefore, in our case, we will mainly focus only on the resettlement policy of the second half of the 19th century. But in order to recreate a complete picture, we, describing each law, willy-nilly have to touch on other historical moments as well.

Keywords: Resettlement, Russian Empire, Syrdarya, population, colonization, economic situation.

Introduction

The impetus for the mass resettlement of peasants from the central provinces to Turkestan was a series of regulatory documents issued on July 10, 1903, the Rules for the voluntary resettlement of rural inhabitants and petty bourgeois to state lands in the regions: Syrdarya, Fergana and Samarkand. On June 6, 1904, a resettlement law was promulgated, allowing the free resettlement of peasants. Since 1906, benefits for railroad travel for settlers began to operate, which became the most important incentive for them.

A strong and energetic will is just one of those individual, subjective factors on which the result of migrations and colonization depended. Another, no less important factor was the factor of knowledge and skill.

From Russian colonization, they expected a beneficial effect even on the culture of such highly cultured peoples as, for example, the settled tribes of Turkestan. The placement of Russian settlers is recognized as one of the most reliable means of penetrating the mass of the native population with new methods of cultivating the land and in the sphere of animal husbandry, turning to new industries, including agriculture.

In this segment, the logical question again arises: “Why, having a huge space in the Russian open spaces, did the imperial administration very diligently pursue a resettlement policy in Turkestan?” The answer is obvious: despite its backwardness





and primitiveness, the Turkestan region, as a new unknown territory, had a geostrategic, geopolitical and geo-economic advantage over other subjects of the empire.

And, as Privy Councilor F. Giers wrote, “the economic situation of the Turkestan region with its population, nomadic, living depending on their herds, and settled - exclusively agricultural, is based on the land and is determined by it. ... The population has no other sources of livelihood except for the land, the cultivation of which is completely dependent on the possibility of irrigation. Therefore, the correct formulation and resolution of the land issue is for the Turkestan region, more than anywhere else, a matter of great importance, which is of vital importance for its population.

Resettlement to Turkestan began immediately after the formation of the governor-general, but initially it did not have a mass character. The situation changed in the 90s of the 19th century, when as a result of crop failure and famine in a number of Russian provinces, 12,000 migrants arrived in Turkestan. But the circulars of the Ministry of Internal Affairs dated June 15, 1896 prohibited the issuance of permits for resettlement in the Semirechensk region, which by that time had about 35,569 settlers. In January 1897, the Syrdarya, Fergana and Samarkand regions were also closed for resettlement, which indicates the end of the first period of the colonization of Turkestan. Nevertheless, the resettlement in the Turkestan region continued in a spontaneous form, despite the fact that the influx of peasants seeking to settle in new lands was significantly reduced.

In order to keep this campaign under control, on December 2, 1896, the Resettlement Administration was created under the Ministry of Internal Affairs, which dealt with colonization issues on the outskirts of the Russian Empire. According to the decree of 1896, this government body was supposed to carry out a preliminary study of the areas intended for the resettlement of peasants, deal with their organization, and supervise the issuance of permits for resettlement.

In May 1905, the Resettlement Administration was transferred from the Ministry of Internal Affairs to the Main Directorate of Land Management and Agriculture. Their main activity was the survey of territories, with the aim of withdrawing surplus lands from the local population and forming resettlement plots from them. To conduct resettlement business in the Syrdarya and Fergana regions, a "statistical party", which was entrusted with the production of economic, statistical, agronomic and hydrological studies of the territory of the regions.

Tsarism deliberately cultivated patriarchal-feudal oppression in the outskirts in order to keep the masses in slavery and ignorance.





And as F. Giers wrote: “The importance of the colonization issue is of national importance. At present, our power in Turkestan rests almost exclusively on military force and an administration enjoying special rights. This power has no other support, which is the weak side of our government”.

According to the state of resettlement affairs, the Minister of Agriculture A.V. Krivoshein wrote in his “Note”:

“... Russian settlements are islands in the middle of the “native” sea, - and in order to solve the problem of Russian development of the region, we need not “generals in tailcoats”, but generals in epaulettes”.

The colonial authorities were never able to create a stratum of people loyal to them, therefore, in the entire history of the existence of the “colonial” authorities, the resettlement business has always remained an urgent task.

The Russian population of Turkestan at the first stage, that is, in the 70s, was about 230,000, or 4 ½% of the total population of the region, in the Ferghana region - 0.4%, in the Trans-Caspian region - 1%, in Samarkand - 1.5%, in Syrdarya - 3.5% and only in the Semirechensk region about 15%.

It is important to mention one point, that is, why was the concentration of resettled in Semirechensk, unlike other regions, higher? This is due to the fact that the colonization of this area began in 1848, so it has acquired serious proportions. Up to 60 Russian settlements existed in the foothill zone, including 29 villages of the Semirechensk Cossack army and 31 peasant villages. According to official information, at least 16,000 displaced people were waiting for the device. In the Syrdarya region, Russian colonization began in 1876. From 1876 to 1890 only 19 Russian settlements were formed in the region, while the number of settled settlers by 1890 did not exceed 1,298 families.

With the undoubtedly existing desire of Russian settlers to Turkestan, the extremely weak development of Russian colonization of this region was due primarily to legal obstacles. This was primarily due to the concentration of many millions of settled population, densely populated and mastered the comparatively small oases of irrigated lands. The significance of Turkestan for the resettlement movement depended not so much on the reserves of land as on the reserves of water.

The essential characteristic features of the economy of the Syrdarya new settlers, in the colonization region of Turkestan, the Russian settlements of the Hungry Steppe, are the ruthless exploitation of the initial productive forces of the soil and the predominance of crop rotations of grain crops, which give a relatively low gross and net income. It is important to note that with such a nature of the economy, the limited area of culturally capable and free lands of the Turkestan region could, of course,





ensure the well-being of many times the smallest population than with the intensive culture prevailing in the region.

Based on the foregoing, the following conclusions can be drawn: firstly, one of the main reasons that hindered the development of colonization was the insignificance of the reserve of lands free and suitable for settlement in Turkestan; secondly, legislative acts have not been developed to a sufficient extent with regard to the formation of resettlement parties; thirdly, there was no control from the side of the central Resettlement Administration over the actions of its subordinate structures in the territory of Turkestan due to the remoteness of the region.

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