

Ethnodemographic Processes in Jizzakh Uyezd During the Turkestan Governor-Generalship (1887–1917)

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ABSTRACT

This article provides a scholarly analysis of the ethnodemographic situation of the population of Jizzakh Uyezd, which was part of the Turkestan Governor-Generalship, in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The study examines the specific features of demographic processes, including the population size, ethnic composition, territorial distribution, as well as natural and mechanical population movement, based on historical and statistical sources. Particular attention is paid to the impact of the administrative and resettlement policies pursued by the Russian Empire in the Turkestan region on the ethnic composition and demographic characteristics of the population of Jizzakh Uyezd. Changes in the ethnic composition of the uyezd's population are identified on the basis of the First General Census of the Russian Empire of 1897, as well as other statistical and archival documents from the period. The findings demonstrate that, alongside local ethnic groups, new population groups emerged in Jizzakh Uyezd as a consequence of the Russian Empire's resettlement policy. The article concludes with a comprehensive assessment of the role and scholarly significance of these processes in the ethnodemographic history of the Jizzakh oasis.

Keywords: - Turkestan Governor-Generalship, Jizzakh Uyezd, ethnodemography, population, ethnic composition, migration, resettlement policy, Russian Empire, First General Census of 1897, demographic processes.

INTRODUCTION

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the political, administrative, and socio-economic processes occurring on the territory of the Turkestan Governor-Generalship significantly influenced the population size, ethnic composition, and territorial distribution. These processes were also reflected in the example of the Jizzakh district, which led to certain changes in the

ethnodemographic appearance of the region. Although information about the population of the Jizzakh district is found in statistical collections, periodicals, and historical-ethnographic studies, the ethnodemographic processes of 1887–1917 have not been comprehensively studied to a sufficient degree.

The aim of the study is to identify changes in the

population size, ethnic composition, territorial distribution, and migration movement of the Jizzakh district during this period, as well as to analyze the factors influencing them. The study examines population dynamics, the composition and distribution of the main ethnic groups, natural and mechanical movement, and the influence of the administrative and resettlement policy of the Russian Empire. The chronological boundary of the study covers the years 1887–1917, while the territorial boundary covers the Jizzakh district. The scientific novelty is determined by the comprehensive coverage of ethno-demographic changes in the population of the district based on a comparative analysis of various historical and statistical data. The source base of the research is the materials of the First All-Russian Population Census of 1897, statistical collections, periodicals and archival documents.

METHODS

The study is based on the principles of historicism, objectivity, and systematicity when studying the ethnodemographic processes of the Jizzakh district population in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Historical-comparative, historical-statistical, demographic, and retrospective analysis methods were used in the research process. By comparing statistical data, changes in population size, ethnic composition, and territorial distribution were identified, and their dynamics were analyzed. The method of critical analysis of sources was also used to determine the impact of the administrative and resettlement policy of the Russian Empire on demographic processes. The First All-Russian Population Census of 1897, statistical collections of the period, archival documents, and periodical press data were compared, and the ethnodemographic situation of the Jizzakh district population was comprehensively assessed.

RESULTS

After conquering the Kazan, Astrakhan, and Siberian Khanates, as well as the territories inhabited by the Kazakh and Kyrgyz populations of the Junior, Middle, and Senior Zhuzes, the Russian Empire proceeded to the conquest of the khanates of Central Asia [1]. Following the conquest of the northwestern provinces of the Kokand Khanate and the city of Tashkent, the Russian forces directed their subsequent military campaigns

toward Jizzakh and Ura-Tepa.

On October 11, 1866, troops under the command of General D. T. Romanovsky laid siege to the city. The battle began in the early morning of October 16, and following two days of fierce fighting on October 16–17, Jizzakh was captured by Russian forces [2].

From 1867 to 1887, Jizzakh Uyezd existed as an administrative-territorial unit within the Syr Darya Oblast of the Turkestan Governor-Generalship of the Russian Empire. It was established in 1868 as part of the Syr Darya Oblast and was transferred to the Samarkand Oblast in 1887 [3]. The Jizzakh Uyezd was geographically bounded by the Syr Darya River and the Kyzylkum Desert to the north, the Doshqota Pass to the east, the Karachatov Mountains to the south, and the Kyzylkum Desert to the west. A significant part of the territory was occupied by the Kyzylkum Desert and open steppe areas [4]. The administrative center of the uyezd was the city of Jizzakh.

Administratively, the city of Jizzakh was divided into two parts: the Russian section, known as the “Klyuchevoye” fortification, and the local, or indigenous (tuzem), section. The Russian section was situated between the Quliniyoz (northern) and Murqand (southern) canals branching off from the Sangzor River and covered an area of 120 desyatins and 1,500 square sazhen. This part of the city had five streets with a total length of 1 verst and 300 sazhen, of which 165 sazhen were paved with stone. The streets were lined with trees on both sides and illuminated by 35 kerosene lamps. The city also had two gardens, 31 private houses, 15 government buildings, and one Orthodox church [5].

In 1887–1888, the Jizzakh Uyezd consisted of 15 volosts, 92 rural communities, and 186 inhabited localities. During this period, the uyezd had 20,687 households and 5,899 yurts, while its total population amounted to 132,930 people [6].

By 1904–1905, the Jizzakh Uyezd comprised 20 volosts and 896 inhabited localities. During this period, 27,154 households and 8,754 yurts were recorded within the uyezd. The total population amounted to 270,128 people, of whom 147,215 were men and 122,913 were women [7].

In 1896, a migration of Kazakh pastoralists from

Tashkent Uyezd to the territories of the Chordara and Irjar volosts of Jizzakh Uyezd was recorded. The case attracted the attention of the Russian colonial administration, which, in cooperation with the administration of the Syr Darya Oblast, discussed the possibility of returning these migrants to their former places of residence. At the same time, after obtaining information from the heads of the Khujand and Jizzakh uyezds concerning the number of Kazakhs who had migrated from other territories, a formal submission was prepared for the Turkestan Governor-General regarding permission to consolidate such newcomers into separate aul communities [8]

According to the data of the First General Census of the Russian Empire conducted in 1897, the population of Jizzakh Uyezd was ethnically diverse. The census recorded 145,280 Uzbeks, 51,511 Kyrgyz-Kazakhs (Kazakhs), 16,925 Sarts, 4,843 Tajiks, and 2,091 Turks within the uyezd. In addition, the population included 1,067 Great Russians, 95 Little Russians, 8 Belarusians, 66 Armenians, 436 Persians, 24 Roma, 8 Jews, 96 Tatars, 30 Lezgins, and 77 Turks, along with other smaller ethnic groups. In particular, the census recorded 1 Czech, 3 Moldovans, 5 Italians, 19 Germans, 1 Greek, 1 Ossetian, 6 Georgians, 1 Hungarian, and 1 Chuvash. According to these data, the total population of Jizzakh Uyezd amounted to 222,683 people [9]

The data presented above indicate that Uzbeks constituted the largest ethnic group in Jizzakh Uyezd, numbering 145,280 people. The second-largest group was the Kazakhs, numbering 51,511 people. In Russian sources from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Kazakhs were referred to by various designations, including "Kyrgyz," "Kara-Kyrgyz," and "Kyrgyz-Kaisak." Kazakh communities were recorded as residing in the Chordara, Kok-Tepa, Fistaltov, Kurgantepa, Kyzylkum, and Otaqorgon volosts of Jizzakh Uyezd [10]

According to data from 1891, the Russian section of the city of Jizzakh had a population of 509 people, including 403 men and 106 women. In terms of social status, the population included 16 hereditary nobles (9 men and 7 women), 48 personal nobles (20 men and 23 women), 1 member of the clergy, 57 Meshchans (34 men and 23 women), 47 retired and reserve lower-ranking

military personnel and their family members (28 men and 19 women), and 311 active lower-ranking military personnel, along with 84 female family members.

In terms of religious affiliation, the population consisted predominantly of Orthodox Christians, numbering 480 people (377 men and 103 women). The population also included 8 Protestants, 21 Roman Catholics (20 men and 1 woman), and 5 Jews (3 men and 2 women).

These figures demonstrate that the Russian section of Jizzakh was characterized by a predominantly military and administrative population, with Orthodox Christianity constituting the dominant religious affiliation [11]. Thus, according to the statistical data for 1891, the Russian section of the city had a total population of 509 people [12] people, while in 1904-1905 there were 332 people [13].

The population growth trend of the city of Jizzakh was observed during the period of Russian colonial administration. According to the sources, in 1887–1888, the population of the city of Jizzakh amounted to 12,735 people [14]. By 1891, this figure had increased to 14,260 people, while in 1897, it reached 15,710 people [15]. In 1904–1905, the population amounted to 18,794 people [16]. An analysis of the above figures shows that over the 18-year period from 1887 to 1905, the population of the city increased by nearly 1.5 times, or more precisely, by 47.6 percent.

A significant increase in the population of Jizzakh Uyezd was observed during the period from 1888 to 1905. In 1888, the population of the uyezd amounted to 132,930 people, while by 1905, this figure had reached 270,128. Thus, during this period, the population increased by 137,198 people, or approximately 2.03 times. In percentage terms, the overall increase amounted to 103.2 percent. Such a substantial increase over a 17-year period indicates the rapid development of demographic processes in Jizzakh Uyezd. This growth cannot be explained solely by natural population increase; mechanical population movement, migration processes in the region, and the administrative and resettlement policies pursued by the Russian Empire in Turkestan may also have been important factors contributing to these demographic changes.

The February and October Revolutions of 1917 had a significant impact on the political, socio-economic, and ethnodemographic development of Jizzakh Uyezd. As a result of the revolutions, fundamental changes took place in the administrative and territorial governance system of the region, which, in turn, influenced demographic and ethnodemographic processes related to the size, distribution, and ethnic composition of the population. In particular, the Civil War, political instability, forced migration, famine, and administrative-territorial reforms brought about significant changes in the demographic development of the population of the Jizzakh oasis.

Before the consequences of the 1916 uprising had subsided, the winter of 1916–1917 passed without snowfall, followed by a dry spring accompanied by severe frosts that destroyed crops. As a result, famine broke out [17].

The famine during the winter of 1917–1918 caused numerous deaths, particularly among the nomadic Kazakh population inhabiting the steppe areas of the Jizzakh and Khujand uyezds. Local sources reported that in some areas the population had declined by 50–70 percent. Russian sources provided considerably lower figures, but nevertheless acknowledged a substantial decrease in the proportion of the population [18]. Of the 36 nomadic auls in Jizzakh Uyezd, only 17 were recorded in 1920. The remainder had either been partially decimated or had migrated elsewhere [19].

DISCUSSION

The research results show that the ethnodemographic processes in Jizzakh Uyezd in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries were complex and multifactorial in nature. The significant increase in population over a relatively short historical period was associated not only with natural population growth, but also with migration processes and the administrative and resettlement policies of the Russian Empire in the territory of Turkestan. In particular, the migration of population from various regions affected the ethnic composition and territorial distribution of the population of the uyezd.

The data of the 1897 census show that Uzbeks held a numerically dominant position in Jizzakh Uyezd.

At the same time, the presence of Kazakhs, Sarts, Tajiks, Russians, and other ethnic groups indicates that the population of the uyezd was ethnically diverse. The migration of Kazakh pastoralists to the Chordara and Irjar volosts in 1896, in turn, demonstrates that migration was one of the important factors in shaping the ethnodemographic composition of the region.

The political and socio-economic instability of the early twentieth century, however, had a negative impact on the previous processes of demographic growth. The 1916 uprising, the famine of 1917–1918, forced migrations, and political instability led to significant demographic losses, particularly among the nomadic Kazakh population living in the steppe areas of Jizzakh Uyezd. The fact that only 17 of the 36 nomadic auls of Jizzakh Uyezd were recorded in 1920 demonstrates that these processes had a serious impact on the population structure.

In general, the ethnodemographic development of Jizzakh Uyezd was shaped as a result of the interaction of natural demographic growth, migration, colonial policy, and political and social crises. These processes led not only to changes in the size of the population, but also to the transformation of the ethnic composition of the uyezd, the territorial distribution of the population, and the demographic structure.

CONCLUSION

The study found that significant changes occurred in the size, ethnic composition, and territorial distribution of the population of Jizzakh Uyezd during the period from 1887 to 1917. During this period, the ethnodemographic profile of the uyezd was shaped, on the one hand, by natural population growth and, on the other, by migration processes and the colonial policies of the Russian Empire.

The First General Census of the Russian Empire conducted in 1897 shows that Uzbeks constituted the principal demographic group in Jizzakh Uyezd. The presence of Kazakhs, Sarts, Tajiks, Russians, and other ethnic groups confirms the multiethnic character of the region's demographic composition.

At the same time, the political and socio-economic crises of 1916–1918 changed the course of the

earlier demographic processes. In particular, famine, migration, and population losses had a significant impact on the size and territorial distribution of the nomadic population.

Thus, the ethnodemographic history of Jizzakh Uyezd during 1887–1917 can be characterized as a transition from stable demographic growth to demographic instability under the influence of political and social crises. This conclusion provides an important basis for historically understanding the subsequent ethnic and demographic development of the Jizzakh oasis.

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