

SETTLEMENT OF KAZAKHS IN THE TURKIC WORLD

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Abstract

In this article, we will consider the main stages of the settlement of Kazakhs, their numbers in the Turkic countries of the world and their interaction with other Turkic peoples and the current situation of the Kazakh diaspora in the Turkic world.

Keywords

Kazakhs, settlements, diaspora, migration, Turkic people,

Kazakhs, as one of the largest Turkic peoples, have a rich and complex history closely related to migrations and settlement within the vast Turkic world. Their nomadic lifestyle, determined by geographical and climatic conditions, contributed to the widespread distribution of Kazakhs in the territory of modern Central Asia and beyond.

The object of this study is the settlement of the Kazakh ethnic group in the Turkic world throughout history.

The subject of the research is the analysis of the modern geography of Kazakh diasporas in the Turkic world. Historical, political, economic, and socio-cultural factors influencing the settlement of Kazakhs.

The purpose of the research is to better understand the history and how the Kazakh people were located. Observe the connections between the Kazakh ethnos and other Turkic peoples. Evaluate the impact of historical migrations on the formation of the modern ethnic map of Central Asia.

The formation of the Kazakh ethnos and its settlement until the 18th century: The territory of modern Kazakhstan has been inhabited since ancient times. Saka and Turkic tribes lived here, which became the basis for the formation of the Kazakh people. The Turkic Khaganate and other early states had a significant influence on the ethnic development of the region.

Formation of the Kazakh Khanate (XV century).

In the 15th century, as a result of the disintegration of the Golden Horde, the Kazakh Khanate was formed. The first Kazakh khans Kerey and Zhanibek migrated to Semirechye, which was the beginning of the consolidation of Kazakh tribes. During this period, the formation of three zhuzes took place: Senior, Middle, and Junior. The settlement of Kazakhs during this period was connected with the nomadic way of life and the search for pastures.

XVI-XVII centuries: During this period, the Kazakh Khanate was strengthening and expanding its borders. Wars were waged with neighboring states such as the Dzungar Khanate and the Russian Empire. The Kazakhs continued to live a nomadic lifestyle, moving across vast steppe territories.

Settlement of Kazakhs within the Russian Empire (XVIII-XIX centuries).

In the 19th century, the Russian Empire actively carried out the colonization of Kazakh lands. There was a mass migration of Russian peasants and Cossacks to Kazakhstan, which led to the reduction of territories accessible for Kazakh nomadism. This caused discontent and uprisings among the Kazakh population. Colonization and resettlement led to the gradual transition of Kazakhs to a settled lifestyle. Agriculture developed, cities and settlements appeared.

After the October Revolution, Kazakhstan became part of the USSR. During the Soviet period, the collectivization policy was implemented, which led to famine and mass resettlement. Many Kazakhs were forced to leave their lands and migrate to other regions of the USSR. The industrialization of Kazakhstan took place, leading to the growth of cities and a change in the ethnic composition of the population.

According to the 2021 census, about 1.57 million Kazakhs live in China. The majority of Kazakhs live in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR), especially in the Ili Kazakh Autonomous Okrug, as well as in the Altai and Tarbagatai Okrugs. Also, Kazakhs live in the provinces of Gansu and Qinghai.

The history of the Kazakh population in China dates back to ancient times when Turkic tribes inhabited these territories. In the 18th-19th centuries, during the period of the Russian Empire and the Qing Empire, migrations of Kazakhs to the territory of modern China took place. Many Kazakhs migrated to China during the famine in Soviet Kazakhstan in the 1930s.

Kazakhs in China preserve their culture, language, and traditions. They speak Kazakh, which has some dialectal differences from the Kazakh language in Kazakhstan. Sunni Islam is the main religion of Kazakhs in China. In China, newspapers and magazines are published in the Kazakh language, and Kazakh schools operate.

Table 1.

Change in the number of Kazakhs in the main countries where they are settled from 1897 to 2021

The table is compiled with the authors using data:

Country of settlement of Kazakhs	1897		1983		2021		Increase from 1897 to 2021, times
	thous and people	% of the world's Kazakhs	thous and people.	% of the world's Kazakhs	thous and people	% of the world's Kazakhs	
Kazakhstan	3393	80.6	7180	87.2	13498	80.5	4.0
Uzbekistan	156	3.8			821	4.94	5.3
Turkmenistan	15	0.37			12	0.1	5.5
Kyrgyzstan	8	0.18			37	0.23	4.6
Russia	250	5.9			592	3.6	2.4
China	350	8.3	9.30	11.3	1573	9.3	4.5
Mongolia	26	0.61	96	1.2	123	0.73	4.7
Other countries	10	0.24	24	0.3	100	0.6	10
Total Kazakhs	4208	100	8230	100	16827	100	4.0

Brook S.I. World Population. Ethnodemographic Handbook. 2nd ed. - M.: Nauka, 1986.

According to the National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Kazakh diaspora in Kyrgyzstan comprises more than 37 thousand people. (3) This places Kazakhs in the seventh place in the country in terms of population after the Kyrgyz, Uzbeks, Russians, Tajiks, Dungans, and Uyghurs.

The majority of Kazakhs in Kyrgyzstan live in the city of Bishkek and Chuy region, however, they are also represented in all regions of the country, including the southern regions. Employment, Kazakhs are represented in all spheres of activity, including healthcare, education, law enforcement, and others. Culture and traditions, Kazakhs in Kyrgyzstan preserve their culture and traditions, maintaining close ties with their historical homeland. Public organizations, In Kyrgyzstan, there are a number of Kazakh public organizations that are engaged in preserving the culture, language, and traditions of the Kazakh people.

Kazakhs in Turkmenistan are one of the major national minorities. About 12 thousand Kazakhs live in Turkmenistan. They live compactly in the north of the country, mainly in the regions bordering Kazakhstan. Historically, Kazakhs settled in the western region of Turkmenistan, in the area of the Caspian cities of Turkmenbashi (formerly Krasnovodsk) and Bekdash. In recent years, there has been a trend of ethnic Kazakhs migrating from Turkmenistan to Kazakhstan.

Kazakhs in Uzbekistan are the third largest ethnic group in the country, numbering more than 824 thousand people. They are the indigenous people of Uzbekistan, and their history in the region dates back centuries. Kazakhs in Uzbekistan mainly live in the following regions. The Republic of Karakalpakstan, where the largest concentration of Kazakhs lives in Uzbekistan. Tashkent region, This region is also home to a significant number of Kazakhs. Kazakhs also live in Navoi, Jizzakh, Bukhara, Syrdarya, and Khorezm regions (Table 2).

Kazakhs in Uzbekistan preserve their unique culture and traditions. Kazakhs speak the Kazakh language, which is the Turkic language. Kazakhs in Uzbekistan are actively involved in the life of the country, holding various positions in government, business, and other spheres. They also make significant contributions to Uzbekistan's cultural development.

Table 2.

The number of Kazakhs in the regions of the Republic of Uzbekistan as of January 1, 2022

Regions	Total population, people	Kazakhs, people,	Share of Kazakhs, %
Republic of Karakalpakstan	1948500	296527	15.2
Andijan	3253500	930	0.0
Bukhara	1976800	16537	1.0
Jizzakh	1443400	28266	1.9
Kashkadarya	3408300	1950	0.1

Navoiy	1033900	37466	3.6
Namangan	2931100	919	0.0
Samarkand	4031300	5014	0.1
Surkhandarya	2743200	2703	0.1
Syrdarya	878600	12897	1.5
Tashkent	2941500	344122	11.7
Fergana	3896400	961	0.0
Khorezm	1924900	10697	0.6
Tashkent city	2860600	65399	2.3

Source: The table was compiled by the authors using data from the National Statistics Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The settlement of Kazakhs in the Turkic world is a complex and multifaceted process that continues to this day. Historical migrations, interactions with other Turkic peoples, and modern migration processes have a significant impact on the formation of Kazakh culture and identity.

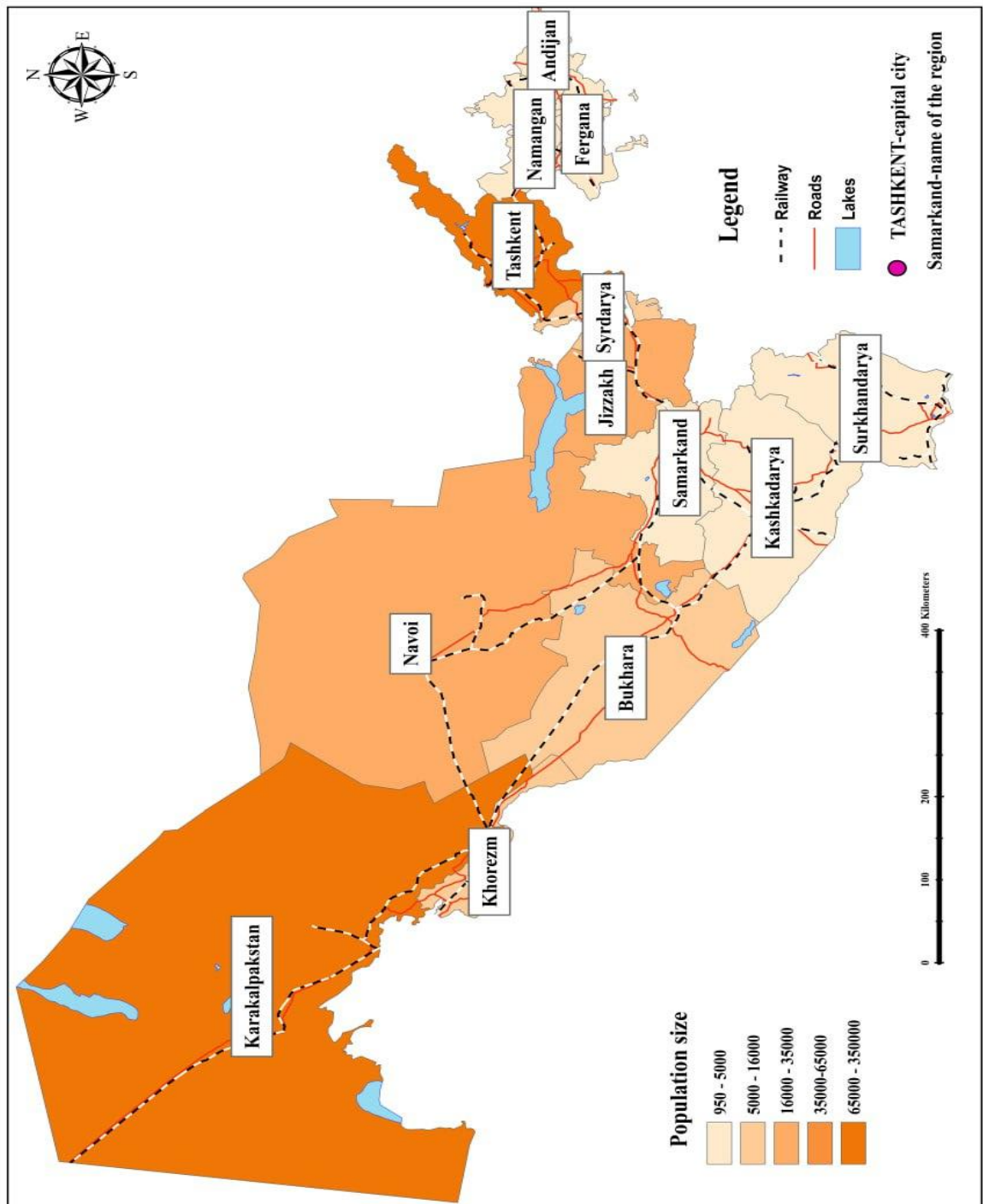


Fig. 3. Settlement of the Kazakh ethnic group in the territory of the Republic of Uzbekistan on January 1, 2022. Source: The figure was created by the author using data from the Statistics Agency under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan

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