

## **The first general census of population of the Russian Empire in Semipalatinsk region in 1897**

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The first general census of population of the Russian empire in 1897 in Semipalatinsk region. Inclusion of Kazakhstan into Russia raised the need to hold administrative and territorial reforms on changes of establishment of Kazakh population. The reform of tsarist regime tried to resist consolidation process of Kazakh nation. Reforms of 80-90 years required determination of household numbers of each village and establishment of borders of the camping grounds between economic groups, that is why systematic study of population has begun. It was conducted in the context of resettlement policy of the empire and events on the study of natural resources of the region and their reclamation. Statistics committees carried out these works. The Statistics committee was established in 1877 in Semipalatinsk region. Documents reflecting its activity are kept in the Regional administration funds and Statistics committee. Information on the formation of Semipalatinsk region, establishment and activity of Semipalatinsk Statistics committee, annual reports are contained in fund 15 "Semipalatinsk regional administration".

Materials, revealing the census of population in this region was very valuable for us. Information about formation of counties, number settled and nomadic population, primary materials of the First General census of the Russian Empire in 1897, about populated places with indication of inhabitant number are contained in the fund 461 "Semipalatinsk regional census committee". The territory of Kazakhstan was divided into the regions, which were separated among various governorate-generals, administrative centers, which were cut off the Kazakh steppe in investigated period. Semipalatinsk region was included to General – governorate Stepnoy and bordered in the north, north-east with Tomsk province, in the west with Akmolinsk region, in the south with Syr-Darya and Semirechensk region and in the east, south-east with the Chinese land.

Census for the Russian Empire was a new case. The census was preceded by extensive preliminary work. The general-governor of Semipalatinsk region received instructions to hold census in Semipalatinsk region. No census could be successful without any extensive explanatory work among the population. This work is necessary when level of education of the population is very low. Chiefs of Semipalatinsk, Karkaralinsk, Zaisan, Ust-Kamenogorsk, Pavlodar counties received series of instructions, including explanation the objectives and tasks of the census to the population. On October 26, 1896 Semipalatinsk regional government received instruction on departure from total ordering of the census in Akmola, Semipalatinsk, Semirechensk, Turgai and Uralsk regions from the Minister of Internal Affairs.

These instruction contained specific recommendations for conducting the census of the nomadic population. On October 5, 1895 the meeting of Semipalatinsk Statistic Committee was held, which determined October and November as the most convenient time for the census of Kazakh people. There were census committees in

each country. Information about country chiefs after the check of the Statistic committee, about the number of population in the counties were sent to the general-governor of Stepnoy and Chief Census Committee. Country chiefs received instructions to conduct census of population by head counter without any publicity.

On February 19, 1896 decision on the opening of census committees and census areas in counties was made on the meeting of Semipalatinsk Statistic Committee. The census committees of nomadic population should be confined to Kirgiz (Kazakh) counties. Regional administration kept the same instructions. The opening of census commissions and divisions took place at a later date.

The results of the First census were published in two volumes “General corpus of results and the Empire” and certain volumes in each of regions, including Semipalatinsk region in 1905. The population survey was conducted on many positions. Received results were grouped in statistical tables, which included data on total population, city and country; age-sex group; ethnic and social compositions of the population, level of literacy and education, religion, assignment of inhabitants of the regions on activity including secondary occupation. Today, materials of the First General census of the Russian Empire present the richest and the most extensive source on study of social-demographic and social-political processes in Kazakhstan during period under study.