

## **Continuity of times from revering history to accelerated modernization**

While carefully reading a truly historical speech of the President Nursultan Nazarbayev, delivered at the 16<sup>th</sup> congress of the “Nur Otan” party and a program initiated by the President, which includes five industrial reforms, his comprehensive thinking and unique ability to take care of Kazakhstan’s future on the basis of glorious historical past of our nation never fail to amaze you. Strategic farsightedness of our Leader, manifested at modern epoch of permanent economic crises and destructive political turbulence, instills confidence in our country’s stable and safe future.

Elbasy rightfully noted during an interview in the sacred Ulytau land, “While dreaming about our great future, we should not forget about our reputable past”. Indeed, the nation’s unyielding spirit, which is essential for consolidating our country’s independence, cannot exist without doing honor to the nation’s history. We have a lot to be proud of.

Kazakh nation has rich statehood history. Over millennia Kazakhstan territories have been a crossroads of different civilizations’ developmental pathways; routes of the great transmigration of peoples laid across these lands. Our ancestors opened up great dimensions of the Eurasian Steppe and created original material and spiritual culture. Achievements of that unique culture have been recognized all over the world, by UNO in particular.

The Saka and Huns, who inhabited Eurasian steppes’ spaces in ancient times, as well as Celestial Turks, who imprinted their unique chronicle on historical steles, and later Golden Horde which exerted great political and ideological influence upon whole the then world were at the sources of Kazakh identity formation; but it was Kazakh Khanate which became the forerunner to modern Kazakhstan.

Elbasy tells to his compatriots, “Revering the memory of predecessors, pursuing their good deeds and undertakings is not just a humanistic duty, but also one of prerequisites for social progress and further steady development”. These words are truly wise!

With regard to Kazakh Khanate founders Kerey and Janibek, it is important to note that owing to their efforts ethnopolitical territory of this state was formed and got strengthened, international relations were established, and the khanate population reached the point of over one million people. Under the rule of Khaknazar khan, who was the reputable successor to Kassym khan, Kazakh Khanate stretched to Ural in the west, to Yessil and Nura rivers in the north, to Shyngystau, Balkhash and Chu River in the east, and to Turkestan in the south. Sturdy devotion to the idea of statehood in sixteenth and eighteenth centuries can be observed in Jochi khan descendants’ activities – Zhangir khan, and Zhangir khan’s son Tauke khan.

“Kassym khannyn kaska zholy”, “Yessim khannyn eski zholy” and Tauke khan’s “Zheti zhargy” became the primary sources of legal system in Kazakh steppe.

Kazakhs’ national self-conscience and identity have undergone serious trials in bloody wars with Dzhungar invaders. While studying history we come to understanding that the process of independence acquisition turned out to be. In a struggle for independence Kazakh nation has experienced both glory of great victories and bitterness of heavy defeats. Historical experience of that permanent struggle proves exceptional value of the Mangilik El main precept, i.e. the necessity of nation’s unity for the sake of its well-being. Topicality of the Mangilik El concept is sustained by lessons of modern world conflicts, originating on the grounds of clashes of religions, cultures, and civilizations. At such complicated situation Elbasy managed to pursue a state policy which securely protects our country’s national interests in conditions of globalization with all its nuances and complications.

At the “Nur Otan” party congress Elbasy declared following consolidating values of “Mangilik El”: civil equality, diligence, rectitude, cult of education, tolerance, and secularism. “Our common spiritual strength and higher cause is Mangilik El – Eternal Motherland. In the twenty first century it will fill our development up with progress’ energy”, the Leader of nation emphasized.

Ethnically Kazakhstan is an international country, consequently it has absorbed historic past of every ethnos, living in this sacred land. The unity in conditions of diversity is a merit and strength of our country. Kazakh ethnic and confessional tolerance is known all over the world as an important factor of maintaining peace, accord and stability both within the state and in the international field.

Yet we should consolidate our national identity and originality, develop national traditions and culture in order not to find ourselves in the rearguard of global progress and not to fall under destructive outside influence. Supporting and developing world classical cultural traditions, we are obliged to demonstrate best national arts’ specimen to foreign audience.

We are to keep in mind that while exerting great influence over whole nation’s ideology, history, just like nuclear energy, may be peaceful and constructive, but in case it is not treated carefully it threatens to turn into destroying tsunami. Historical science is extremely complicated due to the fact that as opposed to Physics and Mathematics it is not governed by formulae, and cannot give unambiguous answers to the most complicated problems of social life; thus it may be subjected to misinterpretation for the benefit of political interests. Unfortunately, a historian Mikhail Pokrovsky was right, having said that, “History is politics dumped into the past”. World chronicles demonstrate that conflicts and wars have always been accompanied by historical opuses and arguments. This is the way it was in antiquity, and this is the way it is now.

Underestimation of history and culture, beliefs, mentality, and traditions of other nations is a straight road to conflicts and even to war. Current disturbing events in the world are a clear proof of this fact.

In modern conditions of global instability historical science should unite nations. Understanding that all national cultures and historic past have equal value can be assumed as a basis of such approach. One culture cannot be superior to other, history of a single nation cannot be considered as something special and exclusive; disdainful attitude to other nations' history, customs and languages is inappropriate. There cannot be strange, all the more so, alien or bad history; and yet scientists should agree on denunciations of dictators, executioners, and other odious historical personalities, as justification of their acts may result in misrepresentation of history with negative political consequences. Figuratively speaking, history of nations should turn into our common house where every dweller would feel comfortable.

The task of history is to foster respect for glorious past and pride for our ancestors in rising generation. It is impossible to become a patriot if you do not know national history. At the same time youth should be aware that peace and accord have universal, undisputed value.

That is why, as the President rightfully noted, worthy, profound celebration of the 550<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Kazakh Khanate establishment, devoid of pomposity, is of high political significance. This date is a truly momentous milestone in our statehood development and a fine pretext for recollecting its historic roots. By celebrating this anniversary we demonstrate that our nation deserved the right to establish independent state and to define sovereign path of its development. One cannot but agree with opinion advanced by the outstanding writer Ilyas Yessenberlin, "Kazakhs had their own state and our history is a part of universal history". I am convinced that in the year of the 550<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Kazakh Khanate prominent scientists will proceed with their researches with respect to continuity of major historical events. In the first place it is important to Kazakhstan people, especially to Kazakhstan youth, and also to international community so that it could be able to literally perceive our national history. History itself entrusted realization of this crucial mission to the outstanding statesman, Leader of the nation Nursultan Nazarbayev. In complicated geopolitical conditions of the end of the twentieth century our President made a decisive contribution to acquiring independence and created Kazakhstan statehood. Thanks to his strategic vision, despite all foreign forecasts, for the first time in its centuries-old history Kazakhstan became a prosperous and authoritative state with delimited borders. On repeated occasions our President emphasized that state independence is our supreme value, under no circumstances it is to be waived. That is why Elbasy entered the world chronicle as a founding father of independent Kazakhstan. A famous Kazakh hero Abylay khan said, "I had three unrealized dreams. The first

one was my country living in peace; too much blood has been shed. The second one was people building cities. The third one was to unite the nation”. Thanks to the President Nursultan Nazarbayev all those noble dreams come true. All over the world Kazakhstan is known as a stable and peace-loving country, which made a major contribution to strengthening global security and international collaboration development. Whole Kazakhstan turned into giant building site, the “Nurly Zhol” economic program provided a new constructive impetus for our state’s renewal and modernization. A new capital Astana was built; it turned into a centre of new international global initiatives’ attraction, and per se, a new national idea of our nation, who sincerely supports its Leader in his titanic efforts to turn Kazakhstan into modern, dynamic country, which is to enter the list of most developed world countries. An institutional reforms’ program suggested by Elbasy at the “Nur Otan” party congress is aimed at our state’s modernization not only in economical, but also in no less important political sphere. In case it unites around the Leader of the nation, modern generation has a chance to fulfil a great historic mission, i.e. to build a state with renewed political system, where strong will and people’s voice will play more authoritative role through civil society and parliamentarianism institutions. A new program, just like all state activities of Elbasy, is a historical innovation, which is strongly supported by Kazakhstan people and which, undoubtedly, will be assessed at its true worth by the international community.

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