

Hunger of the 30-s of the XX century in Kazakhstan: Crime and Punishment

The history of Kazakhstan is extremely rich in events, changes and names of outstanding persons. But only some of them changed severely the destinies of the country, state and people for centuries. Among them there are formation of Kazakh khanate in the XV century, the years of great calamity and beginning of annexation to Russia in the XVIII century, establishment of the Soviet regime in 1917–1918, scientific and creative heroic exploits of Sh. Ualikhanov, M.Auezov, K.Satpayev, declaration of independence of the Republic of Kazakhstan on December, 16, 1991, the appointment of a new independent state's capital.

In this system of values and event chronicle which is far from completeness, the special place belongs to the Soviet period of Motherland's history. 74 years of Socialist building in Kazakhstan contained both triumphant hours of victories and tragic pages of irreplaceable losses. We have something to be proud of. Because on the wave of Bolshevism the Kazakh statehood recovered, the economical, social-cultural appearance of the Republic changed, and the qualitatively new intellectual potential of the people was formed. No one has a right to deny the achievements of Soviet Kazakhstan.

However the Socialist way of development was not always successful and victorious. The Kazakh nation would benignly forgive all the deformations and excesses of the socialist idea, theory and practice, if there were not two crimes of totalitarian regime which placed the native population in the situation of dilemma: to be or not to be. I mean the hunger of 1931–1933 and the political repressions of 1937–1938.

Hunger took lives of no less than 3 millions of Kazakhs. 1/6 of the native population left their historical motherland for good. In 1897 there were registered 3,5 millions of Kazakhs (82% of the territory's population), and by the 1939 there are only 2,3 millions left, their specific weight decreased to 38%. Unprecedented sufferings and wounds are not forgotten till the present time and still bleeding.

Humanitarian catastrophe and the greatest tragedy of the Kazakh nation in the beginning of 30-s is an objective consequence of agrarian, human resources, national, cultural policy of Stalin and his environment, which was realized in Kazakhstan by the Kremlin protégé F.I. Goloshchekin. The professional revolutionary F.I. Goloshchekin, after taking the governance, first of all hit the intellectual elite of the Kazakh society. By his initiative the system's repressive machine pounced upon the leaders and activists of Alash movement. At the turn of 20–30-s A.Bokeykhan was sent off Kazakhstan, A.Baytursynov, M.Zhumabayev, M.Auezov and other famous persons got to prison, and even the ideological communist S.Seyfullin fell into disgrace. In short, the hit on personalities of high mission and pride of the whole nation weakened the strength of self-defense in the society.

This crusade also touched on science and art works of Alash intellectuals, many pre-Soviet authors and their books were declared harmful, taken from access, which considerably impoverished the spiritual life of steppe. In connection with it F.I. Goloshchekin even created his own theory. In 1930, reading his report at the VII All- Kazakh party conference, he said: – «the center of weight consists of the following: the faster our people economy is developing, the faster its socialist building, the faster there will be discrepancy between the economical and cultural building». However, this discrepancy between the economy and culture was in the future period. The reason is in financing of social-cultural infrastructure by the leftover principle.

Destruction of spiritual-cultural values and guidelines of Kazakh society added by establishing of a personal power and dictate of F.I. Goloshchekin. Everybody was afraid of him. Recalcitrant

persons like S.Sadvokassov were persecuted openly. Whereas in the whole USSR scale the specific features and characteristics were formed by the end of 20-s, in Kazakhstan they were functioning completely since the Goloshchekin's accession to governing. Partially this peculiar moment of the Kazakh history was shown in the course of work of the VI Plenum of Kazkraykom VKP (b) on the 10–16 of July, 1933. «Even then I played the leading role and it was impossible for me not to play it as I was head of the government, an active party man, still I can't consider myself the only creators of all the good and bad things were made in Kazakhstan within this period.

It remains undisputable that the main role in our state was played by the first secretary of organization comrade Goloshchekin, so to a great degree it is his fault too». Kuramyssov – the 2-nd secretary of Kazkraykom VKP (b) at the time of Goloshchekin's governing said more precisely. «What are the reasons of my mistakes? » – He asked. The answer was: «The first is the authority of comrade Goloshchekin was great, and in particular issues, when I saw the obvious incorrectness, I had not enough of character to defend my point of view, just like other members of the board ». The components of the of Goloshchekin's «authority» were vividly described in the poem by S.Seifullin «Kyzyl at» («Red horse»):

He flew into a rage more than once, like an angry camel male,
He was shaking with goat beard, arranging the unfair judgment.
And everybody was toadying to him, trying to please him,
And everybody bowed to him, and the people were shaking of fear.

The cult of the first leader in its ugly form was copied on-sites on one hand and it caused lawlessness and illegality on the other.

Another reason of a food ration crisis was the Goloshchekin's theory of «Minor October». A new turn of Kazakh aul's Sovietization, strengthening of party organizations' role, quantitative growth of the Communists from 32 thousands in 1926 to 101 thousand in 1933, carried out in the framework of «Minor October» and command- administrative activity of Izhebelsenda caused the situation when a common man was separated from power, rights, elementary freedom and became non-protected judicially. The final accord of «Minor October» was confiscation of bays-semi-feudal lords in 1928, which actually meant the beginning of destruction for basis of agrarian economy.

The 1929 came, so they started a great-scale collective farm movement. The collectivization racing (provoked by the top government of USSR and absolutely unreasoned) during the 4 years caused a horrible outrage upon humanity. Its absurdness also consists of the war ruling top against their people. So the great writer M.Sholokhov was absolutely right when he said in 1932 «there was a real war in the villages».

The ways and methods of forced collectivization were the same everywhere. Their tragic results were great, with cruelty and ethnic orientation in every specific region. In conditions of Kazakhstan the forced confiscation of cattle from peasants and sharuas, making nomads to sedentary way of life, inadequate tasks on meat preparing left millions of people, first of all Kazakhs without any means of life. The discrepancy between collectivization and its material-technical provision was horrible, to say nothing of the mentality of ethnos, the readiness to sedentary way of life, collective way of economy. As A.Jangildin, the Communist with pre-revolutionary experience said, in December of 1929 there was an order of kraykom party administration on transferring 6 thousands households in Sarysu district to sedentary way of life. At that time only 8 thousand Roubles were allocated for these purposes. In Semiozernyi district they decided to transfer all the Kazakh households to sedentary way of life within a year at any

cost. In this connection they collectivized all the cattle, made the forced movement of households to other places (so called «sedentary points»). Residence houses and steadings were built in a hurry, of turf. As a result, instead of improving people's life based on collectivization, they got quite opposite results: sudden decrease of cattle, ruin, movement of Kazakhs to other countries.

But the course to collectivization of agriculture and liquidation of kulak wealthy peasants as a social class continued. On December, 1, 1931 the percentage of collectivization for the whole Kazakhstan was 68,9%; the sedentary Kazakh districts were collectivized for 72,2%, and semi-nomadic districts – for 57,6%; on April, 10, 1932 these indexes were correspondingly 64,3%, 68,8%, 54%. The mess around the preparation of meat and bread multiplied by spoliation and wasting of collective farms' cattle and property worsened the situation with food products. Animal breeding did not exist as a branch of the agrarian economy. Only 4 millions of all the kinds of cattle was left in the beginning of the 1939 (of 40 million registered in 1929). Steppe suffered from hunger. In science various forms and conditions of hunger are meant. Under epidemic hunger they imply the outbursts of hunger caused by droughts, floods and other temporary phenomena. Another form of insufficient nutrition is incomplete correspondence of real food intake according to the norm of caloric content. The extreme manifestation of food products problem is chronic hunger. The hunger of the beginning of 30-s belongs to a chronic form, which caused by the political-ideological adventure of the top government of the USSR and Kazakhstan, merciless destruction of the traditional nomadic life support system, unfair distribution of incomes, rage of petty bourgeois' elements in management of the country and society.

Starvation death was rife and rampant in Kazakh districts. In Karatal district just in 3 Kazakh auls in the winter of 1932 half of population died. In Karkaralinskiy district in May of 1932 there were registered 50,4 thousands habitants, and by November there were only 15,9 thousands left. In Balkhash district 36 thousands of 60 thousands died, and only 12 thousands of Kazakhs left. People rushed to the cities and neighboring republics searching food. Based on incomplete figures, by the beginning of 1933 there were 40 thousands of Kazakhs who moved on to Middle Volga, 100 thousands to Kirgizia, 50 thousands to West Siberia. The situation could not be changed by measures taken by party-Soviet bodies. Just in March of 1932, i.e. in the worst days of hunger, East Kazakhstan party regional committee considered the issue of helping and providing necessary facilities for returnee people who had moved on before. Besides, the representative of party regional committee sent a secret internal document to West Siberian and Aleyskiy party regional committee. In this document he mentioned many facts of unlawful actions performed by local law machinery against defenseless Kazakhs. Many of them came to Aleyskiy district, passing over 400 km, because before they lived in Karkaralinskiy, Kuvskiy, Abralinskiy, Kzyltanskiy districts of Kazakhstan. In this internal document he wrote: – «Kazakhs were gathered by police officers and an executor of the Soviet of settlement, without any agitation work, not taking into account the social profile, without any participation of the Communist party community... They stuffed 40 railway cars from Shipunov district with people within 24 hours. Not to mention a rude attitude, police officers broke windows, doors of dugouts... On average they placed 65–70 persons to each railway car which had not any light, heating etc.»

After arriving to Kazakhstan the returnees faced a bad situation. The local authorities were not ready to work in extreme conditions. Just in East Kazakhstan region 142 thousands left their homes, and by the middle of 1932 over 78 thousands came back. But the regional plan of measures on provision of necessary facilities was intended only for 44 thousands persons.

By the archive documents, in the first place hunger was killing the most undefended and weak part of population – children, the future of nation, and people of elder generation, aged persons, the source of folk wisdom and experience. For example, in Krasnyi Aul village which is located within 105 kilometers from Semipalatinsk, they opened children's home. The material conditions of children's home were not appropriate to protect destitute persons at all. Here is an extraction from the document: – «There is 1,5 square meters of area for one child, but in some of the houses the children are allocated very densely... The rooms are very dirty... Children defecate around the house, all over the place, there is a mass of old manure, old clothes of died children, bones etc. near the houses. All these things rotten and spread a strong stink...The houses do not have ventilation windows; there is a cold piercing wind, so the children cry because of cold.»

Children were not given clothes; food was bad, medical service was just formal. 172 children died, 129 inmates escaped already within the first month.

The people persecuted with hunger and unlawful actions did not keep silence. There were people's actions all over Kazakhstan, some letters were sent to Stalin, Kalinin, Molotov, the brave personalities – T. Ryskulov, G. Musrepov, M. Gataulin and others expressed their indignation. Stalin and his surrounding understood all the malignancy of their criminal activity, so in the beginning of the second 5-year plan they slightly corrected their agrarian policy. In the spring of 1933 the local party and Soviet bodies got an order from Stalin and Molotov to limit the repressive actions against peasants. «In result of our success, in the village there came a moment when we do not need the mass repressions which touches on not only kulak wealth peasants, but also self-employed farmers and part of collective farmers». Gradually chronic hunger was defeated. So, the so-called collective farm system won.

The Stalin's model of agricultural production outlived its terrible constructor for almost four decades. The Soviet collective farms and state farms, being in the condition of permanent crisis, still did not solve the food product problem. The peasant deprived of land and own property, right of disposal with result of his labor, accustomed to work at half-strength, with a half of diligence. The prestige of agricultural professions decreased, the word «collective farmer» became a synonym of backwardness, poverty and lameness. It seems to us that the Soviet Union broke down partially because the agrarian sector of economy, the principles of its organization and management are hopelessly backward regarding to time challenges. The situation was not saved either with virgin lands development or the food product program. In spite of the perpetrators of the hunger in the beginning of 30-s of the XX century escaped the deserved retribution, the totalitarian system created by them did not avoid punishment. In other words, the hunger and death of the millions in the period of collectivization left its traces; in 1991 they came back as a boomerang and performed a shattering hit to the murdering system. After all, these are the results and lessons of history in general, and the essence of conceptual position in the modern historical science – especially.

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