

V • HISTORY

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Kazakhs in the Regional System of Governance in the Second Half of the 19th Century

Abstract. Staff of regional and district administrations included senior and junior officials for special assignments. Kazakhs representatives had the right to hold posts of junior officials for special assignments. The principle of co-optation of the Kazakhs for the position, the issue of the social security (salary, pension, awards, etc.) of junior officials for special assignments and their educational level, functional responsibilities and activities were all that practically have not been studied. The paper is based on documentary materials extracted from the Central State Archive of the Republic of Kazakhstan. On this basis, the study raises not only the issue of a new stratum of personalities in the new history of Kazakhstan, but also poses new challenges of a comparative study of imperial administration practices in the regions of multinational Empire.

Key words: Russian Empire, Kazakh steppe, Kazakh officials, junior officials for special assignments, local governance.

Introduction

The intention of the policy of the Russian Empire in the Kazakh steppe during the 19th century was not only to create a single administrative-territorial system (guberniya, uezd, and volost), but also to see the involvement of representatives of the Kazakh elite in the service of the emperor and thus the formation of a new class: Kazakh officials. The strategic policy of the Russian authorities in this area includes the following measures:

The creation of positions in the local government for representatives of the Kazakh population.

– The dissemination among the Kazakh nomadic society of the «Table of Ranks» of Peter I, which was laid down as a mechanism for rank and career advancement;

– The introduction of prestigious orders and medals. (St. Anne and St. Stanislaus of the 1st to 3rd degree). August 9, 1844 the government issued a decree that «in giving Orders, we shall award Muslims under the image of the Imperial Eagle instead of the under the image of St. George's cross.»

– The appointment of certain salaries and pensions;

– The inclusion of Kazakhs into a single national system of accounting officials at all levels of government, namely the preparation of service records.

Methods

As a result, the Kazakhs appointed to posts received all the attributes of an official of the administrative apparatus of the Empire: a state salary, an officer's rank, the right to wear a uniform with insignia, as well as medals, Orders, and gifts.

The issues of state service in the multi-national regions of the Russian Empire have become subjects of study only in recent decades. [1] However prevail works on activities of the Governors-General in the regional governments of the Russian Empire. This is explained by the value of the top officials of the regional administration (the Governor-General) and interest of historians to representatives of the Russian officials who contributed to the development of strategy of the government, who carried out the decisions of the supreme power in the region, who regulated the interactions of members of different social strata, religions, and ways of life in such multi-national regions as Siberia, the Caucasus, and Kazakhstan. Meanwhile, representatives of the Ka-