

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

AL-FARABI KAZAKH NATIONAL  
UNIVERSITY





# HISTORY OF KAZAKHAN (Kazakh Eli)

A FOUR-VOLUME TEXTBOOK

Book 4

Independent Kazakhstan:  
Prerequisites for the formation and development

Approved by the Ministry of Education and Science  
of the Republic of Kazakhstan as a textbook

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The fourth volume of the 4-volume textbook «History of Kazakhstan (Қазақ Елі)» is devoted to the study of important issues of the history of the Republic of Kazakhstan. In the book, the prerequisites for formation of a sovereign state under the conditions of collapse of the USSR and transformation of Kazakhstan into an established independent state with high authority in the world community are considered. The book uses documentary sources that were not previously introduced into scientific circulation, the authors rely on modern conceptual approaches in national and world historiography.

The textbook contains various historical and comparative tables, diagrams, schemes and photographs. The questions necessary for practical work as well as tasks for independent work of students are presented; the book contains the list of cited literature.

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## PREFACE

Discipline «Modern History of Kazakhstan» includes two main periods. The first period is the History of Kazakhstan in Soviet times, the second is the History of the independent Kazakhstan.

The textbook offered to the readers is devoted to the history of Kazakhstan during the period of independence. At the same time, speaking about this period, of course, one cannot stop ignoring the historical transformations in the former USSR, starting with the events of the mid-80s of the XXth century. These are primarily socio-economic and political processes in the years of perestroika (1985-1991). Reforms of the leader of the Soviet Union, M.S Gorbachev, which covered the whole country including Kazakhstan, not only led to a change in the socio-political formation, but also influenced the course of the world historical process as a whole.

The reasons that led to the start of the reforms were stagnation in the socio-economic development of the USSR, the authoritarian nature of political power and governance. These reasons caused emergence and spread of crisis phenomena in the country, gross distortions in public and political life and the national policy of the state.

The increasing internal political and economic problems in the state provoked introduction of the USSR forces in Afghanistan in 1979. In addition, the war in Afghanistan had a negative impact on the existing world security system and preservation of peace.

In the conditions of unsuccessful restructuring of the economy, the opposition of the union republics to the authoritarian center system based on the principles of force increased. The December uprising of 1986 in Kazakhstan became its initial and striking manifestation.

All these factors led to the collapse of the USSR and formation of the Commonwealth of Independent States: a new type of association of sovereign states in the post-Soviet space.

In the proposed textbook, the problems are considered taking into account the principles of historical continuity, reflected in the process of the most important problems of formation and development of independent Kazakhstan.

The first years of independence, the reformatory innovations under the leadership of the first President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Naz-

arbayev, led to unprecedented changes in Kazakhstan. After Kazakhstan declared its independence, its state symbols were adopted. New state institutions were formed in line with the changed realities, constitutional reforms were carried out, and issues of legitimization of state borders and national security were resolved.

The most important issues of formation of an independent state had to be resolved in a difficult situation of aggravation of the systemic social and economic crisis and the change not only of ideological and political priorities, but also of the socio-political formation as a whole. In Kazakhstan, it was necessary to create a new model of socio-economic development based on market principles. It was necessary to create market structures from scratch, to carry out privatization, to build a strategy of industrial and innovative development, to form a concept of foreign economic cooperation.

It was extremely difficult, but the state and the people successfully passed these very difficult tests. It is not by chance that when studying the history of Kazakhstan, it is necessary to pay special attention to this period.

The aim of this textbook is to give an objective and full presentation of the issues of social modernization, development of social, economic and demographic processes in independent Kazakhstan, using a systematic and comprehensive approach, as well as historical and comparative analysis. In addition, the sections consider such important issues as the dynamics of changes in the number and ethnic structure of the population, migration processes, including the return of compatriots under the program «Nurly kesh».

Without studying social and political processes it is impossible to create a complete history of modern Kazakhstan. Therefore, special attention is paid to such issues as democratization, development of political and public institutions, improvement of interethnic and inter-confessional relations, and education of youth. The authors of the textbook, having deeply studied these problems, offer their vision.

The other major factor of formation and development of independent Kazakhstan is spiritual modernization of its people. It is extremely important for the future of the country to part with colonial and Soviet consciousness and to form new historical consciousness and patriotic views. Therefore, the task of objective study of the national history and enhancement of the role of the Kazakh language is still relevant for Kazakhstan. This is a very important issue for the state forming Kazakh people. It should be noted that the state has implemented a number of important measures to implement these tasks, which are described in the textbook.

The unique state program «Cultural heritage» was implemented for revival of significant achievements and further development of spiritual culture of the people of Kazakhstan.

The development and implementation of the state confessional policy encountered considerable difficulties; nevertheless, Kazakhstan managed to form its own unique model of inter-confessional harmony recognized by the world community during the period of independence.

These issues have also become one of the key issues in the proposed textbook.

The problems of recognition of the Republic of Kazakhstan as a sovereign democratic state by the countries of the world community, the entry of the country into the international arena as an independent subject of foreign policy activity is one of the main issues in the proposed textbook. It tries to provide concrete coverage of the difficulties and various collisions in determining the directions and priorities of the foreign policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

To this end, issues such as the multifaceted relations of the Republic of Kazakhstan with international organizations, the country's participation in integration processes, and large-scale initiatives to address global and regional security issues have been comprehensively considered.

Thus, all the above mentioned problems are extremely actual and urgent, therefore, a separate volume of the textbook is devoted to the history of independent Kazakhstan.

Since this volume of the textbook reflects current political, socio-economic, demographic and other contemporary issues, which are constantly under revision and change, it is likely that it is objectively possible to have certain shortcomings. As many documents and materials have been considered in the course of studying the history of the country during the period of independence, and their number is constantly increasing, we take into account that in the future it will be necessary to use some additional documents. Therefore, we are ready to accept suggestions and recommendations of our readers regarding this volume of the textbook. They will be taken into account by the authors in the preparation of future editions of the textbook.

In writing the 4-th volumes of the textbook, the author's team worked on the following topics:

Section I – B.S.Sailan (§1-4); Section II – S.S.Smagulov (§1-4);

Section 2, chapter 2 – A.Sh.Altayev, F.A.Kozybakova (§1-4); Section 3, chapter 2 – A.Sh.Altayev, B.S.Saylan (§1-2); A.Sh.Altayev, S.S.Smagulov (§3-4); and Section 4, chapter 3 – C.T. Rysbekova, M.D. Baidaletova (§1-2); S.T. Rysbekova, N.A. Tasilova (§3-4); II Section, chapter 5 – K.E. Abikenova (§1-4); II Section, chapter 6 – S.S. Smagulov (§1-5).