

Thesis Paper of
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prepared on the topic
**«Spiritual and educational activities of representatives of traditional Islam in
the western regions of Kazakhstan (second half of the XIX-beginning of the
XX century)»**

to obtain a PhD degree in the specialty «6D020300 – History»

ANNOTATION

Since gaining the independence, our spiritual consciousness has been revived by studying the spiritual heritage of our people. The importance of this direction was emphasized by the president of the Republic of Kazakhstan K. K. Tokayev: "The task of the Kazakh intelligentsia at a new stage is to establish new principles of national identity and also contribute to improving the quality of the nation. A modernized society should gradually get rid of foreign habits." One of the main proofs of this is that thanks to the values of Islam, the Kazakh people preserved their identity, culture and spiritual values as a nation under the rule of colonialism.

Traditional Islam in the Hanafi madhhab calls humanity to peace and solidarity, calmness and morality, and mercy. The vast Kazakh steppe was inhabited by religious scholars and religious and educational teachers who preached the traditional religion of Islam. Therefore, a broad study of their activities in the national interest and religious exhortations is a requirement of modernity.

There are many people who have lived in the western region of Kazakhstan, who have selflessly worked for the spiritual development of the people through their religiosity and enlightenment. Religious figures not only built mosques-schools, madrasas, but also made a significant contribution to the stability of the Islamic religion, the literacy of children, and the collection of the Chronicle of the people. It is known that religious people also visited the Hajj and established close ties with distant religious centres.

In historical science, the study of persons who spread Islamic spirituality is extremely necessary both from a scientific and cognitive point of view and from the point of view of social practice. Promotion of the role, importance and activities of a religious leader in traditional Islam is important for the younger generation. It is obvious that some groups are currently leading false extremist movements. In this regard, the younger generation should look for their religious teachers among their people, ancestors who have absorbed the values of traditional Islam, follow their example and do not move away from the traditions of their ancestors.

The purpose of the PhD Thesis is to study based on local history materials the activities of representatives of traditional Islam in the Kazakh society at the end of the XIXth and beginning of the XXth centuries, who played an important role in the history of the motherland in the direction of "personalization", "identity recognition".

In accordance with the purpose of the study, the following **objectives** were set:

- substantiating the theoretical positions of the analysis of the activities of traditional Islamic subjects, sorting their groups and giving priority to leading figures;
- identification of the historical role of religious figures in the western region of Kazakhstan by comparing domestic and foreign archival documents with oral history data;
- considering the integration of the Russian kingdom into the activities of "legitimate" mullahs in the spiritual life of the Kazakh people and to reveal the role of the Orenburg Mufti;
- analyzing the religious situation, official religious positions and the directions of their religious activity on the example of Bokeyorda and other regions;
- studying of the life of Kazakh religious figures, activities among the population, mosques and madrasas by analyzing them based on history sources;
- historical assessment of the level of education and science, the work of representatives of traditional Islam, which contributed to the development of the spiritual, cultural, educational sphere;
- comparative analysis and generalization of written rare books, archival documents and author's ethnographic studies to reveal the content of Ishan, Hazrat, khappas, religious and spiritual activities;
- studying of the pilgrimage process in the region and its control by the Empire, the place and authority of pilgrims attributed to religious propagandists,
- revealing the features and role of religious and educational activities in Kazakh society, adhering to a jadidistic approach in the context of the Muslim process of "awakening" at the beginning of the XX century.

Methodological basis of the study.

In the scientific work, the greatest attempts were made to summarize and consider each problem from a modern point of view on new research methods in order to achieve authenticity in the problems of the history of religion, which were subjected to a lot of distortion in the old historiography. In Soviet Marxist historiography, history itself was perceived as an impersonal, socialized history. The modern new methodology of social history posed the problem of "man in history".

To determine the forms of development of Islam in the Kazakh steppe and to identify the activities of traditional Islamic individuals in the second half of the XIX – beginning of the XX century, the interdisciplinary method and the theory of "regional Islam" were used. In this way, we can see the diversity and originality of traditional culture in each region, and the idea that local forms of Islam are equal is based on this.

Therefore, the Thesis was guided by the theory of "regional Islam", which was proposed and justified by modern Islamic scholars such as S. M. Prozorov, S. N. Abashin, as well as Devin De vise, Jo-Ann gross, A. K. Muminov as a new methodological concept in the study of the activities of representatives of traditional Islam in the spiritual and educational sphere in the Western region of Kazakhstan.

The methodological foundations of the study are such principles of scientific knowledge as historicity, objectivity, systematicity, interdisciplinary synthesis, and anthropology. Historical phenomena and events were considered from a dialectical point of view, such methods of scientific research as analysis and synthesis, induction and deduction, general logic and, as well as the method of historical relativity, comparative analysis, typologization, diachronic historical comparison were used in the scientific analysis of data.

Description of the main provisions and results of the research work.

Conclusions related to the study of the spiritual and educational activities of persons of traditional Islam in the western region of Kazakhstan in the middle of the XIX-early XX centuries are:

1. The fact that the Empire of Russia, using the "Spiritual administration of Orenburg Muslims" ("Mahkam-I shariyya Islamiyya") as a means of strengthening the influence of the Muslim clergy on the Kazakh steppe, aimed at achieving its strategic goals has been studied in the context of modern historiography, and it has been found out that this policy was contradictory.

2. The role and activities of the "Spiritual administration of Orenburg Muslims" in the Kazakh society in awarding official religious titles to Muslim clergy within the framework of its law are determined by the materials of regional history.

3. In the course of the study, the features of religious processes and confessional structures in the Bokei Horde were revealed.

4. At the beginning of the XX century, the spread of Muslim jadidism was of great historical importance. The long-established historical ties of the West Kazakhstan region with neighboring Crimea, Caucasus, the Volga-Ural region, and even such remote Islamic centers as Istanbul and Cairo became the basis for the spread of the Muslim Reform movement.

5. The educational activity of well-known intellectuals from the region within the framework of jadidism is considered as a different spiritual phenomenon. Among them, the lives of such people as G. Karash and G. Musagaliyev need to be revised in the context of religious and reformatory processes.

6. The biography and spiritual and intellectual heritage of the educator Gabdolgaziz Musagaliyev should be studied in a factual and theoretical way. In the Thesis, a new approach to the study of the figure's work in the context of Islamic civilization was tested.

7. It is proved that the services of Ishan, Hazrat, and Kalpe in the region are particularly closely related to mosques and madrasas and holy tombs.

8. The activities of such well-known personalities from the region as Doszhan kazhy in the direction of popularizing traditional Islamic values in the Kazakh Steppe were marked by signs of socio-ideological character.

9. A scientific basis has been developed to evaluate such religious figures whose names are legendary as Yerzhan-Ishan, Doszhan-Ishan, Zhumagazy-hazret, Zhumagali Akhun, Bekmukhamet Kalpe, Ayip kazhy as full-fledged subjects of history. It has been justified that in the western regions of Kazakhstan, the Islamic religion had been a very influential and integrative factor.

Justification of the novelty and significance of the results obtained.

The imperial policy implemented in relation to Islam and traditional religions in the Kazakh steppe during the studied period, in particular in its western regions, can be defined as contradictory to a certain extent, that is, it revealed that the mechanisms and principles of the liberal policy of the Empire and the official-confessional policy against Islam were implemented simultaneously. In particular:

1. Through a special and comprehensive study, the religious and spiritual life of Muslims in the region was considered in the context of State-confessional relations in the Empire, and the content of the policy of the Russian Empire through the Orenburg spiritual administration of Muslims was revealed in depth through the introduction into scientific circulation of new archival materials related to western Kazakhstan regions.

2. When clarifying the religious and spiritual processes in the region and the activities of representatives of traditional Islam, their conditional division into official and informal groups was tested.

3. For the first time, valuable information was collected about the peculiarities of religious personnel in the Bokeev horde, their number and directions of activity, mosques, and the most influential groups of Akhun in the inner Horde were studied.

4. Due to the transitional nature of the era, the regularities of the gradual replacement of the traditional religious complex with the religious and reformist complex were studied, and the common values of religious and secular education were determined.

5. The biography and activity of the famous educator, religious figure Gumar Karash was given an expanded historical assessment, considering it from a new perspective, in particular from the point of view of the religious and theological worldview of the individual and his approach to the reform of the school-madrassa, as well as from the point of view of the official activity of Akhun.

6. In the course of a comprehensive analysis of the educational activities of an Orientalist, sharia scholar, and intellectual Gabdolgaziz Musagaliyev, the first steps were taken to study this person, who left the Western Region and became famous throughout Kazakhstan in the context of spirituality and international cultural contacts.

7. The study of the personality of representatives of "people's Islam" in the western regions of Kazakhstan allowed us to clarify the thesis on regional Islam.

8. The educational role of pilgrims was analyzed, the problem of pilgrimage from the western regions of the Kazakh steppe was also studied from the point of view of imperial policy and the "Kazakh point of view".

9. New author's ethnographic materials related to the content of biography, worldview, propaganda of Sharia and Sufism, religious (healing), socio-psychological, pedagogical, socio-political activities of Ishan-khazirs who worked in Kazakh villages were introduced into scientific circulation.

Compliance with the directions of science development or state programs.

The research work fully complies with the provisions of the strategy "Scientific foundations of Mangilik El" (education of the XXI century, fundamental and applied research in the humanities).

In the landmark report of the first president of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev "Seven Facets of the Great Steppe", he recognized the "great names of the Great Steppe" as one of the seven facets of the Great Steppe, studied the people who worked to form the Kazakh statehood and preserve its strength, and brought it to the level of state policy. Among the people who showed the spirituality of the Kazakh state, of course, are the names of religious figures. The value of this research work increases in the analysis of the reasons for the concentration of religious figures in the western region of the Kazakh land, the predominant development of a steppe mosque, a field school-madrassa in the Western Region of the Kazakh land.

Contribution of the PhD student to the preparation of each publication.

The researcher analyzed the results and conclusions obtained by processing information based on archival documents and data on his scientific work, published in domestic and foreign scientific publications in the form of 14 articles. The main conclusions of the research work have been published in 4 publications recommended by the committee for quality assurance in the field of Education and science of the Ministry of education and science of the Republic of Kazakhstan, 2 articles in the Journal included in the International Scopus database, 4 materials and abstracts of the International Symposium scientific conference, 3 materials of the international scientific and theoretical conference and 1 article in a foreign scientific publication.