

Review

on the dissertation of Ms Aibubi Duisebayeva's dissertation, "The animal face of imperial power: Kazakh animal husbandry and tsarist veterinary services, 1868-1917" for the receiving degree of philosophy doctor (Phd) in 8D02206 – History

This document constitutes my professional internal advisor review of the dissertation entitled "The animal face of imperial power: Kazakh animal husbandry and tsarist veterinary services, 1868-1917".

Ms Aibubi Duisebayeva demonstrated the ability and willingness to conduct research since she was an undergraduate and graduate student at al-Farabi Kazakh National University. From 2015-2017, as a member of a research group, she has been engaged on a project of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Aibubi Duisebayeva led a group of student's collected archival documents from the Central State Archive of the Republic of Kazakhstan and The Archive of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan. During this time she gained extensive experience on finding primary sources in Archives and Special Collections.

Turning to the subject matter, I can state that the dissertation takes up an important topic about which nothing has been written in our historiography. Since 1991 the history of colonial period in Kazakhstan has focused entirely on political history issues. At the same time, the imperial project is treated as a purely political project. And if over time there has been a growing recognition of other dimensions in studying of Russian Empire period in Kazakhstan, and accepting more complex assess except suffer and Kazakh people continuous struggle for independence - the fields of environmental history and animal history are still has not been included into colonial subject.

Whereas a growing number of Western scholarly literature on the example of French or English colonies, display other aspects of imperial rule, in particular, the transformation of the landscape, and deep internal structures of the colonized peoples, we are still not aware of any work, until this dissertation, on the colonial context of the environmental history in Kazakhstan. She has studied implementation of imperial veterinary service to the Kazakh Steppe as a coloniality and a qualitative change in internal regimes. Russian Empire sought to legitimize its power by transforming the environment, transforming the territory of the Steppe, demonstrating their mastery over nature. Also she has considered animals as matter to history. Inspired by the interdisciplinary field of human-animal studies, Duisebayeva unpacked the ways in which animals take on diverse roles both in terms of their symbolism and in terms of their material being for the Imperial State and for the Kazakhs. Besides, having carefully read the works of the French philosopher M. Foucault, having studied his constructs of governmentality and biopolitics and biopower, Ms A. Duisebayeva realized that the introduction of imperial veterinary practices into the Kazakh steppe should be considered as part of the colonial project

of Russia, the intervention of the empire in the relationship between man and the natural environment through technocratic methods of animal husbandry. Thus, the relevance of the study is that the latest strategies and approaches of social sciences and humanities are applied to the colonial period in the history of Kazakhstan. Duisebayeva Aybubi presented a new look at the period of colonial rule. She considers the introduction of veterinary practices to the Kazakh steppe not as a civilizational message from Russia - by technocratic methods to ensure the safety of livestock and people, but as a desire to intervene deeply and change the deep structures of Kazakh life. Duisebayeva Aibubi poses and solves the research question as follows: what were the consequences of biopower (M. Foucault) in the creation and change of new forms of life, landscape in the Kazakh steppes? The methodology of M. Foucault allows us to see that the empire set the task of modernizing, establishing control over the nomads and using veterinary practices as a tool. What that means is that this study deepens our understanding of the nature of the imperial state, imperial modernization and the consequences in the subsequent transformation of the Kazakhs life.

A new and significant finding was obtained in this work. The core findings of a study is: in their long-term strategies having solved the problem of fixing the Kazakhs in one place, to make the steppe sedentary, to make population more manageable, more subordinate to state control Russia changed the concept of using the environment through the introduction of imperial veterinary practices. This finding indicates that the veterinary service, along with administrative boundaries, static expeditions, and legislative acts, has become agent of these changes. Although not all branches of the service became widespread, not the entire territory of the Turgai region was covered, not all Kazakhs began to change their lifestyle. The finding has great theoretical value - the impact of colonialism on the relationship between man and the environment. I am still aware of any work, until this dissertation which considers as the important aspect of colonialism changes in the nature of the environment. Relations between human and flocks and herds are placed in different cultural context of Kazakhs nomads and Russian peasants and change in attitudes towards is considered as an indicator of a change in lifestyle and the transformation of nomadism.

This dissertation has high internal validity. The relationship between independent variables - climate, landscape, vegetation, rainfall, the presence of grasslands along the banks of the rivers and elements of the veterinary service as dependent variables: veterinary and sanitary examination, points, epizootic control and vaccinations allow us to see the relationship between the growth of cattle in the herd, growth of sheep breeding marketability, the spread of haymaking, that is, tendencies of transition to the sedentary life style. Thus the conclusion of a causal relationship between two variables makes research findings credible and trustworthy.

I state that the findings of the research arranged in a logical sequence without bias or interpretation. All secondary outcomes of research correspond to the core finding. They are reliable. Large body of Western literature on the problem of the colonial aspect of environmental development, animals as agents of historical

change, and Foucault's conclusions on governmentality and biopower indicate the relevance of research problem in Kazakhstani context.

The comparison between the metropolitan and colonial veterinary service system on the base of wide range of archival sources specify about limited and selective nature of the Kazakh Steppe's veterinary service.

A comparative analysis of folk prevention practices with infectious livestock diseases (non-use of affected pastures and watering places) and technocratic practices with the use of vaccinations identifies that vaccinations was dictated not by concern to increase control of all animal diseases, but mostly for splenic fever/malignant anthrax. This statement indicates the imperial desire to help Russian resettlement farms and livestock entering into the Russian markets. Forced methods used during vaccination reveal the intention to increase statistical control over nomadic population.

The analysis of Kazakh animal breeding practices and governmental efforts to propagate a new breed of horses (suitable for Russian cavalry) and flocks (with high commodity characteristics) showed that Kazakhs during centuries bred those breeds of cattle the most adapted to the environment, and moved four times a year.

Discourse analyses of folklore materials and ethnographic data revealed that for Kazakhs flocks were microcosm, rather than merely a means of subsistence. So the author conclusion about meaning of the degradation of Kazakh sheep breeding as catastrophic event (by reason of the reduction of migration routes for Kazakhs, together with an increase in demand for livestock and livestock products) is persuasive.

Based on the analysis of the composition of the herd, static materials A. Duisebayeva proved that the share of cattle in the herd is growing, which is an indicator of a change in lifestyle.

Summary:

Summarizing above mentioned I am convinced that Ms. Aibubi Duisebayeva has developed the skills necessary to contribute to her field and has, through the process of carrying out this dissertation research and composing her text, established a level of expertise commensurate with the degree she is seeking. Therefore recommend to the Dissertation Council that Ms. Aibubi Duisebayeva advance to the next stage of professional development. This review certifies my approval of her dissertation in fulfillment as internal advisor.

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