

ABSTRACT
of the thesis for the «Doctor of Philosophy» (PhD) degree in the
«6D050200 – Political Science» program
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«Kazakh Ethnicity in the Context of the Formation of the National
Identity of Kazakhstan»

Relevance of the research topic. Since the independence of Kazakhstan, there has been an increase in traditionalism. Revival of cultural memories, traditions and customs used to form traditionalism. Whereby actively spread and included in all spheres of state and social life. These processes are noticeable in different ways, such as restoring the status of the Kazakh language, folk holidays, tribal relations and etc. Therefore, after the independence, the government of the Republic of Kazakhstan had to solve the challenging task of uniting a multiethnic society with the preservation of interethnic equality by taking into account the existing requirements of the title nation. The state noticed the optimal solution in gradually forming a civil nation, that is, promoting Kazakhstani identity. But the national identity of Kazakhstan includes not only socio-political but also ethno-cultural aspects, which are especially significant in multi-ethnic states since the concept of "nation" combines the principles of civil-political and ethno-cultural community. Despite the fact that the formation of national identity in Kazakhstan is based on civic identity, Kazakh ethnicity and culture have a profound influence on this process. In this regard, it is important to comprehensively study and analyze the main features of the political and socio-cultural manifestations of Kazakh ethnicity - the features of the functioning of the political system in the Kazakh steppe, the cultural and historical syncretism of consciousness and the multi-vector nature of its manifestations in socio-political and cultural life, the role of language and resurgent tribal relations, the place of historical memory in the formation of national identity, etc.

So far, there are many studies on the formation of the national identity as well as, investigations of the history and culture of the Kazakh ethnic group. However the amount of scientific works and research dedicated to the influence of Kazakh ethnicity on the formation of national identity is insufficient. Given topic requires a deeper analysis, especially taking into account the actualization of the manifestations of Kazakh ethnicity in national construction. Thus, the chosen research topic is urgent and relevant.

The degree of scientific elaboration of the topic. The issues of national identity have been widely studied by foreign and local researchers. Various foreign schools and directions investigate the problem of ethnic identity. Prominent representatives include the works of J.G. Herder, J.G. Fichte, K. Girtz, B. Anderson, R. Brubaker, P. Bourdieu, E. Gellner, E. Hobsbaum, V. Tishkov, V. Badmaev, E. Smith, D. Bell, G. Wulp, N. Glazer, D. Moynihan and others. Extensive coverage of the problems of the formation of the national identity of Kazakhstan is presented in the works of foreign scientists as B. Dave, M.B. Olcott, E. Schatz, M. Laruelle, V. Firman, D. Leitin, G. Lapidus, S. Payrouse.

As the Republic of Kazakhstan gained independence, the problem of national identity became an urgent issue for many local researchers like A.N. Nyssanbayev, V.Y. Dunaev, V.D. Kurganskaya, R.K. Kadyrzhanov, D.D. Eshpanova, M.S. Shaikemelev, Z.K. Shaukenova, D. Kudaibergenova, D. Sharipova, T.K. Auelgazina, M.Zh. Sengirbay, B.B. Byulegenov, B.B. Abdigali, E.K. Aliyarov, E.B. Asyltayeva, Gali, T.A. Kozyrev, S.S. Musatayev and others.

The works of these authors have been considered the most important among studies about the formation of Kazakhstan's national identity. However, questions of the role and place of Kazakh ethnicity in the formation of modern national identity in Kazakhstan remained the subject of debate. The given thesis focuses on highlighting the issues of the transformation of Kazakh ethnicity from the time of the Kazakh Khanate to the present day and its impact on the formation of the modern national identity of Kazakhstan.

The main hypothesis of the thesis. Over the years of independence, Kazakhstan has gone through several stages of the formation of national identity. The country has adopted various state programs, strategies and concepts that aim to strengthen the national identity and unity of Kazakhstan, with the Kazakh ethnic group remaining the core of the national identity of Kazakhstan. In turn, the historical formation of the Kazakh ethnic group had based on cultural, religious, and ideological syncretism. Accordingly, the optimal form of national identity for modern Kazakhstan should be built as an integrated form and a mobile synthesis of ethnic, civic identity and multiculturalism on tactical and situational grounds.

The object of the research is the Kazakh ethnicity in the context of the Kazakhstani national identity formation. We consider Kazakh ethnicity as a set of unique features of the Kazakh ethnos. Therefore, the object of research covers the period between the nomad century and the creation of the Kazakh Khanate to the present day. The study analyzes not anthropological or cultural studies but the particular influence of Kazakh culture on the formation of national identity peculiarities of the Kazakh ethnos.

The subject of the research is the evolution of the core markers of the Kazakh ethnos, which changed under the influence of global and regional trends. We are interested in the peculiarities of the Kazakh ethnic group, which has a profound impact on the formation of the national identity of Kazakhstan. To do this, we need to analyze the changes and features of the history of the Kazakh ethnic group.

The purpose of the research is to analyze the role of Kazakh ethnicity in the formation of national identity in Kazakhstan. To achieve this goal following **objectives** were set:

- to consider the main theories and approaches applied to the analysis of national identity in the world and Kazakh literature and substantiate theory of identification, which is suitable for Kazakhstan;
- to analyze various concepts and approaches in the study of ethnicity and reveal the main aspects of Kazakh ethnicity;

- to show the western and eastern influence on the development of Kazakh ethnicity and their role in the formation the national identity of Kazakhstan;
- to determine the influence of the genealogical parameters of the Kazakh ethnicity at the present stage;
- to explore the role and status of the Kazakh language in the period of independence and its influence on the formation of a common Kazakh identity;
- to evaluate the transformation of Kazakh ethnicity during the process of modernization of public consciousness.

Theoretical and methodological foundations of the study.

The theoretical bases of the thesis are the works of foreign, regional and local scientists who studied the most important aspects of the formation of ethnic culture and national identity. The historical research method has been used to study the transformation of political and social functions of the Kazakh ethnicity from ancient times to the present day. Sociological methods such as questionnaires and in-depth interviews were also used to determine the features of the ethnic identity of citizens and to study the role of language and intergenerational relations in this process. The documentary analysis method has been used to investigate state program documents in the field of national policy, relevant regulations and articles published in the mass media.

The empirical data. Primary sources has been collected from the data presented in quantitative sociological studies conducted within the framework of the projects of the Institute of Philosophy, Political Science and Religious Studies of the SC MSHE of the RK on program-targeted financing "Formation of Kazakhstani identity in the context of the tasks of modernizing public consciousness". The study conducted between April-July of 2019. The questionnaire survey covered 1,800 people throughout Kazakhstan. Also, within the framework of the qualitative method, two key tools for collecting information were used: focus group discussions with the population of small towns as well as, rural settlements and in-depth interviews with representatives of the expert community.

The data of independent qualitative socio-anthropological study had been collected in several villages of Kazakhstan in 2020 were also analyzed. The surveys were conducted in several villages of the Almaty region named Kassymbek, Koktobe, Yntymak and Masak (now renamed Kaztay Ultarakov). The sample was made among a village population of up to 5,000 people within a radius of 100-150 km from the city of Almaty. In general, 5-7 in-depth interviews were conducted in each village. Respondents were selected by random selection.

Scientific novelty of the research. The following provisions of the conducted research have the quality of scientific novelty:

- the subject relevance of the multi-paradigm approach to the analysis of the phenomenon of national identity, combining essentialist, constructivist and instrumental concepts was substantiated;
- the significance of the category of 'ethnicity' as a feature of an ethnos was revealed, and the main symbols of ethnicity as language and generic relations were analyzed;

- proposed its own classification of the stages of transformation of Kazakh ethnicity under the influence of the Western and Eastern vector on the basis of syncretism and highlighted the results of each stage;
- revealed the importance of tribal relations for the Kazakhs as a tool for the realization of certain interests in the form of quasi-tribalism;
- defined the status and role of the Kazakh language as a unifying factor of Kazakh identity, which requires more time for its implementation;
- proposed a solution in the formation of the national identity of Kazakhstan as an integrated form and a mobile synthesis of ethno-cultural and civil foundations of nation-building.

Theoretical and scientific-practical significance of the investigation.

The theoretical significance of the dissertation is determined by the fact that its conclusions are the basis for the development and solution of topical issues of national policy. Therefore, the results of the study can be used as one of the sources for the formation of a holistic scientific theory of formation, historical genesis and trajectories of further development of the national identity of Kazakhstan. Also, the results of the dissertation are suitable as a scientific source of applied recommendations for government bodies, ministries and departments of the Republic of Kazakhstan involved in the formation and implementation of national policy.

The main provisions submitted for the thesis defense:

1. In Kazakh society, when determining identification strategies for the manifestation of Kazakh ethnicity, public opinion can be divided into two groups – primordialists and constructivists. Accordingly, in the analysis of ethnic cultural aspects of Kazakh ethnicity, the primordialist approach is more preferable, and in the analysis of civil identifications, and in the analysis of civil identifications – constructivist. Thus, an integrated approach in the analysis of Kazakh ethnicity and Kazakh identity should be situational in nature, giving preference to one or another approach depending on the actualization of the studied aspects of the subject.

2. Genealogical factors of Kazakh ethnicity have always played an important role in the history of the Kazakhs. Despite the prohibitions of the Soviet period, the knowledge of shezhire was the most important ethno-cultural marker for every Kazakh. After the independence of the country, the interest in shezhire transformed the role of the genealogical factor in the politics and everyday life of the Kazakhs. Studies conducted among Kazakh villages have shown that the revival of the shezhire tradition in mono-national Kazakh communities, including personnel, has practically no impact on politics being just a tool that, along with others, is used to establish more trusting and loyal relationships, using them in their private interests.

3. The role of the Kazakh language in the life of the state and society is an urgent and most vulnerable topic for the Kazakh community. When the country gained its independence, many Kazakhs, especially those living in the North of Kazakhstan and in large cities, did not use their native ethnic language as a full-fledged tool for life communications. And to date, the Kazakh language, despite the success of the state in its introduction into the information space of the country, has not yet taken its proper place and status in Kazakhstani society. At the same

time, it is important to understand that the sense of identity is based on the protection of those ethnic aspects that are most often problematic or vulnerable. But as world experience shows, in such bi- and multilingual countries as Algeria, Wales, India and many others, the process of restoring the native language is a very long and painful process. Therefore, the language policy and measures taken to improve the status of the Kazakh language in society should take into account this important point.

4. At different stages in the history of the Kazakhs, the influence of the European and Asian vector has changed: strengthening followed by weakening. Such changes have left a strong mark on the historical development of the Kazakh people, making multi-vectorism and adaptability unique features of the Kazakh ethnicity. Today, cultural pluralism in our country is a natural continuation of the cultural freedom of the Kazakh ethnic group itself. Kazakh ethnicity is heterogeneous and consists of different cultures, views and values. Thus, Kazakh ethnicity is multicultural. These qualities will help modernize the Kazakh ethnicity and make it more attractive to other Kazakh ethnic groups in order to create a unifying ideology of national identity. It is important to understand that national identity is not a static phenomenon, but a dynamic one changing under the influence of time and epoch. For Kazakhstan, in the issue of national identity, it is important to find a balance between ethnic and civic identity and multiculturalism and skillfully maneuver between them.

Approbation of the thesis. The dissertation was discussed at the Academic Council of the Institute of Philosophy, Political Science and Religious Studies of the Science Committee of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and at the scientific meeting of scientists of the Department of Political Science and Political Technologies of the Faculty of Philosophy and Political Science of Kazakh National University named after Al-Farabi.

The main results and conclusions obtained during the study were published in 5 scientific journals approved by the CQASES of the MES of the RK, in Russian, Kazakh and English. In addition, 6 publications were tested at international and domestic scientific conferences and round tables. The article “Tribalism in Kazakhstan: tradition reborn or social instrument” was published in the journal “Central Asia and Caucasus”, which is included in the Scopus database with the 40th percentile in 2020.