

POPULATION OF RURAL AREAS OF THE UZBEK PART OF THE FERGHANA VALLEY (late XIX - early XX centuries)

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Abstract

The article analyzes the dynamics of the ethnic composition of the population in rural areas of the Fergana Valley during the years of Czarist Russia and Soviet totalitarianism based on historical sources, archival documents and census results. It is based on the population census materials and oral history records that were carried out during Tsarist Russia and Soviet totalitarianism, namely in 1897, 1920, 1926, 1937, 1939, 1959, 1970, 1979 and 1989. In particular, the article analyzes the settlement of Europeans: Crimean Tatars, Russians, Germans, Koreans and others in the valley regions together with the local population such as Uzbeks, Tajiks, Kyrgyz, Kazakhs, Karakalpaks, Uighurs, and their dynamics.

Key words and phrases: *Ferghana Valley, ethnic composition of the population, dynamics of ethnic composition, Tsarist Russia, Soviet period, Uzbeks, Tajiks, Kyrgyz, Kazakhs, Karakalpaks, Uighurs, Europeans.*

The main problematic moment in the history of any multi-ethnic region is the study of the ethnostructure of the population, while studying the ethnostructure not in statics, but in dynamics. Based on the population censuses conducted in 1897, 1920, 1926, 1937, 1939, 1959, 1970, 1979 and 1989, detailed statistical data were obtained and the demographic, migration and ethnic processes of the rural population of the Ferghana Valley were studied.

The work separately traces the changes in the ethnic composition of the population in rural areas, in order to further compare the results of these studies with the changes that took place in the city.

The ethnostructure of the rural population of the valley changed primarily under the influence of endogenous, but in some periods exogenous factors.

Throughout the period under review, the Uzbeks constituted the overwhelming majority of the rural population of the study region, and in most periods their share in this population gradually increased.

The study of the ethnostructure of the population has been and remains the main problematic moment in the history of any multi-ethnic region. At the same time, it is necessary to study the ethnostructure not in statics, but in dynamics, since it is constantly changing under the influence of demographic, migration and ethnic processes. The role of each of the listed types of processes in the dynamics of the ethnostructure of one or another mass of the population is different, since they change over time and sometimes lead to the fact that the ethnic composition of the population changes beyond recognition. Naturally, regions whose populations are distinguished by great ethnic heterogeneity deserve special attention. These regions include the Uzbek part of the Ferghana Valley, which, since ancient times, has constituted a single historical and cultural region, and it is advisable to consider this region as a whole.

The aim of the work is to identify the most important patterns of change in the ethnostructure of the population of the Uzbek part of the Ferghana Valley in temporal and territorial aspects. Since the dynamics of the ethnostructure in the city and the countryside should differ significantly, because of which we tried to trace the changes in the ethnic composition of the population in rural areas separately.

The main sources of research were the population censuses conducted in Tsarist Russia, both before the revolution and after it. The first general census on the territory of Russia was carried out in 1897. Despite some shortcomings, the information obtained during the census was, in most cases, quite reliable [1].

In Soviet times, eight population censuses were conducted: in 1920, 1926, 1937, 1939, 1959, 1970, 1979 and 1989.

The first general census compiled under Soviet rule was the census conducted as of December 17, 1926. The preliminary results of the census were published in 1927–1933 published the full results in 56 volumes [3]. In addition, archival materials contain information about the national composition of the population by districts, cities, regional centers and large rural settlements [4].

Detailed materials from the 1970 census are available from the statistical departments of the Fergana, Andijan and Namangan regions, as well as from the grouping list compiled by the Central Statistical Bureau of the USSR. There, the national composition of the population is determined for all cities, urban-type settlements (rural areas), as well as for individual villages and village councils.

Thus, the totality of the listed census materials makes it possible to draw up sufficiently detailed ideas about the dynamics of the ethnostructure of both the urban and rural population of the valley over an 80-year period. True, it must be borne in mind that when determining the change in the ethnic composition of the population, for 1897-1926, the starting point should be to use data not on the ethnic, but on the linguistic composition of the population, which, of course, is not the same thing. However, given the fact that the ethnic and linguistic structure of the population in the Ferghana Valley are in a fairly close correlation, the use of language data instead of nationality data is acceptable with certain reservations.

It causes much greater difficulties in comparing the data of 1887 and 1926. the circumstance that the borders between the administrative divisions of the Fergana Valley underwent strong changes during this period, and the census data on individual rural settlements in the archives, as already mentioned, was not preserved.

In addition to census materials, we also used other statistical data published by the Ferghana Regional Statistical Committee in the late XIX –early XX century [5].

An important source that made it possible in many cases to clarify the data of the latest censuses, as well as to explain the reason for the sharp change in the number of some ethnic groups, were conversations with informants. These conversations were especially helpful in studying the population dynamics of Crimean Tatars, Turks, Azerbaijanis, Koreans, Germans, and others.

Finally, another group of sources was the data available in the regional registry offices on the registration of interethnic marriages. They were needed due to the fact that mixed marriages, reflecting the ongoing assimilation processes, make it possible to find out the reasons for the change in the number of some ethnic groups living in the Ferghana Valley. Records on the registration of interethnic marriages in the cities of Fergana, Margilan, Kokand and Kuvasai of the Fergana region, Andijan, Leninsk, Shakhrikhan and Sovetabad of the Andijan region, Namangan, Uchkurgan, Kasansay, Chust and Pap of the Namangan region, as well as in a number of rural settlements of the Fergana region of the Fergana region, the Jalalkuduk region of the Andijan region and the across the river region of the Namangan region.

As already mentioned, there are no monographic studies of the dynamics of the ethnostructure of the population of the Fergana Valley yet. Although there are a number of books and articles in which, in one way or another, issues related to the ethnic composition of the population of the Fergana region were considered. Of these, we will dwell in detail on those works where significant attention has been removed to subjects of interest to us.

Thus, the article by Ya.R. Vinnikov, published in 1959 [6], is devoted to the ethnography of the Ferghana Valley. In addition to this monograph, Ya.R. Vinnikov made several more reports, where the main emphasis is on changes in ethnogeography. In these works, no attention is paid to the dynamics of the ethnostructure of the population of the Ferghana Valley [7].

In another report, Ya.R. Vinnikova, read at the All-Union Interuniversity Scientific Conference on the Problems of the Population of Central Asia, highlighted the changes in the size and distribution of the population of Central Asia over the period from 1926 to 1970 [8].

Important generalizations based on the materials of the 1926 census relating to Central Asia are contained in the map compiled by B.V. Andrianov of the peoples of Central Asia and Kazakhstan, as well as in the accompanying text [9].

The ethnostructure of the population and the ethnic geography of the Uzbek part of the Ferghana Valley were the subject of Sh.I. Inagamov's Ph.D. In this work, the main emphasis is placed on the dynamics of the ethnostructure, it traces the trends in the change in the ethnic composition of the population of the Ferghana Valley over an 80-year period.

What are the main findings of this study? Studying all sources – statistical data and literature on the dynamics of the ethnostructure of the rural population of the Ferghana Valley, the following main conclusions can be drawn:

1. The ethnostructure of the rural population of the valley, like the ethnostructure of the population of most other rural areas of the country, changed primarily under the influence of endogenous factors (local ethnic and demographic processes). At the same time, exogenous factors (migrations from other regions) in certain periods also played a certain role in the dynamics of the ethnic composition.

2. During the period under review (from 1897 to 1979), Uzbeks constituted the vast majority of the rural population of the study region, and in most periods their share in this population gradually increased. If in 1897 the proportion of Uzbeks in rural areas, according to rough estimates, slightly exceeded 70%, then in 1926 it increased to 83.5%, in 1939 it amounted to 80.0%, in 1959 – 83.4%, in 1970 – 90.0%. The increase in the share of Uzbeks in the rural population was mainly due to the processes of ethnic unification taking place here: the merger with the Uzbeks of some small Turkic-speaking groups and the assimilation by the Uzbeks of certain representatives of peoples close to the Uzbeks in culture or language: Tajiks, Kirghiz, Uighurs, Karakalpaks, Kazakhs, in to a lesser extent – Tatars (Volga region).

3. The share of Tajiks in rural areas of the region in the first quarter of the 20th century. significantly decreased, which was apparently due to the assimilation of part of the Tajik population with the Uzbeks (in part, this reduction is also explained by the incomplete correspondence of administrative borders in 1897 and 1926). Subsequently, with the strengthening of the ethnic self-consciousness of the Tajiks, due, in particular, to the creation

of their own republic as a result of the national demarcation (at first, autonomous as part of the Uzbek SSR, and then a union), the assimilation of Tajiks by Uzbeks slowed down. So, in 1897 Tajiks made up 8.4% of the rural population of the region, in 1926 – 4.7%, in 1939 – 5.4%, in 1959 – 4.4%, in 1970 – 4.4%, in 1979 – 4.2%.

4. The share of the Kyrgyz in the rural population of the region has been declining throughout the study period. Unfortunately, it is impossible to take the data of the 1897 census for the Kyrgyz to track the dynamics, since they are incomparable with later censuses and materials (the administrative borders of the former Fergana region, even without the Osh district, do not quite correspond, especially in the north and east, to the current borders of the Uzbek part Ferghana Valley). Therefore, we have to confine ourselves to comparing data starting from the 1926 census. In 1926, the proportion of the Kyrgyz in the rural population of the Uzbek part of the Fergana Valley was 5.2%, in 1939 – 4.9%, in 1959 – 4.6 %, in 1970 – 3.6% and in 1979 – 3.3%. The steady decline in the share of the Kirghiz was mainly due to the assimilation of some of them with the Uzbeks.

5. The number of Tatars, being very small (only a few hundred people according to the 1897 and 1926 censuses), by 1939 greatly increased (there were already 18 thousand people and they accounted for 1.1% of the entire rural population). In 1944 Crimean Tatars were resettled in the valley. In the 1959 census they were combined with the Tatars proper and the total number of both peoples reached 39 thousand (2.3% of the total rural population of the region). In the future, Tatars (Volga and Crimean) in the villages became less and less, primarily due to their resettlement in cities and departure from Uzbekistan (in 1970 they already accounted for only 1.3% of all rural residents and in 1979 0, 7%).

6. The 1897 census singled out a special collective group of "Turkic-Tatars", which mainly united a number of small Turkic-speaking ethnic communities close to the Uzbeks. In an area roughly corresponding to the Uzbek part of the Fergana Valley, this group was very significant and, according to the first census, made up 8.4% of the entire rural population. After the 20s of the twentieth century, ethnic communities, united under the name "Turkic-Tatars", gradually merged into the Uzbek ethnos.

7. The dynamics of the absolute and relative number of Uighurs had a peculiar character. If between the censuses of 1897 and 1926. the share of Uyghurs in the rural population of the region increased greatly (from 1.2% to 2.8), which was associated with the consolidation of the Uyghur people and the strengthening of their ethnic identity, then the share of this ethnic group began to decline, at first quite slowly, and then very quickly (in 1939 2.7%, in 1959 0.7%, in 1970 0.4% and in 1979 0.3%), which was due to the intensive assimilation of its closely related Uzbek nation.

8. Very quickly in recent decades, the Karakalpaks assimilated with the Uzbeks. The trend of their ethnic development resembled that of the Uighurs. In the first years after 1917, due to the growth of the ethnic identity of the Karakalpaks, their share in the rural population of the Ferghana Valley increased slightly (from 1.0% in 1897 to 1.7% in 1926). Then, as a result of assimilation with the Uzbeks, the Karakalpaks became less and less. In 1939 they already made up only 1.1% of the rural population, in 1959 0.3%, in 1970 0.03%, and in 1979, judging by the census, they almost disappeared.

9. Completely (or almost completely) assimilated with the Uzbeks and Kazakhs, first recorded in the 1959 census, but in 1979 were no longer recorded.

10. In 1944, a group of Turks (0.3% of the rural population in 1970) was resettled from Transcaucasia to the Uzbek part of the Ferghana Valley.

11. In the 60s, representatives of another Turkic people appeared in the Uzbek part of the Ferghana Valley – Azerbaijanis, who arrived in connection with the rapid development of oil production in this area. However, the number of this ethnic group is very small (in 1979 – 0.1% of the rural population). Due to the confusion in the entries in the passport column about nationality, it is now impossible to accurately determine the number of Azerbaijanis and Turks.

12. The number of Russians at the end of the XIX century. was very small in rural areas (several hundred people). In the first decades of the twentieth century it began to grow gradually, however, by 1926 it reached only 4 thousand people. The migrations of the pre-war period led to the fact that during the 1939 census there were already 48 thousand Russians in the rural areas of the Uzbek part of the Ferghana Valley (3.0% of the population). The return of Russians to their native places, as well as resettlement in the cities of the valley, led to the fact that their share in the rural population subsequently dropped sharply (to 1.9% in 1959, 0.8% in 1970 and 0.3% in 1979).

13. Approximately the same character was observed in the dynamics of the number of Ukrainians who moved with the Russians, with the only difference that this number was always several times smaller than the number of Russians (in 1979 Ukrainians made up only 0.03% of the total rural population).

14. Another more or less noticeable group in the rural population of the Ferghana Valley are Koreans who arrived here in the 1920s and 1930s from the Far East. In 1939 there were 7 thousand of them (0.4% of the population). However, in the 60s and 70s, in connection with the resettlement to the cities of Central Asia, and partly to the Far East, the absolute and relative number of Koreans began to decrease rapidly (if in 1959 they accounted for 0.4% of the total rural population Uzbek part of the Fergana Valley, then in 1970 – 0.1% and in 1979 – 0.05%).

15. The remaining ethnic groups in the villages of the Ferghana Valley are numerically very insignificant (these are Greeks, Armenians, Jews, Mordovians, Germans, etc.).

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