

A GENERAL EVALUATION ON MIGRATION MOVEMENTS IN KAZAKHSTAN FROM THE PAST TO THE PRESENT

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ABSTRACT

Kazakhstan, which has experienced many migrations throughout its history, has witnessed various migrations on different dates in order to increase agricultural production during both the Tsarist Russia and the USSR periods. There have been significant migrations in Kazakhstan since the collapse of the USSR. Today's migrations are no longer a result of major economic policies, but a result of individuals' personal choices. Every year, more and more well-educated young people leave Kazakhstan for a better future. This situation has negative consequences for the country. On the other hand, many immigrants migrate to the country to live in Kazakhstan. The number of immigrants in the country has reached 20% of the country's population.

The main purpose of this study is to analyze the migrations experienced in Kazakhstan throughout the historical process and especially today, their causes and consequences, with the help of data from international organizations such as IOM and UNHCR, and in this context, to propose solutions to the problems experienced.

Key words: Migration, Migration Policies, Kazakhstan, Russian-Ukrainian War, USSR

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Қазақстандағы көші-қон қозғалыстарын өткеннен бүгінге дейін жалпы бағалау

Аңдатпа. Өз тарихында көптеген көші-қондарды бастан өткерген Қазақстан патшалық Ресей кезеңінде де, КСРО кезеңінде де ауыл шаруашылығы өндірісін ұлғайту мақсатында әртүрлі күндерде әртүрлі көші-қондардың куәсі болды. КСРО ыдырағаннан кейін Қазақстанда халықтың едәуір көші-қоны орын алды. Бүгінгі көші-қон - ауқымды экономикалық саясаттың нәтижесі емес, жеке адамдардың жеке таңдауының нәтижесі. Жыл сайын Қазақстаннан жоғары білімді жастар жақсы болашақ іздеп шекара асып кетеді. Бұл жағдай ел үшін жағымсыз салдарға әкеледі. Екінші жағынан, көптеген иммигранттар Қазақстанда тұру үшін елге қоныс аударады. Елдегі иммигранттар саны ел халқының 20% - на жетті.

Бұл зерттеудің негізгі мақсаты - ХҚҰ және БҰҰ БЖКБ сияқты халықаралық ұйымдардың деректерінің көмегімен Қазақстанның бүкіл тарихи үдеріс барысында және әсіресе бүгінгі күні орын алған көші-қонды, олардың себептері мен салдарын талдау және осы тұрғыда туындаған проблемаларды шешуді ұсыну.

Түйін сөздер: көші-қон, көші-қон саясаты, Қазақстан, Ресей-Украина соғысы, КСРО.

Общая оценка миграционных движений в Казахстане от прошлого до настоящего

Аннотация. Казахстан, который на протяжении своей истории пережил множество миграций, в разные дни был свидетелем различных миграций с целью увеличения сельскохозяйственного производства как в периоды Царской России, так и в период СССР. После распада СССР в Казахстане наблюдались значительные миграции. Сегодняшняя миграция больше не является результатом масштабной экономической политики, а является результатом личного выбора людей. С каждым годом все больше образованных молодых людей покидают Казахстан ради лучшего будущего. Эта ситуация имеет негативные последствия для страны. С другой стороны, многие иммигранты мигрируют в страну, чтобы жить в Казахстане. Число иммигрантов в стране достигло 20% населения страны.

Основная цель данного исследования – проанализировать миграцию, имевшую место в Казахстане на протяжении исторического процесса и особенно сегодня, ее причины и последствия, с помощью данных международных организаций, таких как МОМ и УВКБ ООН, и в этом контексте предложить решения для возникшие проблемы.

Ключевые слова: миграция, миграционная политика, казахстан, русско-украинская война, СССР.

Introduction

In its shortest form, migration can be defined as “moving from the original place to the desired place”. Migration is as old as human history, and today its scope is increasing at a dizzying pace. The main reason for migrations, which are expected to continue in the future, has been seen as economic throughout history, and migrations based on economic, political and cultural reasons are referred to as main migrations. These main migrations caused the formation of a migration chain that continued endlessly for centuries [1, p. 71-79].

Migration is nothing but the search for a better life. People are migrating en masse to better, safer, more secure and more peaceful places. Behind the phenomenon of migration lie deeper and often interrelated political, economic, ethnic and cultural patterns. Reasons such as poverty, natural disasters, famine, war, political turmoil, terrorism, conflict between communities, and human rights violations caused by state regimes create regular immigrant influxes and constantly increase the immigrant population [2, p. 3-6].

The countries most and fastest affected by migrations are undoubtedly those that share a common border. While some countries are transit countries until a decision is made for these large immigrant groups that set off suddenly and unplanned, they are destination countries for some immigrant groups. Border countries are often seen as the first stop for immigrant groups who cannot make a sound future benefit-cost analysis in sudden war and crisis environments. Immigrants who cannot find direct transportation to reach the target country depending on their geographical location or who do not prefer to do so because it is considered too costly or dangerous may be directed to border countries. The closest example of this is the population mobility created in Kazakhstan, which has the largest border with Russia, due to the wave of migration from both Russia and Ukraine to other countries due

to the ongoing Russian-Ukrainian War. In the “2022 Report on Global Trends on Forced Displacement” published annually by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHRC), it is stated that by the end of 2022, the number of people displaced due to war, persecution and human rights violations has shown the largest increase ever. The report revealed that the number of displaced people reached 108.4 million, an increase of 19.1 million compared to the previous year. The Russia-Ukraine War, which constitutes the most important driving force in this displacement, is the source of 5.7 million refugee population as of the end of 2021. These data represent the fastest outflow of refugees from their countries abroad since the World War [3].

With Russia launching a special military operation in the Donbas region of Ukraine on February 22, 2022, political tension, tension and chaos increased in the region. Displaced refugees, numbering millions, prefer to immigrate to these countries thanks to the welcoming attitudes of European countries and facilitating policies such as the rapid approval of temporary protection status. Although most well-educated and qualified immigrants aim to go to European countries, immigration to Central Asian countries, especially Kazakhstan, has also increased significantly. In particular, it can be said that a significant portion of immigrants from the middle or lower middle class are heading to Central Asian countries [4].

This study aims to reveal the mass migration movements from past to present and the current situation to Kazakhstan, which has witnessed migration movements throughout history, both during the Tsarist Russia period and the USSR period, with the help of data from national and international organizations such as IOM and UNHCR.

The study also points out that as a result of mass migration movements from past to present, the proportion of different ethnic groups, especially Russians, other than the Kazakhs, who are the main ethnic element in the country, in the total population is

gradually decreasing. Therefore, another aim of the study is to reveal how the population balance in Kazakhstan has changed over the historical process. In this context, presenting data on population movements in the Republic of Kazakhstan during the Tsarist Russia period, the USSR period and from the dissolution of the USSR in 1991 to the present day will also help to understand the situation arising from the latest migration movements.

Migration and Population Movements in Kazakh Lands during the Tsarist Russia Period

Kazakhs, who are the rulers of the wide steppes extending from the Volga valley to the Altai Mountains, mixed with the Turkish tribes who lived in these lands before them and continued their existence in this region for a long time. Apart from the Turkish tribes, the remains of the Mongolian and Siberian tribes that lived in these steppes also accepted the Kazakh culture over time and became a part of today's Kazakh people [5, p. 17]. The people living in the Kazakh steppes were governed by a three-centered administrative system (right, left and center) as the Big Horde (Ulu Cüz), Orta Orda (Orta Jüz) and Little Horde (Kışı Jüz), depending on their lifestyle and the region they lived in. The implementation of such an administrative system emerged from the central administrative need of the Kazakhs who lived a nomadic life and the necessity of establishing a state [6, p. 28]. Although administrators such as Burunduk Khan (1480-1511), Kasım Khan, Tahir Khan (1523-1533) and Kasım Khan's son Hakk Nazar (1538-1581) struggled to establish a central administration in the Kazakh lands divided into three branches, due to the conflicts that arose, the people unity could not be achieved. Then, as a result of the Mongolian tribes uniting with the Kalmyk tribes occupying the Kazakh lands, great losses were experienced due to loss of property and life. The Kazakhs, who were almost in danger of extinction due to the attacks of the Mongols, Kalmuks and Jungars, asked for help from the Russians, and this request for help determined the fate of the Kazakh people. They came under Russian control after Ebu'l - Hayr Khan, the head of Küçük

Jüz, asked for help from the Russians against these invasions [5, p. 19-23].

After the Russians dominated the Volga-Ural region in the mid-sixteenth century, they turned their attention to the Central Asian region and pursued an expansionist policy. The desire to control the commercial routes in the region, to protect the southern borders, and to prevent other imperialist powers, especially England, from becoming hegemon in the region formed the basis of Tsarist Russia's policy towards the region. In the 17th century, the Russians launched small military expeditions and completely captured the region in the second half of the 19th century [7, p. 9].

Russia's request to build a military fortress at the closest point of the Or and Ural rivers so that it could help the Kazakh people was an indication of Russia's desire to establish permanent domination over the Kazakh lands. Orenburg Castle, built in the most dominant place in the Kazakh lands, played an important and central role in the Russians' strategy of advancing step by step and with strong castles [8]. Thus, Russia controlled the region and ensured the security of the trade routes between China and India [5, p. 89-102].

Kazakhs, who were invaded by Jungar tribes of Mongolian origin before the 17th century, later came under Russian control. During this period, most of the tribes that had settled down had to continue their nomadic life again. Today, this period is called "the years of great disaster" by the Kazakhs. Kazakh Khanates, who asked for help from Russia after the tribal attacks, came under Russian rule over time. In 1731, the Small Horde (Western Kazakhstan), in 1740, the Middle Horde (North and East Kazakhstan), and in 1742, the Great Horde (South of Kazakhstan) signed an agreement with Russia and accepted the rule of the Tsar. The autonomy granted to the khanates with this agreement remained on paper, and the Khanate powers were ended in 1822 [9, p. 24-25].

Tsarist Russia first built castles in strategic regions, and then Russians and different ethnic groups were settled in the established farms. Kazakhs, who encountered an economic structure completely opposite to the socioeconomic structure of the Kazakh nomads, experienced major

economic problems. As a result of this policy, the nomadic Kazakhs' movement areas were limited by the conversion of large pastures into agricultural areas, and their livelihoods were taken away and they were forced to migrate to the lands shown to them. With the implementation of these policies, the rebellions against the Russian administration caused a large migration movement and many Kazakhs had to migrate to China [10, p. 52].

When the lands of Kazakhstan began to be governed by Russia, Russian immigrants and Cossacks were settled in the fertile Kazakh lands. Russians' settlement in the fertile lands in the northern and eastern regions of Kazakhstan continued until the First World War. The policy of Tsarist Russia to migrate the population from the central and western regions of the country to rural areas started in the 1870's, and by the end of the 1870's it turned into a mass migration movement. Although the settlement of Russian peasants exiled in their country to Kazakhstan in 1879 was initially welcomed by the Kazakh people, the Kazakh people later became a minority over time [11, p. 38-43].

At the end of the 18th century and the beginning of the 19th century, a total of 1 million 177 thousand people lived in the western region of Kazakhstan, of which 1 million 17 thousand were Kazakhs and 124 thousand were Russians, 159 thousand of whom were foreign nationals. Also during this period, 492.7 thousand people, 4.8 thousand of whom were Russians, lived in the eastern region of Kazakhstan. When we examine the Russian population influx, which was settled in Kazakhstan and Central Asia under state tutelage in the 19th and early 20th centuries, according to periods, the 18th and mid-19th centuries are the period when migration progressed slowly; in the second half of the 19th century, Russian immigration influx increased in the region; the beginning of the 20th century is known as the period when Russian immigration was extremely intense and the Russian population increased to the Kazakh steppes [12].

With the "Farmers' Settlement Regulation in Yedisu" prepared and approved by Yedisu governor G. Kolpakovskiy in 1868, it was envisaged that each person would be given 32.7 hectares

of land, Russian farmers would be exempt from taxes and a loan would be given for 15 years to support agricultural work. Thereupon, the number of immigrants settling in Yedisu province increased rapidly and the land began to become insufficient. Thus, in 1885, the "Provincial Residents' Settlement Regulation" was approved and the privileges provided to immigrants were reduced. Additionally, on July 13, 1889, the Russian government prepared a new regulation on immigrant settlement. Russian farmers were required to obtain permission from local authorities before migrating to Kazakh lands. Yedisu, Akmola and Semey provinces were allocated to immigrants, and Russian farmers were settled in Ural and Turgay provinces a year after the regulation was adopted. Yedisu province was the province of most interest to Russian farmers because of its fertile lands. Between 1868 and 1880, 3,324 Russian immigrants were settled in these lands. As a result of these policies implemented, the proportion of Kazakhs in the total population in Kazakhstan decreased to 67.7% in 1897 [13, p. 135].

The migration of 1.5 million people with very different ethnic structures to Kazakhstan between 1870 and 1914, together with the peasant migrations that spread throughout the country, significantly changed the demographic structure of the region. Ethnic groups such as Russians, Ukrainians, Tatars, Germans, Poles and Estonians were settled in vacant lands deemed appropriate by the government [14, p. 25-26].

Immigration and Population Mobility in Kazakhstan during the USSR Period

During the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) period, between 1921 and 1925, measures were taken by the communist administrators to improve the economic situation of the people, and the economic initiatives taken to improve the economic life of the Kazakh Turks began to show their positive effects. It was decided to re-operate the agricultural lands as before, and Kazakh Turks were given many opportunities to improve animal husbandry. In the face of the USSR's efforts

to gather all different cultural and ethnic groups under one roof and create a 'Soviet people' in line with the Soviet ideology, the Kazakh tribal administrators took initiatives that the Soviet regime did not like, and it was decided that the lands and economy of Kazakhstan would be kept under full control by the Soviets [5, p. 162; 12, p. 17].

In 1927, there was a major grain crisis in the USSR, and in order to overcome this crisis, it was decided to establish collective farms. The Soviet administration aimed to increase productivity in agriculture by combining peasant farms with cooperative farms and transforming small and inefficient individual farms into large public farms [16, p. 111-113]. The mass unification of many villages into collective farms, initiated by Stalin in 1929, was seen as a major economic revolution in the USSR economy. The Communist Party of Kazakhstan held a meeting on November 6, 1929, where issues related to the settlement of the Kazakhs were discussed, and at this meeting it was decided that 12% of the nomadic Kazakh tribes would be settled and become kolkhozes. For the Soviet administration, nomadic life was described as wild, ignorance and cultural backwardness [17, p. 70].

The collectivization policy implemented by the Soviet Union in Kazakhstan between 1928 and 1930 was carried out quickly and with top-down policies. The Kazakh people, who were nomadic and semi-nomadic, were transformed into a settled agricultural society overnight and the decision to "Struggle Against Wealthy Farmers and Rich People" was taken. Among the wealthy farmers, those who did not comply with Soviet conditions and did not surrender their animals to the state were called Kulaks and their properties were forcibly confiscated. Tens of thousands of Kazakhs from tribes that opposed this situation migrated to China. In the 1930s, 1.5 million people, equivalent to one-third of the Kazakh population, lost their lives in this difficult period. According to the census conducted in 1926, the number of Kazakhs: 3,627,612; the number of Russians was: 2,164,582. According to the census held in 1939, the number of Kazakhs was: 2,833,000; the number of Russians was: 2,877,000. While there was a 33% decrease in the Kazakh population within the country between 1926

and 1939, an increase was observed in the Russian population [5, p. 165]. Russians and Ukrainians exiled from other Soviet Republics and Ukraine in the 1930s were mostly settled in Kazakhstan. Russian, German and Belarusian farmers were placed in the farms established in the first decade of the Soviet period, and the famine resulting from the kolkhozization policy and the migration of many Kazakh people caused the Kazakh population to decrease between these dates [9, p. 30-31; 18, p. 59].

During the Second World War, the USSR placed prisoners of war in the west of the Ural, in Siberia and in the steppes of Kazakhstan [19, p. 92]. The USSR administration forced different ethnic groups such as Germans, Kulaks, Chechen-Ingush, Tatars-Bulgarians, Crimean Greeks to migrate to regions such as Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, especially Kazakhstan, on the grounds that they cooperated with the enemy during the Second World War [20, p. 171].

The Virgin Lands project, implemented by the Soviet Union in the 1950s, envisaged opening 25 million hectares of pasture land to agricultural cultivation. The workforce, machinery and tools needed for this project, which was managed from Moscow, were provided. The opening of very large lands to agriculture led to the migration of many Russian and Slavic immigrants to these lands. For this purpose, 600,000 immigrants were settled in Kazakhstan from the European part of the Soviet Union by the end of 1954 [21, p. 412].

Migration Movements in Kazakhstan in the Post-USSR Period

After the collapse of the USSR, countries that quickly transitioned from a planned economy to a market economy could not find experts to work in their branches of industry, which put their economies into depression. Due to the economic crises experienced during this transition period, many people migrated to countries such as Russia, Turkey and Germany. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Central Asian countries, whose borders were drawn, initiated a migration flow towards Russia due to prominent political issues and ethnic conflicts between 1991 and 1995. Between 1996 and 1999, political factors

gave way to economic factors. An economic organization model based on the principle of complementarity created by the Soviet system disrupted the coordination between countries during the disintegration process and caused an increase in economic problems [21, p. 325]. After the transition to the market mechanism of these countries, major problems were encountered in the labor market, and the contraction in employment caused the start of labor migration [22, p. 195-196].

If the rights of Russians living as a minority in the Central Asian states are not protected, these people begin to migrate to Russia, which has become a

cause for concern for Russia. Because, during the transition to a liberal economy, unemployment rates increased significantly. Russia, which had difficulties even in solving the home and shelter problems of the 30 thousand soldiers withdrawn from the former East Germany, tried to keep the Russians in Central Asia in the countries where they were located, considering the possibility of experiencing the same problems if the 10 million Russians living in Central Asia returned to their homeland [23, p. 59].

In the table below, it is possible to see how the ethnic structure of Kazakhstan changed between 1959 and 2015.

Table 1 - Ethnic groups living in Kazakhstan [24, p. 31]

Year	Kazakhs %	Russians %	Uzbeks %	Others
1959	30.0	42,6	1.4	26,0
1970	32.3	42,4	1.4	23,9
1979	36.0	40,8	1.7	21,5
1989	39.6	37,8	2.0	20,6
1999	53.4	29,9	2.4	14,3
2009	63.0	23,7	2.8	10,5
2015	66.0	21.0	3.0	10,0

As can be seen in Table 1, in 1959, Russians constituted the first ethnic group in Kazakhstan with a rate of 42.6%, while Kazakhs constituted the second largest ethnic group with a rate of 30.0%. While this situation did not change during the Cold War, with the dissolution of the USSR and the end of the Cold War, the Kazakh population became the first ethnic group of the country. While Kazakhs reached a rate of 39.6% in 1989, Russians fell to second place with a rate of 37.8%. The immigration of Russians from the country continued, and the Russian population decreased to 29.9% in 1999, to 23.7% in 2009, and to 21% in 2015. While the Kazakh population was 39.6% in 1989, it reached 53.4% in 1999, 63% in 2009 and 66% in 2015. The rate of other ethnic groups in the country has also decreased constantly, just like the Russians. Other ethnic groups, which constituted 26% of the population of Kazakhstan in 1959, constitute only 10% of the country's population as of 2015.

Current Situation Regarding Immigration in Kazakhstan with the Russian-Ukrainian War

After the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, Russia, its successor, strives to continue its economic, political, cultural and social relations with the former Soviet Republics within the scope of the Near Abroad Policy. It opposes the expansion of NATO and the EU into former Soviet Republics such as Ukraine and Georgia. As a result of Ukraine's demands to join the European Union and NATO, with US support, and increased pressure on the Russian minority in the country, Russia launched a military operation against Ukraine on February 24, 2022. The currently ongoing Russian-Ukrainian War has caused the death of thousands of civilians and soldiers, and nearly 8 million people have become refugees.

This war environment caused high inflation and low economic growth in the Central Asian geography, and the countries in the region struggling with political

instability experienced a crisis again with the start of the war. The war and crisis environment has negatively affected millions of people and caused deep social problems. The sanctions imposed on Russia by the USA and the Western world have directly and indirectly negatively affected the Central Asian countries [25]. Underdevelopment, high unemployment, poverty, political instability and the accompanying economic problems have forced millions of Central Asians to migrate to other countries. More than 7.8 million migrant workers from Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan regions entered Russia for reasons such as knowledge of the language, exchange rate and visa convenience. Again, many migrant workers came to Russia from Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan. Economic and political sanctions imposed on Russia have caused thousands of companies to leave the country. The slowdown in economic activity in parallel with the stagnation in investments and the suspension of production initiated reverse migration. Partial mobilization was declared on September 21, 2022, and after this announcement, more than 1 million people quickly flocked to airports and land borders to go abroad. There was a sudden wave of immigration in a short time to countries such as Turkey, Georgia, Armenia, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. Most of the Russians who escaped from mobilization first migrated to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan in Central Asia [26, p. 138-140].

Deep historical and cultural ties and linguistic similarity played an important role in the migration of young and educated

Russian immigrants, who opposed the mobilization immediately after the declaration of mobilization, to the Central Asian Republics, especially to Kazakhstan. While some of these immigrants stayed in Kazakhstan, a significant number of them migrated to other countries by using Kazakhstan as a transit country after many Western airline companies stopped flights from Russia.

Immediately after the declaration of mobilization, there was a population movement in the western lands of Kazakhstan. According to data from the West Kazakhstan regional migration police, there were 12,265 Russian Federation citizens registered. Of these, 1,047 came for international cargo transportation and 1,108 came for business. Of the 10,057 self-employed Russians, 2,417 received temporary residence permits. The procedure for staying in Kazakhstan for citizens of the Russian Federation is regulated by the decision of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 494 "On mutual visa-free visits of citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation". From the beginning of 2022 to September 2022, a total of 20,840 foreigners are registered in the regional migration department. It is announced that 18 thousand 548 of them came from CIS countries and 2 thousand 292 came from abroad. 3,961 citizens of the Russian Federation live permanently in the Western Kazakhstan region. According to the data of the police force, after the mobilization was declared on September 21, 128 people crossed into the territory of

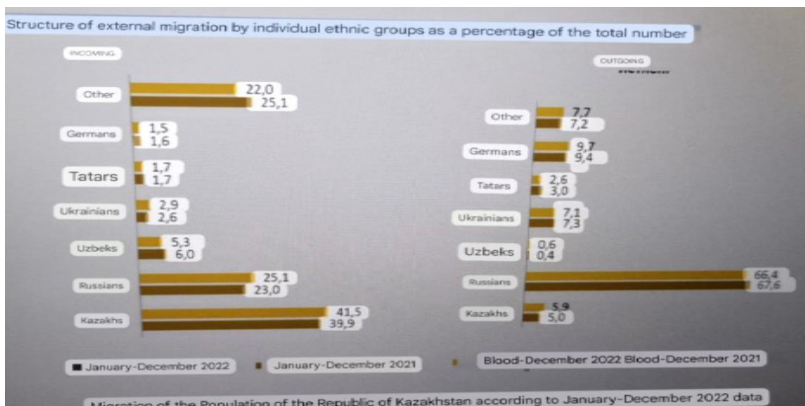


Figure 1 - Percentage of Ethnic Groups in the Total Number of External Migration in Kazakhstan* [28]

Western Kazakhstan on September 22, while 197 people crossed on September 23 [27].

As can be seen in Figure 1, according to January-December 2022 data, while the proportion of the Russian population among those coming to Kazakhstan in 2021 was 23.0%, this rate will be 25.1% in 2022. While the rate of the Russian population among those leaving the country in 2021 is 67.6%, this rate will be 66.4% in 2022. According to data, roughly two-thirds of those leaving the country are Russian. While Russians are coming to Kazakhstan, many more are leaving the country. The data in Figure 1 confirms the fact that the tendency for Russians to leave Kazakhstan, expressed in Table 1, continues. Data for 2021 and 2022 show that the proportion of Russians in the country will continue to decrease.

There are also Ukrainians, albeit very small, among the population coming and leaving Kazakhstan. While 2.6% of those who came to Kazakhstan in 2021 were Ukrainian, the population coming to the country in 2022 was 2.9%. While the rate of Ukrainians leaving the country in 2021 is 7.3%, the number leaving in 2022 is 7.1%. It is possible to interpret this situation as the number of Ukrainians in Kazakhstan is also decreasing.

As a result, the number of people arriving in the country in January-December 2022 was 17.293, and the number of people leaving the country was 24.239. The migration balance was 6.946 people. Compared to the relevant period of 2021, the number of people arriving in Kazakhstan increased by 57.5%, and the number of people leaving Kazakhstan decreased by 24.7%. On the other hand, another conclusion that can be drawn from Figure 1 is that while the rate of immigrants coming to Kazakhstan from CIS countries was 85.9%, the rate of immigrants going to these countries was 83.4%.

According to the UN, Kazakhstan, which hosts 3.7 million international immigrants in 2020, constituting almost 20% of its population with a population of 18.7 million [29], adopted a migration policy concept covering the years 2023-2027 with the decree of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 961/2022 on 30 November 2022. adopted it. Among the priorities adopted by the concept are the development of migration legislation and regulations, the

development of border management and security and migration data and analysis, and the development of integration policies for immigrants [29, p. 2].

Kazakhstan Border Service reported that 7.5 million immigrants arrived in the country in 2022. Among those coming from CIS countries, which constitute 6 million of the incoming immigrants, the first place was Russia with 41.1%, Kyrgyzstan with 30.4%, Uzbekistan with 27.6%, Azerbaijan with 0.4% and Belarus with 0.2%. Approximately 1.6 million immigrants from outside the CIS countries came from Turkey with 40.3%, the United Arab Emirates with 17.6%, China with 10.5%, Egypt with 8.6, % and Georgia with 6.5% [29, p. 2].

On the other hand, the number of immigrants leaving Kazakhstan in 2022 is 7.7 million. Among the CIS member countries, Russia with 41.5%, Kyrgyzstan with 30%, Uzbekistan with 27.4%, Azerbaijan with 0.4% and Belarus with 0.2%. Among the immigrants who went to countries outside the CIS countries, 39.5% went to Turkey, 17.3% to the United Arab Emirates, 10.3% to China, 8.5% to Egypt and 6.6% to Georgia [29, p. 2].

Of the 148 thousand people who received permanent residence permits in Kazakhstan in 2022, 46.4% were Russian, 16% were Uzbek, 7.6% were Chinese, 6.6% were Kyrgyz and 4% were Azerbaijani. Of the 530 thousand immigrant temporary residence permits issued in the same period, 59.4% were given to Russian citizens, 26.1% to Uzbekistan citizens, 3.9% to Tajik citizens, 2.7% to Kyrgyz citizens and 1.1% to Azerbaijani citizens [29, p. 3]. In addition, of the 327 thousand migrant workers working in Kazakhstan in 2022, 70.4% are Uzbek, 15.1% Russian, 4.5 % Tajik, 2.5 % Kyrgyz and 1.1% Azerbaijani citizens [29, p. 3].

Conclusion

Kazakhstan, which hosted a large number of immigrants during both the Tsarist Russia and the USSR periods, is one of the countries where the immigrant population is constantly increasing, as in many countries of the world. In 2022, Kazakhstan has adopted a migration policy concept that aims to establish regulations and modern border management for immigrants who make up

20% of the country's population.

According to UN and IOM data, the proportion of other ethnicities, especially Russians, in the total population in Kazakhstan is decreasing every year. In particular, it is known that the Russian minority, which constitutes 20% of the country's total population, is the second largest ethnic group and the majority of which lives in cities, has made significant contributions to the literature, art, culture, science and music of Kazakhstan. The continuation of the immigration wave of Russians, which has been going on for decades, should be considered as a factor that reduces the cultural richness of Kazakhstan.

In addition to the high tendency of Russians and other ethnic groups to migrate, the high tendency of Kazakh youth, whom President Tokayev defines as "soft power", to migrate is an important problem for the country. The low standard of living in Kazakhstan is one of the main reasons for migrating abroad. Therefore, in order to reduce migration abroad, it is necessary to make reforms in the fields of education, employment and social security and to develop policies that will increase the standard of living.

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