

INTERETHNIC RELATIONS IN KAZAKHSTAN IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CENTRAL ASIAN REGION: COMPARATIVE HISTORICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

In an era marked by global interconnectedness, understanding the intricacies of interethnic dynamics is paramount. This research embarks on an extensive investigation into the intricacies of interethnic relationships in Kazakhstan, placing its findings within the broader canvas of Central Asia. By delving into historical information and geographical nuances, the study seeks to complement and diversify existing approaches to the ethnic structure of the region, which has been formed over the past centuries. Kazakhstan, with its rich diversity of ethnic groups and intra-regional specificity, serves as the centre of attention. The research meticulously dissects the present-day landscape of interethnic relations in Kazakhstan, tracing its historical trajectory, understanding its evolution, and spotlighting its distinctive characteristics relative to its Central Asian counterparts. Through this comprehensive exploration, the study not only unveils common challenges and contemporary issues faced by the nations but also underscores the unique facets that differentiate Kazakhstan's interethnic composition. By juxtaposing Kazakhstan's interethnic dynamics against the backdrop of Central Asia, the research offers invaluable insights into the subtle interplay of history, geography, and culture in shaping interethnic interactions.

Keywords: Interethnic Relations, Cultural Interactions, Kazakhstan, Central Asia, Cultural Diversity, Nation-Building.

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Қазақстандағы этносаралық қатынастар Орталық Азия өңірі контекстінде: салыстырмалы тарихи-географиялық талдау

Аңдатпа. Жаһандық өзара байланыстар күшейген қазіргі кезеңде этносаралық қатынастардың ерекшеліктерін жан-жақты түсіну өзекті және ерекше маңызға ие. Бұл зерттеуде Қазақстандағы этносаралық қатынастардың даму ерекшеліктері кешенді түрде талданып, оларды Орталық Азия өңірінің кең ауқымды тарихи және географиялық контекстінде қарастырылды. Тарихи деректер мен географиялық ерекшеліктерді зерделеу арқылы зерттеу соңғы бірнеше ғасырда қалыптасқан өңірдің этникалық құрылымын түсіндіруге бағытталған қазіргі ғылыми тәсілдерді толықтыруды және академиялық ойды кеңейтуді мақсат етеді. Зерттеуде қарастырылған негізгі нысан этникалық құрамы алуан түрлі және аймақтық ерекшеліктерімен сипатталатын Қазақстан болып табылады. Зерттеу Қазақстандағы қазіргі этносаралық қатынастардың жай-күйін жан-жақты талдап, олардың тарихи қалыптасу жолын, эволюциясын және Орталық Азияның басқа мемлекеттерімен салыстырғандағы өзіндік ерекшеліктерін сыни тұрғыдан зерделейді. Сонымен қатар, Орталық Азия аумағы елдеріне ортақ сын-қатерлер мен проблемалық мәселелер қарастырылып, Қазақстандағы этносаралық өзара іс-қимылдың өзекті қырлары да сипатталады. Мақала Қазақстандағы этносаралық үдерістерді Орталық Азия кеңістігімен салыстыра отырып тарихтың, географияның және мәдениеттің этносаралық өзара ықпалдастықты қалыптастырудағы рөлі туралы әзірленген ғылыми тұжырымдарды академиялық қоғамдастықтың талқылауына ұсынады.

Түйін сөздер: этносаралық қатынастар, мәдени өзара әрекеттесу, Қазақстан, Орталық Азия, мәдени әртүрлілік, ұлт құру.

Межэтнические отношения в Казахстане в контексте региона Центральной Азии: сравнительный историко-географический анализ

Аннотация. В условиях возрастающей глобальной взаимосвязанности понимание особенностей межэтнических отношений приобретает особую актуальность. Настоящее исследование посвящено комплекс-

ному анализу межэтнических отношений в Казахстане с рассмотрением их в более широком историческом и географическом контексте Центральной Азии. На основе изучения исторических данных и географических особенностей работа направлена на дополнение и расширение существующих научных подходов к исследованию этнической структуры региона, сформировавшейся на протяжении последних столетий. Казахстан, отличающийся этническим многообразием и внутригосударственной региональной спецификой, рассматривается в качестве основного объекта исследования. В работе детально анализируется современное состояние межэтнических отношений в Казахстане, прослеживаются их историческое развитие, эволюция и выявляются особенности по сравнению с другими государствами Центральной Азии. Исследование не только раскрывает общие вызовы и современные проблемы, характерные для стран региона, но и акцентирует внимание на специфических чертах, отличающих казахстанскую модель межэтнического взаимодействия. Сопоставление межэтнических процессов в Казахстане с контекстом региона Центральной Азии позволяет получить более глубокое представление о роли истории, географии и культуры в формировании межэтнических отношений.

Ключевые слова: межэтнические отношения, культурное взаимодействие, Казахстан, Центральная Азия, культурное разнообразие, нациестроительство.

Introduction

Central Asia, with its complex ethnic composition and strategic location at the crossroads of Eurasia, has long attracted scholarly attention as a region where historical migration, imperial expansion, and state formation have shaped patterns of interethnic interaction. Kazakhstan occupies a distinctive place within the region because of its vast territory, abundant natural resources, and highly diverse population. Its contemporary ethnic landscape reflects centuries of migration and political transformation, culminating in profound demographic and social changes following the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991 [1, 2].

The emergence of independent Central Asian states introduced new challenges of nation-building, identity construction, and the management of ethnic diversity [3, 4]. Among these states, Kazakhstan has frequently been regarded as a notable example of maintaining relative interethnic stability despite substantial demographic change. The country has pursued policies aimed at fostering civic identity and ethnic integration, including institutional mechanisms such as the Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan. Although these policies have generally contributed to social cohesion, episodes of localized ethnic tension demonstrate that interethnic relations remain dynamic and require continuous scholarly attention [5, 6]. Furthermore, rapid globalization, migration, and the increasing importance of border regions have introduced new dimensions to ethnic interaction across Central Asia.

Previous research has examined Kazakhstan's ethnic development from multiple disciplinary perspectives. Historical studies emphasize the long-term influence of migration, Soviet nationality policies, and post-Soviet demographic restructuring on the country's eth-

nic composition [7, 8, 9]. Demographic research documents the growth of the ethnic Kazakh population through natural increase, repatriation of ethnic Kazakhs, and emigration of other ethnic groups, particularly Russians [10, 11]. Other studies have explored the implications of these demographic changes for urbanization, language policy, education, identity formation, and economic development [12, 13, 14].

Comparative studies further suggest that Kazakhstan differs from its Central Asian neighbours because of its relatively large Russian-speaking population, multicultural urban centres, balanced foreign policy, and extensive economic integration with neighbouring states [15, 16]. Research has also highlighted the role of ethnic communities in facilitating cross-border trade and regional cooperation, reinforcing Kazakhstan's position as an important economic hub in Central Asia [17, 18]. More recently, scholars have emphasized the value of integrating demographic analysis with spatial visualization and geographical methods to better understand patterns of ethnic distribution and regional interaction [19, 20].

Despite these valuable contributions, existing studies are often fragmented, concentrating on specific demographic, political, economic, or cultural dimensions of ethnicity. Few investigations combine historical, geographical, and comparative perspectives to examine Kazakhstan's interethnic relations within the wider Central Asian context. This interdisciplinary gap limits a comprehensive understanding of how historical processes, demographic change, and regional dynamics collectively influence contemporary ethnic relations.

This study addresses that gap by conducting a comparative historical and geographical analysis of interethnic relations in Kazakhstan within the broader framework of Central Asia. By integrating historical evidence, demograph-

ic trends, geographical analysis, and regional comparison, the research seeks to identify both the shared characteristics and distinctive features of Kazakhstan's ethnic development. The findings contribute to academic debates on ethnicity and regional development while providing insights relevant to policymaking, conflict prevention, and the promotion of social cohesion in Kazakhstan and the wider Central Asian region.

Methodology

The conceptual basis of the research consists of methods of interpreting and visualizing of complex official data [21, 22], as well as contextual analysis [23]. The application of these methods allows us not only to identify key patterns in interethnic relations in Kazakhstan but also to present them in a clear and visual way, which makes it easier to understand complex relationships within the broader Central Asian region.

The design of the study involves processing a large amount of data and interpreting it within a broader context, which helps to gain a deeper understanding of the structural and dynamic aspects of the phenomenon being studied. This allows us to take into account both macro-level trends and local factors that affect interethnic relations.

The research materials consisted of official statistical data from government agencies and open public sources. To ensure objectivity and identify possible discrepancies in estimates, alternative independent sources, where available, were also included in the analysis for comparative purposes.

The research tools included software extensions that allow for the visualization of

complex data, as well as the author's analytical approach, which provides not only mathematical processing of information but also its meaningful interpretation in relation to the research goals.

Main part

Analysis of Ethnic Trends

Kazakhstan's multifaceted ethnic landscape has evolved significantly over the past several decades, reflecting the country's complex historical and socio-political transformations. The 20th century, especially the post-Soviet era, witnessed notable shifts in this landscape.

A comparison with neighboring Central Asian countries reveals that each followed a unique trajectory. For instance, while Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan saw significant return migration of their titular ethnicities, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan had a relatively stable ethnic compositions during the same period.

However, the story of Kazakhstan's ethnic trends isn't solely about the two major groups – Kazakhs and Russians. The country is home to over 130 ethnic groups, and each has its own unique story. Uzbeks, Ukrainians, Uighurs, and Tatars, among others, have contributed to the rich tapestry of the nation's diversity.

Accordingly, understanding Kazakhstan's ethnic trends requires a multifaceted approach. While discussions are dominated by the shared narratives of the Kazakh and Russian populations, which are particularly prominent in the northern region of the country, it is important to recognize and explore the many other ethnic groups that call Kazakhstan home. Each group, major or minor, has shaped and continues to influence the nation's journey.

Table 1. Ethnic Composition of Kazakhstan (1990-2023)

Year	Kazakh (%)	Russian (%)	Uzbek (%)	Ukrainians (%)	Uighurs (%)	Tatars (%)	Germans (%)	Other (%)
1990	39,22	37,82	2,01	5,44	1,12	1,99	5,18	6,59
2000	53,4	30	2,5	3,7	1,4	1,7	2,4	4,9
2010	63,52	23,29	2,88	2,02	1,41	1,26	1,11	4,51
2021	70,4	15,5	3,2	2	1,5	1,1	1,2	5,1
2023	70,7	15,2	3,3	1,9	1,5	1,1	1,1	5,2

Source: Summary results of the 1999, 2009, 2021 National Population Census in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Table 1 provides a comprehensive overview of changes in the ethnic composition of Kazakhstan's population from 1990 to 2023. The data show the dynamics of changes in the per-

centages of the main ethnic groups, which reflect a wide range of socio-economic and political processes in the country and the region.

In 1990, Kazakhs made up 39.22 % of the

population, but by 2023 their share had increased to 70.7%. This significant increase can be attributed to a number of factors, including improved living conditions in Kazakhstan, which have attracted Kazakhs from other countries, and a higher birth rate in this group compared to other ethnic groups.

In 1990, Russians made up 37.82 % of the population, but by 2023 their share had fallen to 15.2 %. This decline can be explained by return migration to Russia due to political and economic changes after the collapse of the Soviet Union, as well as lower birth rates among the Russian population.

There has also been an increase in the Uzbek population and a decrease in the shares of Ukrainians and Germans. These changes

reflect general migration trends in the region as well as the impact of global and regional economic processes.

These trends may continue in the future. The demographic trends observed in recent decades are expected to continue. The share of Kazakhs is expected to continue to grow, while the share of Russians and other nationalities is expected to remain at relatively low levels or continue to decline. These projections are based on current trends in fertility and migration.

Thus, "Table 1" reflects the evolving ethnic picture of Kazakhstan. It emphasizes the dynamic demographic changes in the country and provides a basis for understanding the cultural and social shifts in the country over the past several decades.

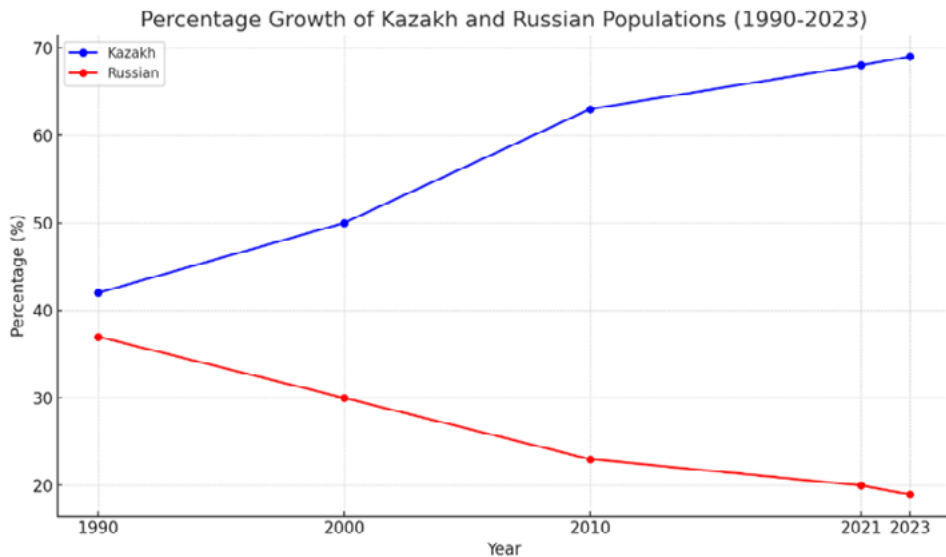


Figure 1. Percentage Growth of the Kazakh and Russian Populations from 1990 to 2023

Source: Figure developed by the authors based on data from the Department of the Bureau of National Statistics of the Agency for Strategic Planning and Reforms of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Figure 1 presents the Kazakh and Russian populations in Kazakhstan from 1990 through 2023. The graph offers a clear view of the ethnic trends over these years, capturing the evolving demographic landscape of the country.

The blue line, representing the Kazakh population, exhibits a consistent upward trend. Starting at 39.22% in 1990, the population shows a steady rise over the decades, culminating in an estimated 70.7% in 2023. This ascent underscores the burgeoning presence of the Kazakh ethnic group in the nation, growing in prominence both in numbers and as a percentage of the total population. This trend

could be attributed to a combination of higher birth rates, national policies, and a sense of cultural and national identity revival.

In contrast, the red line, symbolizing the Russian population portrays a decline. From a substantial 37.82% in 1990, the Russian demographic dwindles to an anticipated 15.2% by 2023. This downward slope suggests a gradual decrease in the Russian ethnic group's proportion within Kazakhstan. The reasons for this decline might be multifaceted, including factors such as return migration to Russia, a comparatively lower birth rate than that of the Kazakh population, and other socio-economic dynamics.

The convergence of these two lines over the years is emblematic of the shifting ethnic balance in Kazakhstan. As the Kazakh population rises, the Russian population sees a relative decrease, altering the nation's ethnic makeup.

In summation, Figure 1 provides an insightful visualization of the changing ethnic per-

centages of the two most significant groups in Kazakhstan over a span of more than three decades. It paints a picture of a nation in demographic transition, underlining the importance of understanding these shifts for both socio-cultural and policy implications.

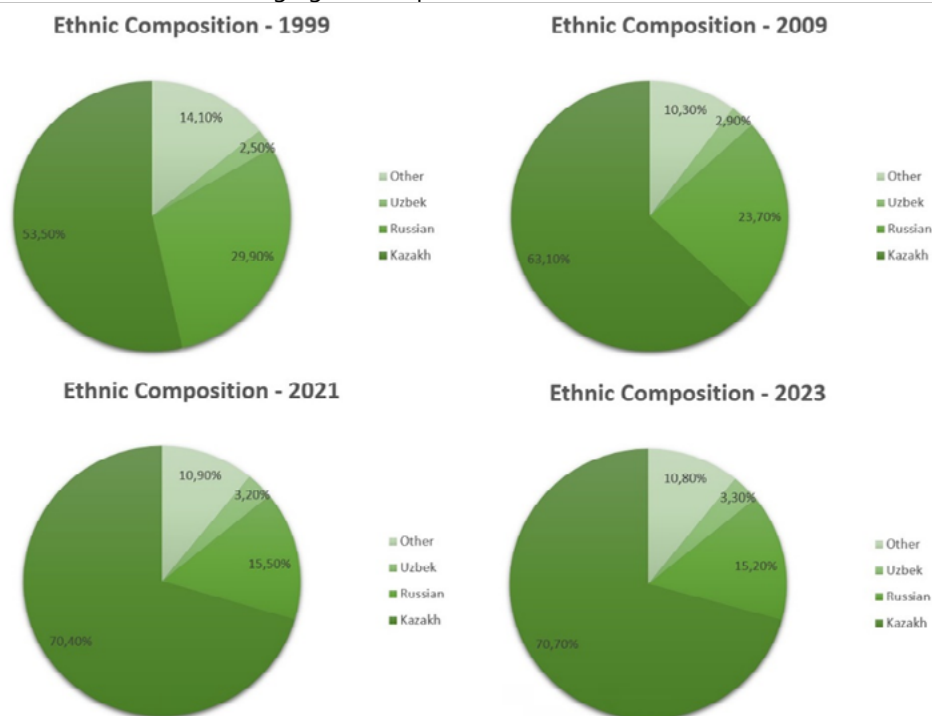


Figure 2. Ethnic Composition of Kazakhstan in Some Years According to Updated and Clarified Data

Source: Figure developed by the authors based on data from the Department of the Bureau of National Statistics of the Agency for Strategic Planning and Reforms of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Figure 2 offers a series of snapshots, capturing the ethnic composition of Kazakhstan in selected years: 1999, 2009, 2021, and 2023. Each pie chart visually represents the distribution of the major ethnic groups, allowing for an immediate and intuitive understanding of the demographic structure of the nation at specific points in time.

The chart for the year 1999 illustrates a relatively balanced distribution between the Kazakh and Russian populations, with Kazakhs holding a slight majority. As we transition to the 2009 chart, the proportion of Kazakhs grows more pronounced, indicating a decade of notable demographic shift. By 2021, the Kazakh population becomes the dominant group, constituting a significant majority, while the Russian segment shrinks considerably. The

forecasted data for 2023 continues this trend, with Kazakhs making up an even larger portion of the population.

The Uzbeks, represented in green, maintain a consistent presence throughout these years, neither growing nor diminishing significantly. Their consistent slice of the pie across the charts highlights their stable presence as an important minority group in Kazakhstan. The "Other" category, which encompasses various smaller ethnic groups, sees a decline over the years. In 1999, they make up a notable portion, but by 2023, their segment has reduced considerably, further emphasizing the increasing dominance of the Kazakh ethnic group.

In essence, Figure 2 encapsulates the evolving ethnic landscape of Kazakhstan over a span of 24 years. It vividly depicts the rise of

the Kazakh population as the primary ethnic group and the relative decline of other groups, particularly the Russians. These visuals serve as a testament to the dynamic nature of Kazakhstan's demographic makeup and the importance of understanding these shifts in the broader context of nation-building, cultural identity, and policymaking.

Socio-economic Impact of Ethnic Composition

Kazakhstan's multifaceted ethnic tapestry has played a crucial role in steering its economic direction. During the Soviet era, the Russian population, with their technical prowess and administrative expertise, primarily shaped the industrial and technological sectors. However, post-independence, the Kazakh majority has actively championed indigenous industries, particularly agriculture and local trade. This interplay between the ethnic groups has ensured that Kazakhstan's economy remains versatile and robust, capable of navigating global economic challenges.

Kazakhstan's distinct position as a nexus of various ethnicities has bolstered its trade relations. The Kazakh community, with its deep-rooted ties to Turkic nations, has streamlined trade routes into countries like Turkey and Azerbaijan. Russian and Uzbek communities have strengthened trade ties with their historical homelands, which has expanded Kazakh-

stan's economic opportunities and strengthened its status as a trade center in Central Asia.

The post-independence era has created potential problems related to ethnic identity. Demographic changes can lead to social tensions, but Kazakhstan has taken proactive steps, including establishing an extensive system called the Assembly of People of Kazakhstan, in order to maintain interethnic harmony. These initiatives form a national identity that unites people beyond ethnic differences, promoting and entrenching national values.

Kazakhstan's diverse ethnicity has had a significant impact on its educational sector. Recognizing the importance of linguistic diversity, the Government has approved bilingual education, with a special focus on Kazakh and Russian. This ensures that ethnic minorities receive quality education without language barriers. Such efforts promote intercultural understanding and mutual respect between different ethnic groups in the academic environment [24].

The rich ethnic diversity is vividly reflected in Kazakhstan's urban centers. Cities like Almaty and Astana showcase urban planning and architectural styles influenced by various ethnic groups.

Let's take a look at the two largest megacities in Kazakhstan, where most of the country's economic activity is concentrated (Figure 3). These cities act as magnets for migrants, creating a vibrant socio-economic landscape.

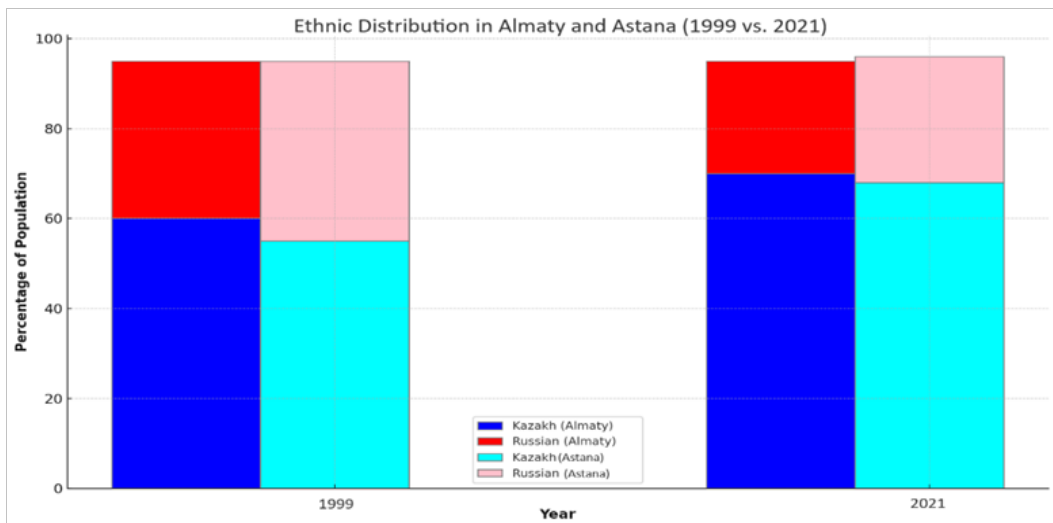


Figure 3. Ethnic Distribution in Almaty and Astana for the Years 1999 and 2021.

Source: Figure developed by the authors based on data from the Department of the Bureau of National Statistics of the Agency for Strategic Planning and Reforms of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The bar chart offers a comparative view of the ethnic composition in two of Kazakhstan's major cities, Almaty and Astana, for the years 1999 and 2021. At a glance, the chart reveals shifting demographic patterns over these two decades, with a marked increase in the Kazakh population and a simultaneous decline in the Russian population in both cities.

In 1999, Almaty showcased a higher percentage of the Kazakh population, accounting for 38.5% of the city's inhabitants. By 2021, this figure rose to 63.3%, suggesting more than two decades of demographic transformation and possible migration patterns favouring the Kazakh ethnicity. Concurrently, the Russian population in Almaty declined from 45.2% in 1999 to 20.5% in 2021. This shift indicates a changing urban landscape, possibly influenced by socio-economic factors, policies, and regional developments.

In 1999, Astana, the capital city, showcased a higher percentage of the Kazakh population, accounting for 41.8 % of the city's inhabitants. By 2021, this figure rose to 81.4%, suggesting more than two decades of demographic transformation and possible migration patterns favouring the Kazakh ethnicity. Concurrently, the Russian population in Astana declined from 40.5% in 1999 to 9.6% in 2021.

These shifts in ethnic distribution between the two major cities over twenty years highlight the dynamic nature of urban demographics. Factors such as migration, economic opportunities, governmental policies, and cultural assimilation play crucial roles in shaping these urban centers. The bar chart, in essence, captures the pulse of these changes, offering insights into Kazakhstan's evolving urban tapestry.

An equally important manifestation of ethnic diversity is the language situation in the education system, where special attention is paid to the preservation and development of multilingualism, with a focus on strengthening the status of the state language.

The pie chart (Figure 4) presents a vivid snapshot of the linguistic landscape in Kazakhstan's educational domain, categorizing institutions based on their primary medium of instruction: Kazakh-medium, Russian-medium, and Mixed.

Occupying the largest slice of the chart, Kazakh-medium institutions account for 54.2% of all schools and colleges. This significant share underscores the prominence of the Kazakh language in the country's educational framework. The growth in the number of Kazakh-language

institutions reflects a well-considered language policy focused on supporting the state language and natural demand from the ethnic majority.

Distribution of educational institutions by medium of instruction

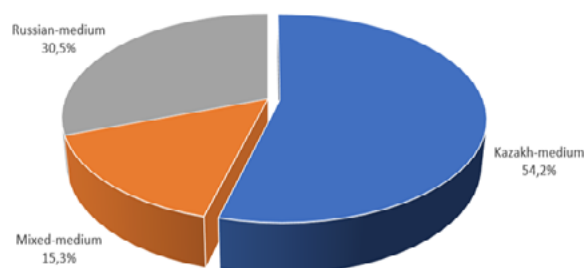


Figure 4. Distribution of Educational Institutions in Kazakhstan Based on the Medium of Instruction

Source: Figure developed by the authors based on data from the Department of the Bureau of National Statistics of the Agency for Strategic Planning and Reforms of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Russian-medium institutions, symbolized by the orange segment, comprise 15.3% of the educational establishments. The presence of a substantial number of Russian-medium schools and colleges attests to the historical and contemporary linguistic ties Kazakhstan shares with Russia. Furthermore, it signifies the multi-ethnic nature of Kazakhstan, where Russian remains an essential language of instruction, ensuring that the Russian-speaking populace has access to quality education in their native language.

The third category, represented in grey, is the Mixed category, where both Kazakh and Russian are used as mediums of instruction. Making up 30.5% of the total, these institutions epitomize Kazakhstan's commitment to linguistic diversity. They cater to a broad student base, fostering an environment of inclusivity and mutual linguistic respect. In essence, the pie chart encapsulates Kazakhstan's rich linguistic tapestry within its educational sector. In 2023, there were 6,909 schools in Kazakhstan, of which more than half, 3,743 were Kazakh-language schools, 1,055 were Russian-language schools, and 2,111 were mixed schools [25]. It demonstrates a nation that, while elevating the status of its mother tongue, ensures that a multi-ethnic population has ample opportunity for education in their preferred linguistic environment.

Regional Comparisons: Kazakhstan in the Central Asian Context

Central Asia, a nexus of cultures, presents varied and intricate ethnic landscapes. Among its tapestry, Kazakhstan emerges as a nation with distinctive ethnic patterns, shaped by its history, geography, and contemporary policies.

The linguistic panorama of Central Asia is diverse, with Turkic and Persian languages predominantly spoken across the region. Kazakhstan, being predominantly Turkic-speaking, shares linguistic ties with Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan, while Tajikistan's Persian roots make it an outlier in this context. As previously mentioned, the significant Russian-speaking population in Kazakhstan, a legacy of its Soviet past, differentiates it further from its neighbors, emphasizing its Eurasian identity.

Religiously, the majority of Central Asians practice Islam, but the interpretation and practice vary. Kazakhstan, with its secular governance, has managed to ensure religious freedom, allowing for a coexistence of Sunni, Shia, and other religious groups, including Russian Orthodox Christians. This contrasts with countries like Tajikistan, which has experienced tensions due to religious extremism.

Kazakhstan's abundant natural resources, particularly oil, have established its leading position in Central Asia. Its open economic policies and investment strategies distinguish it from the more insular Turkmenistan, which remains heavily dependent on its gas reserves.

Politically, Kazakhstan's role in regional bodies like the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the Eurasian Economic Union underscores its strategic importance and aspiration for regional leadership. Its diplomatic endeavors, balancing ties with Russia, China, and the West, provide it with a unique stance compared to, for instance, Uzbekistan, which has had historically cautious foreign policies.

In essence, Kazakhstan's position in Central Asia is both unique and pivotal. Its ethnic, linguistic, religious, economic, and political dynamics, while sharing commonalities with its neighbors, have distinct nuances that underscore its singular trajectory in the region.

Conclusion

Central Asia, with its tapestry of cultures, histories, and socio-political dynamics, offers a rich canvas for understanding interethnic

relations, a topic of increasing relevance in today's globalized world. Our study, focused on Kazakhstan but contextualized within the broader Central Asian milieu, has unearthed a plethora of insights that have both regional and global implications.

At the heart of our findings is the ever-evolving ethnic composition of Kazakhstan. This transformation, while echoing trends observed in the late 20th century, has accelerated in the 21st century. Factors such as internal and cross-border migrations, socio-economic shifts, and state-centric policies have all played their part in this evolution. Such a dynamic change in the ethnic landscape is not merely a demographic shift but has profound socio-political and economic ramifications.

Parallel to this demographic transformation is the symbiotic relationship between trade and cultural ties. Our research indicates that economic partnerships, particularly those of Kazakhstan with its neighbors and global partners, are often intertwined with cultural exchanges. This nuanced understanding aligns with the broader academic discourse, emphasizing the multi-dimensional nature of international relations. Economic agreements, while crucial in their own right, derive added strength and resilience when bolstered by shared cultural values and exchanges.

The regional perspective, juxtaposing Kazakhstan's dynamics with its Central Asian counterparts, offers another layer of complexity. Shared histories, a legacy of the Soviet era, and common challenges, such as migration trends, create a shared narrative. However, unique historical trajectories, distinct state policies, and individual challenges ensure that each nation has its own distinctive ethnic narrative.

One of the standout features of our research approach has been the emphasis on data visualization. In a world inundated with data, the ability to represent and convey complex insights visually is paramount. Our study not only leveraged this approach but also demonstrated its efficacy. The future of academic research lies in not just gathering data but in presenting it in a manner that's accessible and comprehensible to a diverse audience.

In wrapping up our exploration, it's essential to recognize the broader implications of our study. While rooted in the specifics of Kazakhstan and Central Asia, the themes, insights, and patterns we've identified have

global resonance. In an era where interethnic tensions and collaborations shape global geopolitics, studies like ours provide the nuanced, data-driven insights required for informed decision-making, policy formulation, and academic exploration.

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