

The Migration Of Central Asians (Peoples) To East Turkestan During The Russian Empire's Conquest And Subsequent Period

Abdukhamidov Jalol

PhD student, Department of World History, Samarkand State University, Uzbekistan

Received: 18 October 2025; **Accepted:** 09 November 2025; **Published:** 15 December 2025

Abstract: In our article, we will discuss the oppression of the Russian Empire. in the period Central Asians in East Turkestan the migrations were discussed and information was provided.

Keywords: East Turkestan, Uyghur, Xinjiang, China, Russia, Kyrgyz Kazakh, Kokand, Kashgar, Seven Rivers.

Introduction: After the Russian Empire conquered Turkestan, the military-administrative introduced a new administrative system: the Turkestan Governorate (1867-1917) consisted of five regions: Samarkand, Syrdarya, Fergana, Yettisuv, and Kaspiyort, and the regions were governed by military governors. The colonialists consistently pursued a policy of great statehood in order to keep the local population in bondage. The Fergana and Yettisuv regions bordered the territories of East Turkestan (China), and from the second half of the 19th century, for various reasons, the population of these regions fled to the borders of the neighboring state. In this section, we will consider the issue of East Turkestan using the materials available. The Turkestan Governorate-General extended from the Fergana region to the cities of Gulja or Kashgar, which belong to the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of China. It passed through the Ergashtom pass east of Osh (Kyrgyzstan). The Russian government had been controlling Kashgar since 1887. took control. In 1889, the Russians also established control over Ergashtom and stationed a Russian garrison there. A special Russian mission was established in Gulja. 1 The Yettisuv region and East Turkestan have long been connected by the Pishpak-Kashgar (689 km); Pishpak-Gulja (854 km); Zaysan-Sarsumba (256 km); SimayChunguchak (640 km); Zaysan-Chunguchak (256 km) and waterways along the Ili and Kara Irtys rivers connected the land trade routes. To reach the Chinese borders, one had to cross the Beloshuv Pass, which was a difficult road. During

the existence of the Seven Cities State of Yakubbek (1820-1877, 1865-1877) in East Turkestan, tens of thousands of Turkestans sought refuge in it.

1 Hayitov Sh. Hayitova Sh. On the issue of Turkestan refugees// Tafakkur. T.: 2012.-p 18

After the fall of the Seven City State, thousands of Dungans and Uyghurs even fled to the Seven Waters region, fleeing persecution by the Chinese military.

Archival documents record that Russian authorities allocated 100,000 silver rubles to the vacant lands of the Yetisuv region for the settlement of refugees, providing them with housing and livestock, and that this amount was covered by contributions received as a result of the Russian-Chinese military conflict. 2 In particular, in 1885, 10,000 rubles were allocated to the Zharkent volost, 7,500 rubles to the Aksucharin volost, 8,000 rubles each to the Karam and Meliboev volosts, and 13,000 rubles to the Karasuv volost. The Dungans of the Tokmok uyezd received 2,000 rubles in 1886 on the condition of non-repayment... Even from 1883, refugees were given loans with a 6-year repayment period. 3 However, the measures taken by the Russian government to keep the population in the lands of the Yetisuv region were not sufficiently effective. From 1883 to 1894, 4,472 representatives of the Kyrgyz and Taranch tribes from the districts and volosts of the Yetisuv region fled to Chinese territory. Most of them were from the Zharkent, Issyk-Kul, Kopal, and Verniy districts. On November 2, 1860, a mutual agreement was signed between China and Russia, according to

which both sides undertook to hand over refugees to the border guards. However, this agreement was practically not implemented. In 1907, 911 Ut Kyrgyz fled to Chinese territory. In 1910, the "emigration" continued, and 215 Kyrgyz tribes from the Zharkent uyezd alone fled to Gulja . 4 It reflects accurate information about the flight of Kyrgyz, Taranch, and Dungans from the Yetisuv region to China in the 80s-90s of the 19th century. In 1885, 1888, 1894, and 1897, the military governors of the region and the governors of the uyezds expressed their opinions on the reasons for the "emigration" in dozens of notifications sent to the Russian government.

2 Hayitov Sh. A. Saidov I. M The indicated work.-b23

3 Hayitov Sh. A. Saidov I. M Shown work.-b24

4 A. Soguniy. What I said to the people of the homeland//O'zbekim; 1992.-p.18

5 A. Sog'uni, same article. -p.22.

Based on the above information, we think it would be appropriate to list the reasons that led to the "refuge" one by one. 1. In a number of volosts of uyezds (especially those inhabited by the Kyrgyz population), due to the severe, cold and stormy winter, the inability to find food for livestock, the risk of being separated from livestock, which is the main source of livelihood, led to migration to Chinese lands. At first, the heads of families moved to China at the end of summer or autumn. Later, they sold part of their property, burned part of it, and took measures to move their families. 2. It is known that the legislation of the tsarist government regarding the nomadic population introduced the election of the head of the volost (village), which was considered a local government body, and the people's judge, from among the representatives of the local population for a three-year term. The oppression of other tribes by representatives of the tribe that won the election was also one of the reasons for emigration. 3. Due to the kinship ties between the Chinese Kyrgyz and the Seven Seas Kyrgyz, the Kyrgyz living in China would invite their relatives to China and promise to create favorable conditions for their families and livestock.

4. The material and cultural life of nomadic Kyrgyz herders was low compared to the settled population. Many factors, such as the lack of a convenient market economy for selling goods, the lack of access to the banking and credit system, the lack of money, the lack of mutual collective cooperation, and the lack of food stores, forced the Kyrgyz to move from their lands.

5. The Gulja lands of China, where the Kyrgyz fled, were distinguished by a number of advantages compared to the regions of the Yetisuv region. The high standard of

living of the population, the presence of meadows rich in grass, fertile lands, mild winters, a small population in the country, etc. The Kyrgyz refugees established their farms in the upper Ili Valley relatively quickly. In addition, the Chinese government collected taxes and duties from the "refugees" not in money, but in livestock. This was convenient for the livestock-breeding population.

6. A number of districts in the Yetisuv and Fergana regions are located on the Chinese border, and crossing long distances, through lightly guarded border posts and customs checkpoints, did not pose any great difficulties. In particular, crossing abroad from the Przheval'sky, Zharkent, and Lepsin districts of the Yetisuv region did not pose any problems for the "fugitives".

7. People who rebelled against the Russian government, accused of "theft", "robbery", "subversion" crossed the border into Chinese territory to escape punishment. Despite the demands of the Russian mission in Gulja, the Chinese government did not always return such people to the Russians. On the contrary, they did not receive any punishment in the Chinese state, and in many cases they managed to hide.

8. Rich and poor Kyrgyz who migrated to China gained access to fields for their livestock, a higher standard of living, and employment with the help of relatives. "Criminals" escaped punishment, which encouraged others to migrate.

9. The Chinese government accepted Russian "refugees" who were considered citizens of China with a simple certificate after they had established their own farms and lived in a new place for three years. 6 This convenience increased the number of "refugees" from year to year. The administrative bodies of the Russian Empire and the heads of the provinces took special measures to prevent escape to China and reduce the number of refugees. In particular, the following drastic measures were used, according to sources.

1. Strictly register and constantly monitor those who fled to China, were stripped of their Russian citizenship, and later returned to their homeland as unreliable and unstable people.

2. Strengthening the security of the Russian-Chinese borders.

3. To punish those who spread ideas calling for displacement among the population in order to keep them in their ancestral lands. To restrict measures related to the seizure of state arable land and pastures from the Kyrgyz, and the increase in taxes.

6 IN THE BOOK. I fand 13 list, 163 -x,154, back of page 154, 155, back of page 155 156, back of page 156

4. Propaganda regarding the deprivation of Russian citizenship for Kyrgyz living in border regions if they flee to China, and the absolute non-acceptance of them when they return, etc.

However, during the years of the colonial policy of the Russian Empire, the flight of the population from the districts of Fergana and Yetisuv regions, which were part of the Turkestan General Governorate, to the neighboring state of China became a constant phenomenon. Because colonial measures closed all the ways that could have served to improve the material and spiritual standard of living of the local population. Ultimately, thousands of the population of Turkestan went to foreign countries in search of a source of livelihood.

Let us return to our words. The fires of conspiracy ignited by the hands of the Red Magicians were extinguished by their own armed forces, and in 1934, as they wished, the Shing Duban government was established. Having returned to the Ili region, Shing Duban sent his father-in-law, an old Chinese named Chusiling, to Gulja. He appointed Turdi Akhunbek, the son of Olmosbek, a wealthy man from Tokmok, to replace him. However, since the Shing Duban government was completely dependent on Soviet policy, all its affairs were conducted only with the advice of the Soviet consul. Because after the Japanese occupied Manchuria, there was a danger of turning their attention to East Turkestan. Accordingly, in order to prevent Japanese soldiers from entering East Turkestan, the Soviets sent about twenty thousand soldiers to the Shin-Shipo region. Although the whole of East Turkestan, like West Turkestan, was completely surrounded by Soviet policy and took its economic affairs into its own hands, on paper this country was considered an inseparable part of Jungun, since it was an ally of the Chinese government against Japan. Thus, although the thirst for the land of East Turkestan-Uyghuristan was directed towards the Chinese government, Soviet Russia began to make a strong effort to bring it under its influence in all directions. Especially since the economic affairs of this country were completely dependent on the Soviets, commercial affairs were hampered, and many people in this field had to leave their professions and become unemployed. It is known that the more the international economic deficit increased, the closer they came to the trap of destruction. In addition, they began to collect more taxes from the rich under the pretext of strengthening our rear against the Japanese and helping the Chinese Chiang Kai-shek government.

CONCLUSION

The historical roots of Uzbek migration in East Turkestan go back to antiquity, and during the period of popular uprisings, due to the tax policy of the khans, when the potential of arable land decreased and poverty threatened, migration to the cities of Kashgar and Gulja near the border was observed. Especially during the colonization of Turkestan by the Russian Empire and the periods when colonial policy prevailed (the second half of the 19th century - the beginning of the 20th century), the migration process intensified. Yakubbek, one of the beyliks of the Kokand Khanate, was defeated by 82 troops of Tsarist Russia in unequal battles in the 1860s and invaded East Turkestan with his soldiers. He was supported by the descendants of Afokhoja, who had left the Kokand Khanate, and in the meantime he established the "Seven City State (1864-1877), where those who were often persecuted found refuge in his state. For example, during the Andijan uprising led by Dukchi Eshon (Madali Eshon) in the spring of 1898 and the popular uprising against the forced labor of July 1916, hundreds of thousands of Uzbeks and Tajiks found refuge in East Turkestan. During this period, a wave of "Turkestan refugees" occurred, and those who were dissatisfied with the imperial policy of violence, persecution and oppression joined the ranks of emigrants. 3. Waves of Uzbek emigration to East Turkestan intensified during the years of Soviet rule. The kulakization, collectivization, the printing press movement, the "liberation" of women The "Attack" campaign, the "struggle for godlessness" movement, which repressed religious scholars, and the repressions of 1937-1938 forced thousands of Turkestans to emigrate. Among them were peasants and artisans, rich and poor, scholars and intellectuals, government and state figures. The social composition of the emigrants was diverse, and they entered the arena of struggle to survive abroad.

REFERENCES

1. Hayitov . Sh. A. History of Uzbek emigration.-T.: 2008.-P.38
2. A. Soguniy. What I said to the people of the homeland//O'zbekim; 1992.-p.181
3. Hayitov Sh.A., Saidov IM History and Ethnography of Uzbeks Abroad. – Samarkand-2015
4. Hayitov Sh. A. Saidov I. M The indicated work.-b24
5. A. Sog'uni, same article. -p.22.
6. Hayitov Sh. Hayitova Sh. On the issue of Turkestan refugees// Tafakkur. T.: 2012.-p 18
7. IN THE BOOK. I fand 13 list, 163 -x,154, back of page 154, 155, back of page 155 156, back of page 156