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The Purpose Of The Population Registration Activities Census: (In The Example Of The Population Of The Villages Of Turkestan In 1917)

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ABSTRACT

In this article, a comparative analysis of the processes of registration of the population of rural regions in Turkestan was conducted in 1917, based on primary sources. Also, according to the final results of the event for the registration of the population in 1917 year, the number of residents living in rural areas of the regions is given. In addition, the article comprehensively covers a number of socio-economic and political goals from the event, which was held in 1917.

KEYWORDS

The event of population census, population census, population number, the report on the number of population, migration, emigration, natural population growth, statistics, permanent population, population density, volost, county.

INTRODUCTION

In the Soviet regime which during the dictatorial time, among the many problems, the socio-economic lifestyle of the nations was

approached unfairly. The history of relationship between the Uzbek SSR and Russia was also falsified. This tradition was

typical for the historiography of the Soviet period, in which it was always noted that Russia was responsible for the development of the population in the republics. However, scientific research did not mention clearly that Russia had economic, political, military-strategic interests in the member republics. On top of that, underlying aim of the “census activities” conducted by the centralized policy of the system in different years were to obtain statistics, which was assistive in planning to grow more grain in the regions. Again, this was also not explicitly stated in the researches conducted during the Soviet period thanks to the policy of the period.

THE MAIN RESULTS AND FINDINGS

It should be noted that a number of goals of this year’s event and its outcomes, socio-economic and political purposes were based only on the ideology of the existing system of the Soviet era. However, the data obtained at the from these calculations did not effect the living standards of the local population in the country. In conclusion, it is important to note that the census was a tool to define the natural resources of the largest colony of the Soviet Union - Turkestan, the amount of arable lands and the number of existing people, and subsequently to implement the policy projected for the region and its population.

On the basis of the census, a lot of accurate information is obtained on the number of the people living in the country at the given time and the real composition of the population, as well as their lifestyle. It should be noted that a number of statistical factors (shortcomings in the organization of the event and the process of organizing the event) identified as a result of the event, today closely assist in conducting a lot of research on the history of the population

of the last century. Based on the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan , No. PF-5655 as of February 5, 2019 [1], it will serve as a basis for the population census scheduled for 2022 and the implementation of Uzbekistan’s strategy in a number of areas.

We present a number of socio-economic and political goals of the 1917 rural census in Turkestan, based on the results of which the ruling class did not consider the socio-economic development of the local population in the coming years. The rights and freedoms of the population were violated in all respects in the spirit of colonialism, and the local population tried to make effective use of labor as free labor. We would like to give a brief overview of these event processes below.

The census, carried by the Russian Empire responsibility (mass in 1897, urban in 1913, and rural in 1917) was conducted for a number of socio-economic and political purposes. If we speak about 1917 census, by that time, the state of so-called Russian Empire was over, and power struggles had not yet subsided. The census of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries was not comprehensive. In particular, the 1917 census of rural areas did not cover all existing rural areas of Turkestan which was rcoreded in a number of sources and scientific literatures with its shortcomings. The program of the 1917 census was not perfectly developed, and due to the time limit for its holding and the lack of enumerators, that event was held in a hurry. For the 1917 census of rural areas, only districts and large villages with a large population were included in the Samarkand, Syrdarya, Fergana, Ettisuv, Caspian regions of Turkestan [2].

For the outcomes of the 1917 rural census of the population, its number in the Syrdarya

region was 1339 thousand (per thousand people). The population of the villages of Fergana region was 1943 thousand people, the Caspian region showed 422 thousand people, in the Ettisuv region there were 1387 thousand people [2], Samarkand region had 632 thousand people in the primary statistical sources of that period [3]. In my opinion, the above figures did not involve the real number of the entire population living in rural areas at that time. During the first mass census in 1897, various rumors were spread among the population, leading to skepticism and mistrust among the local population. The move was widely seen as an attempt to raise additional taxes and take men to the war. Sources also state that during the 1917 event, a large number of people did their best fled to forests and mountainous areas in order not to participate in the census [4].

These data are certainly not the only scientific data on the 1917 population. For example, there is no precise data on the number of people living in the existing Tajik villages in the districts of the Fergana Valley. We have the data of the Tajik taken only from the areas where they were in bigger numbers. The same we can say about Kyrgyz population. Based on similar considerations, if we analyze the above data, I think that the statistics for 1917 was also true the relation to the population of the counties and villages registered.

To statistically describe the population of different nationalities living in the Turkestan region, the center's patrons had no statistics other than the final results of the censuses of 1897 and 1917. In particular, the outcomes of the 1897 and 1917 censuses, which provide information on the population and ethnic composition of the Turkestan region, are considered as falsified by historians. The main

reasons for this are irregular censuses, incomplete censuses covering all regions of the country, unrealistic ethnic composition of the population in the census program, and the absence of the number of nomads and the people living in remote mountainous areas. From this point of view, there are almost no detailed data on the population and ethnic composition of that period.

The findings of the 1917 event show that a total of 76,000 hired workers were registered in the villages of Turkestan. Many of them were representatives of local nationalities engaged in small private shops and handicraft workshops [4].

Many nomads living selected for the 1917 census were not registered in rural areas [5]. In my point of view, most of the rural areas are located in remote mountainous areas and the population of such rural areas may not have been registered due to the seasonal migration of migrants. Another reason is that many villages in the provinces require a few days' journey from the regional centers, so enumerators whether may have guessed the number of the population in those areas or not included. That year's census program did not answer the questions on the ethnicity layers of the population, which leads us to conclude that the aim of that process was to determine the overall number of the population. Only the nationality of the homeowner was indicated at the registration so the nationalities of family members and servants are recorded in the same way as the nationality of the host [6].

The lack of high-level preparation for the 1917 census and the indifference to the event, in the following years all documents related to the population statistics in the regions remained not accurate in that time. Ethnographer

Vladimir Kun, who was a member of the group responsible for the publication of the results of the 1917 (published in 1923) and statistical figures on the territory and population of the region, stated: The existing data and sources we have unfortunately, cannot cover all sides of the population's identity. The 1917 census can show as the data of the areas where the procedure took place. The real number of the population of the region, which was the main goal of the 1917 event, and the map of their location across the province are also unclear" [7].

The reports on the population of the rural areas, conducted that year, began to be published in 1923 in terms of the regions. In my opinion, due to the many shortcomings of the 1917 census and the fact that this event was not held at the required level, the Central Statistical Office may not have initially allowed the publication of the results.

Although the census was not conducted in all regions properly, it was actual to seek for other sources to supplement the results of the 1917 census in more details and to publish the outcomes of the event. The ineffectiveness of the 1917 rural census can be explained by Lenin's speech after the signing of the All-Russian Congress of Soviets in 1920 [8]: In particular, he said, "The final results of the 1917 census of the rural population did not correspond at all to the number of the people living in all rural areas of the Soviet government. The final results of the event in 1917 were not held at the required level and the perpetrators were not punished" [9].

The main objectives of the census in rural areas of Turkestan in 1917, based on primary sources for this period, can be assessed as follows:

- To define the real number of the population in rural areas in Turkestan;
- To discover the socio-economic situation of the country;
- To plan the resettlement of the people originated from the areas which caused national conflict due to the scarcity of the land;
- To gauge available fertile lands in rural areas;
- To define the number of the men and workforce available;
- To prognosticate possible economic future of the region;
- To increase the amount of grain harvest for the coming years, based on the figures obtained on the basis of the census of 1917 in rural areas.

In general, in spite of the fact that there were a number of shortcomings in the census conducted by the Soviet government in the territory of Turkestan and later in the territory of the Uzbek SSR, I think it is inadequate to negatively assess these outcomes and express a one-sided opinion. The findings of the census provides an opportunity for us to study the statistics, which are substantially more detailed than in previous years. Moreover, based on published primary statistical sources, they produce substantially accurate information on the population of Turkestan, ethnic composition, migration, emigration, how the country's economy was planned during the colonial period, the daily life of urban and rural population and many others.

The census featured as a positive process for the Russian ruling elite. The upshot of the census conducted in 1917 and in subsequent years on a regular basis and strict scrutiny revealed that the large-scale work carried out

in the socio-economic and political spheres in the national republics had been causing heavy exploitation. In short, these processes served the colonial goals planned by the representatives of the Russian Empire and later the Soviet government in the region. Indeed, the above-mentioned views on the event and its final results, as well as the scientific conclusions made on the event, confirmed that the Russian Empire, especially during the Soviet era, was conducted in the spirit of colonialism against the national republics.

CONCLUSION

It should be noted that a number of goals of this year's event and its outcomes, socio-economic and political purposes were based only on the ideology of the existing system of the Soviet era. However, the data obtained at the from these calculations did not effect the living standards of the local population in the country. In conclusion, it is important to note that the census was a tool to define the natural resources of the largest colony of the Soviet Union - Turkestan, the amount of arable lands and the number of existing people, and subsequently to implement the policy projected for the region and its population. It is correspond with make scientific proposals and conclusions with the publication of the outcomes of the census, the primary statistical sources of information about the population of this period, the comprehensive study and extensive analysis of archival documents.

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