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**Kazakhstan in the flow of history:  
foreign publicity**

The article is devoted to Kazakh theme in the works of foreign publicists of the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The paper deals with the analysis of the characteristics of publicistic of the studied period.

**Key words:** Kazakhstan 19<sup>th</sup> century, travelers, publicists, Mak-Gahan.

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**Қазақстан тарих толқынында:  
шетелдік басылымдар**

Мақала ХІХ ғасырдың ІІ жартысындағы шетелдік публицистердің қазақ тақырыптарының зерттелуіне арналған. Жұмыста сол кезеңдегі публицистиканың ерекшеліктері талқыланады.

**Түйін сөздер:** ХІХ ғасырдағы Қазақстан, саяхатшылар, публицистер, Мак-Гахан.

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**Казахстан в потоке истории:  
зарубежные публикации**

Статья посвящена исследованию казахской тематики в творчестве зарубежных публицистов второй половины ХІХ века. В работе проводится анализ особенностей публицистики изучаемого периода.

**Ключевые слова:** Казахстан, ХІХ век, путешественники, публицисты, Мак-Гахан.

**KAZAKHSTAN IN THE  
FLOW OF HISTORY:  
FOREIGN PUBLICITY****Introduction**

Plenty of historic and literature materials about Kazakhstan have accumulated for many centuries, and especially in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Collecting, systematizing and researching the accumulated material contributes to revealing one of the facets of spiritual mutual inter-exchange, mutual communication of nations with peculiar history and literature connections.

Notes of the travelers, who visited Asian countries for various purposes, including traders, missionaries and diplomats, confirm that Americans were aware of the existence of Kazakh nation since ancient times; and in the late centuries the USA knew about it from descriptions in scientific books and literature works. However, even though those messages about our country had certain historic and cognitive importance (in their scale, content, character and authenticity), they still cannot be compared to the texts written about Kazakhstan in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, when it had voluntarily joined Russia causing a dramatic change in multi-century development of these nomadic nation and created basis for the commonwealth with Russian and other nations.

Being separated from each other both territorially and by typological peculiarities of their cultures, Western countries and Kazakhstan got to know each other through a variety of mediation forms involving Russia.

The process of studying Central Asia and Kazakhstan in the second half of 19<sup>th</sup> century was marked by formation and establishment of ethnography, history and other branches of human knowledge into as separate scientific disciplines. As V. Bartold concluded: «In the sphere of language studies, history and ethnography only in the 19<sup>th</sup> century scientists have elaborated those methods, which allowed these branches obtaining character of scientific disciplines for the first time» [1]. Previously ethnography was viewed as predominantly a natural science and was closely tied to typology, general science about humans, and in English speaking countries it was called ethnology. In the 60<sup>th</sup>-70<sup>th</sup> it has «stood on its feet,» developed general concepts conceptualizing facts of material and spiritual culture, as well as everyday life of nations. Scientific ethnographical and anthropological societies appear during this period.

## Main body

Western literature has accumulated various factual materials about social and economic development of pre-revolutionary Kazakhstan. These accumulated historic, ethnographic, geographic materials about Central Asia and Kazakhstan required systematization, comprehension and generalization, as well as bringing them into scientific circulation. Scientists began matching geographic features of separate parts of this material against lifestyle of population revealing the meaning of geographic factor, as a «main reason» defining fate of separate countries and nations. Many historians and ethnographers, being inspired by successes of natural sciences, have spread the idea of evolution to human society development, applying methods and principles of natural sciences to studying national history and culture. Historians and ethnographers, as representatives of natural sciences, adhered to the following: the idea of human kind unity and originating from it principle of uniform cultural development; the standing about single line of its development – from simple to complex; derived laws of public organizational structure and culture from individual psychic features.

Separate representatives of evolutionary direction looked at these ideas at different angles.

Number of historic works have appeared in the last quarter of 19<sup>th</sup> century attracting researchers' attention. They include two editions by a notable American linguist Dj. Carten «Journey to the Western Siberia»; essays of American poet, novelist and traveler Bayard Taylor. The latter has accepted a diplomatic post in Russia intending not only earning a «bunch of money,» but also studying Central Asia. However, only American diplomat Eugene Skiller and New York Herald newspaper correspondent Y. MacGahan succeeded in this, having become eyewitnesses of final actions of the Russian troops aimed at «joining» Central Asian khanates. They have departed to Saint-Petersburg in a company of Chingiz – older son of the last khan of Bukey Orda. According to E. Skiller, he was a «cultural gentleman, with deep knowledge of French literature.»

On the way, the American diplomat has turned to Tashkent intending to «describe political and social situation in the regions which had been recently conquered by Russia; make a comparison of living conditions of local residents with those who were still living under the khans' despotism.» Skiller had spent eight month in Central Asian and Kazakhstan having written two-volume labor «Turkestan»;

and MacGahan has described «Campaigning on the Oxus, and the Fall of Khiva» [2]. They cover a broad circle of problems connected with history and ethnography of regional population, colonial policy of Tsarism in Kazakh steps, its economics and nature.

In 1876 Eugene Skiller gave a true description of the situation in Kazakhstan: «These people have stood for their clans or families protecting their honor and safety of members. At the same time they were respecting bravery, attacks, courage and loving their independence; Kazakhs have always been ready to follow any «Batyr's» or hero's flags, which might have appeared in steppes, like they followed Sarim Arungazi or Kenesari...»

«I found him sitting in an open tent, wrapped up in a Bokharan khalat, or gown, taking tea, and smoking a cigarette. A man between forty-five and fifty, bald, and rather small of stature for a Russian, blue eyes, moustache, no beard, and a pleasant, kindly expression of countenance...» – this is how American Journalist Januarius MacGahan describes a Russian General, who headed military actions of the Imperial Army in Central Asia [2, p. 47]. Konstantin P. Kaufman was a progressive and educated person who felt sympathy for advanced ideas of his time.

MacGahan was one of the first foreign journalists to see vast lands of Central Asia. Population consisted of local tribes which were not aware of the Russian laws and didn't know Russian language. But in spite of this, all official papers and documents were written only in Russian. American journalist continued his impressions as follows: «He shook hands with me, asked me to sit down, and then remarked that I appeared to be something of a mohdyetz (a brave fellow), and asked me, with a smile, if I knew what that meant [2, p.48]. Really, General Kaufmann knew that American, sitting in front of him, reached the place of military actions without an official permission from the Imperial authorities in Petersburg. MacGahan appeared in Petersburg in the first half of February 1873. As a journalist of an American newspaper he asked permission of the Russian Government to accompany one of the troops going against Khiva. Having found out that many foreign correspondents were refused in their request to participate in Central Asian march of the Russian army, MacGahan consulted the American Consul Eugene Skiller, who had an official permission and accompanied military and state official Gabaydulla Djangirov, decided to join them. 35-year-old MacGahan, as military men who met him in the steppes, described

him as a very strong, who knew English, French and German language, but did not know neither Russian, nor the languages of the people whose lands he planned to cross heading towards the set goal. He had only passport allowing him to live in Russia. With this passport and a condition to meet Skiller and Djangirov in Kazalinsk on March 10<sup>th</sup>, he takes a train to Petersburg and soon appears in Saratov. In order to get to Kazalinsk, the American now needed to change transportation means from an «arba» (fire carriage) – how Kazakhs called steam engine and carriages at that time – to a «steppes' vessel» – camel. Way to Kazalinsk took MacGahan many days since weather was changing abruptly and, beginning from Orsk the traveler continued his trip in foul weather. The American arrived to Kazalinsk only on April 8<sup>th</sup> where he met with Skiller and Djangirov. They were staying all together in this area until April 30<sup>th</sup>. In Perovsk MacGahan parted with his compatriot, who headed off to Tashkent with Djangirov. To Kazalinsk and Perovsk MacGahan was accompanied by a state servant Akhmatov having been recommended by Orenburg's official Bekchurin. The American didn't find fifty-five-year-old Tatarian Akhmatov from Orenburg to a very nice person even though he knew Russian and talked all «Central Asian dialects.» MacGahan didn't like that his companion was lazy and got extremely drunk at the first opportunity. From Kazalinsk to Perovsk MacGahan was accompanied by a Kara-Kalpak Musatirov and a Kazakh teenage boy who helped to carry his belongings. The journalist had a whole arsenal of weapons: heavy English double-barreled rifle, double-barreled hunting rifle, Winchester rifle, three revolvers, one regular rifle, several hunting knives and sabers. The route of the American is worse paying attention to: Erkebay – current Kazalinsk, then Perovsk, currently – Kyzylorda town, where MacGahan had lunch with a glass of red wine, said farewell to his companions heading off to Tashkent. In Hal-Ata MacGahan met military posts and began getting acquainted with representatives of the imperial army. In these torrid steppes he met General fon Kaurman; Colonel Veysmar was attached to him. In Adam Kirilgan Kudik locality the American was speaking with Colonel Novomlinskiy and Baron Croff – officer of the 3<sup>rd</sup> rifle battalion. On August 28<sup>th</sup> MacGahan joins General Golovachev's detachment whose people accompany him to «Samarkand» steamboat sailing along the Amu-Daria River. In his notes the journalist mentioned sympathetic attitude to him from the side of captain Sitnikov. According to the notes of the American journalist, military officials tried sending the

unwilling guests away from the center of military actions. His observations concerning life of Kazakhs in ethnological regards are of special interest for us. In one episode of his travel essays MacGahan describes the following case: «Our supper over, I asked my young friend for some music, pointing at the same time to the guitar (the traveler called dombra guitar and, according to the deep-rooted habit Kazakhs – Kyrgyzs). He complied very readily, and sung three or four songs, accompanying himself on the instrument. One or two of the songs were hailed with shouts of laughter and merriment. He also sung one or two war songs, in which he celebrated the feats of some Kirghiz hero against the Turcomans, and these also were greeted with applause. The guitar was a small instrument, with a body in shape something like a pear cut in two lengthwise, and about a foot long, while the neck was three feet. It was made of some dark wood resembling walnut, and had one brass and two catgut strings. The airs of the songs would, I think, have been pretty, though very peculiar, but for the shrill high key and disagreeable long nasal whine in which they were sung. This manner of singing is universal in Central Asia; I remarked the same thing at Khiva, and among the Bokhariots who accompanied the Russian expedition. This, however, did not prevent the singing from being very amusing, and, taken together with the surroundings, very interesting. The place, the wide desert without, the cheerful fire within, throwing a ruddy light over the wild faces and strange costumes, the arms, saddles, bridles, and accoutrements, and the two young girls with their wild beauty, made up a very pretty picture [3].»

## Results

Western historiography acknowledges that Trarizm resettlement policy had grave consequences for the main Kazakh economic industry – nomadic cattle breeding; methods and reasons of colonization, its role in consolidation and establishment of the «Russian power» in Kazakhstan were subject to analysis. According to R. Pears, S. Zenkovskiy and other Western historians, construction of towns and fortresses, fortified barriers, even Cossacks, who have settled down on the territory of Kazakhstan, have not guaranteed stability of «Russian rule» in this region. Therefore state, military interests, goals of final establishment of the «Russian power» required colonization of Kazakhstan by a representative part of Russian society. However, R. Pears mentions as the reasons for resentment tightness of lands in Russia and Tsarism's striving to weaken agrarian

tension in the center having created a bearing in the steppes. Works of D. Williams, V. Lezar and R. Luice contain information about the quantity of Ural and Semirechie Cossacks, cover the course of resettlement movement, creation of resettlement administration, expropriation of the most fruitful Kazakh lands and other issues. Reporting data about the flow of migrants into other Kazakhstani regions, S. Zenkovskiy asserted that they were provided with the most fruitful lands in climatically most favorable regions without taking into consideration nomadic routes of Kazakh auls. «Inevitable results of steppes' colonization was tension which had appeared in relationships between nomads and newly arrived farmers,» he wrote. They even took away sawing areas cultivated by Kazakhs; in many places water sources had also been transferred to resellers and Cossacks. The course of resettlement from the time of abolishing serfdom in Russia (1861) to the

beginning of the First World War is described in the book of American historian D. Treadgold «Great Siberian Migration.»

Process of studying Kazakhstan abroad has not been interrupted, but acquired a new content. Authors clarified and replenished information and thoughts about the main stages of Kazakh people's genesis, about the ratio of Turkic and Mongolic components in it, Kazakh families and their settlement across zhuzes, ethnonym and etymology of the term «Kazakh,» formation of ethnic territory, lifestyle and national customs.

Travelers had plotted new routes to Northern and Eastern regions, having significantly expanded zone for geographic research which resulted in accumulating extensive material about the state of this region. Important discoveries, which have laid the foundation for studying archeological and written monuments, had been made.

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