

The Great famine in Kazakhstan

XX century brought huge bewilderments to the world. 1917 defined the boundary in collective consciousness, where the usual order of the life, traditions of the behavior, thinking and lifestyle remained. The beginning of XX century was a turning stage in the lives of Kazakh people. The people of Kazakhstan, domestic historical science had no right to speak about terrible famine of 1928-1932 years for long time. In general, famine years in the history of the Soviet state were not few – difficult years in the period of civil war, famine of 1921-1922 years that claimed the lives of many people. Unprecedented famine was in period from 1945 to 1949. Despite the rousing reports, the shortage of the main products and clothes was typical for all the years of the Soviet power. But the most difficult famine mentioned in the Western literature as the Great famine broke out in the late 20s and early 30s of XX century.

Only renovation policy, announced in the mid-80s allowed opening the veil of secrecy over a terrible disaster of 30s. However, the historical science of Kazakhstan got opportunity to discover this theme to the full extent only in the period of independence. The First President of the country – Leader of the Nation N.A.Nazarbayev in his speech of the I session of the Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan on March 24, 1995 “For peace and harmony in our common home” gave very succinct and objective assessment of those years, noting: “All Soviet history was provided with numerous violations of the people’s rights and facts of outright genocide. This famine of 1920-1930 years, when millions of citizens died. The number of Kazakh people decreased for almost half, Russians and other nations lost millions of honest workers, educated and venturous people. The genetic resources of many nations were undermined... .”

Policy of collectivization

The key event in carrying collectivization policy out in Kazakhstan was formation of committee for organization and administration of the campaign on August 5, 1928. Unlike other areas of the RSFSR, collectivization policy in Kazakhstan had some significant differences. First, it was conducted in parallel with so-called policy of “settlement”, the consequences of which had a large impact on the traditional forms of the farming of the local population.

In 1920-1930 military-administrative methods of governance were dominating. The main instrument of the economic policy of the government was provisional allotment – impressment of surplus of agricultural production for the needs of army and proletarian population of the cities. Provisional allotment was represented on of the components of policy of “military communism”; established during the war and built on the dividing principle. Ignoring the natural law of development of economy and uncontrolled administration from the center brought national economy of Kazakhstan to the underlying deformation

The famine and endemic migrations. Due to the steps of collectivization which were conducted by the Communist party, there was a terrible famine in many districts of the country. Desperate farmers were forced to leave their homes and move to the cities, crowding at railway stations. Thousands and thousands of hungry people filled the cities and leaders of party committees systematically informed about it. The country was swept through by epidemics of various diseases. The discontent of the peasants and wider population led to armed interventions migrations outside the country. Scientists calculated that there were 372 rebellions in Kazakhstan in 1929-1931, where more than 80 people took participation. Peasant rebellion in Suzak, Irgiz, Abraly, Mangistau, Shemonaikha,

Samara and other districts were tragically known. During rebellion peasants seized village councils, beat representatives of authorities, burned documents.

Stalin and his entourage like Ph.Goloshchekin did not admit their mistakes. They remained emotionless. Moreover, the whole blame was shifted to the peasants and no longer existing alternative parties. The rising tides of arrests and persecution of the villagers and representatives of clerisy swept through in the USSR and Kazakhstan. They were declared as “enemies of the people”, “nationalists” and were sent to the camps. The newly formed collective farms as derisively were named by I.Stalin, V.Molotov, L.Kaganovich, S.Kirov, M.Kalinin and et cetera.

Needless sacrifices. Millions of people died as a result of famine artificially organized by the Soviet power. The famine was the result of a forced transfer of nomadic Kazakhs to settlement and complete confiscation of all the cattle. Thus, people were deprived of the only source of existence. An outstanding historian of XX century Robert Conquest in his famous book “Harvest of sorrow” named “colossal human tragedy of Kazakh people” the collectivization policy and forthcoming destruction of people, suppression of resistance, forced migration of Kazakh people abroad.

Scientific understanding and analysis of the past tragic history was important and necessary for present and future generations of people of Kazakhstan to draw lessons from negative effects of voluntaristic social experiment led to death of huge number of people. It was the greatest humanitarian disaster of Kazakh people. Tremendous sacrifices, laid on the altar of construction of “socialistic paradise” were vain and not applicable to any historical justification.