

## **Social-political situation in the Republic of Kazakhstan in the 50s – first half of 80s**

In September 1952 the first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Kazakhstan Zh. Shayakhmetov was elected.

According to the new five-year plan the further accumulation of the rates of the industrial construction in the republic, the total volume of investments was 28, 5 mlrd rubles. However, further events led to significant changes in the life in the whole country.

Destalinization. In March 1953 I. Stalin died, he undividedly ruled the country since the end of 20s. His place was occupied by the group of the approximates of the dictator who started the struggle for power. Among them are Malenkov, Molotov, Beriya and Khrushchev.

At the end of March the new administration takes the measures on the liberalization of the system. The amnesty for all the captives whose term was more than five years, under age and for economical, administrative and war offences was declared. In several days the statement of the of the legitimacy by the bodies of state security during the investigation on the huge political affairs of the end of 40s and beginning of 50s. In July 1953 the chief organizer of the repression of 30s-50s L. Beriya was arrested. GULAG was transferred from the authority of the MIA to the Ministry of Justice, political situation became the independent organization – the Committee of state security (KGB).

In 1955 the amnesty to the convicts for the “assistance to fascists” during World War II was declared, the special settlers were deregistered and released from the administrative control. At the same time the restrictions on freedom of movement were preserved, political blames from the Germans and Crimean Tatars were not discarded, the majority of political captives was granted amnesty only after 1956, after the famous report of N. Khrushchev at XX meeting of the CPSU, where it was announced about the existence of the cult of personality of Stalin and mass repressions for the first time.

However, liberalization of political system was partial. All the failures of the conduct of social-economic policy and crime of the system were announced as the consequence of the distortion of Lenin principles, that responsibility from the party and administration of the country as a whole.

Notwithstanding the refusal of repressive methods, the administrative-command principle of the ruling was preserved and continued to develop. Republics including Kazakhstan proceeded to stay under direct control of Moscow which appointed and replaced the heads of the republic in their own discretion. Thus, in February 1954 at the VII meeting of the Communist Party of Kazakhstan on the decision of the Kremlin Zh. Shayakhmetov was replaced by P. Ponomarenko.

At that time the secretary of the CC of the CP of Kazakhstan became L. Brezhnev who was heading the republic in 1955-1956 yy. 1957-1958 yy. became the peak of the process of destalinization. In February 1957 the Chechens, Ingushs, Balkarians, Karachays, and Kalmyks were rehabilitated, they were allowed to return to their homeland.

The rehabilitation of the victims of political repressions began, however, it was elective and was not finished. In 1958 the new Criminal Code was adopted, it abolished the notion “enemy of people”, it was prohibited to recourse to threats and violence during investigation, the presumption of innocence was legalized.

*Based on the material of the textbook “History of Kazakhstan: Textbook for higher educational institutions”. 8<sup>th</sup> ed. Kostanay: Kostanay regional institute of historical research, 2006. – p.350 (Chapter 19, pp.313-314).*