

Revival of Ukrainian Traditions in Kazakhstan: History and the present

Peaceful opening of vast lands behind Ural by Ukrainians started in the end of the 19th century; with time, those regions started to play an important role in development of Kazakh nation's economy and received an impetus to acculturation. The process of resettlement of Ukrainian farmers to Northern Kazakhstan resumed in the twenties of the 20th century.

In the second half of the twenties, Soviet Kazakhstan paid close attention to development of Ukrainian ethnos. Soviet Ukraine sent more than 250 cultural workers and teachers, 122 stationary libraries, 7 polytechnic workshops, 1 stationary motion-picture apparatus, 3 mobile motion-picture apparatuses, 15 radio installations and so on to Kazakhstan. In 1931 Ukraine granted to working people and cultural workers of Kazakhstan 250 positions in different universities and technical schools of USSR.

People's Commissariat for Education (Narkompros) of KASSR and CP Rabpros together with other organizations, accomplished ukrainization of more than 300 schools of general school network and 20 schools of kolkoz youth, which had been supporting Ukrainian population in KASSR. With the help of different Ukrainian organizations, Kazakhstan carried out complete ukrainization of one of the regional newspapers and established a regional Ukrainian radiopaper.

Further plans of narkomats' collaboration stipulated a great deal of measures in the sphere of education and culture, but after Kremlin's decree dated December 15, 1932 on suspense of Ukrainization, all plans remained on paper. Moreover, Kremlin demanded exact execution of the mentioned resolution.

Soon Ukrainian language ceased to be spoken in public places in spite of 860 thousand diaspora in Kazakh steppe. Despite of appearance of a new wave of Ukrainian settlers who arrived to Kazakhstan for virgin lands development in the fifties of the 20th century, situation had not changed for dozens of years.

After declaration of independence, Kazakhs were among the first in Post-Soviet area who decided to pay a tribute of respect to Ukrainian nation. Ukrainian national communities have been revived in many Kazakhstan regions, i.e. "Oberig" in Astana, "Oksana" in Aktyubinsk, "Mariya in Ekibastuz", "Dnipro" in Dzhabul region, "Chervona ruta" in Akmolinsk region, and naturally, Ukrainian national groups started to function in Kostanay, Atyrau, Almaty, Karaganda, Aktau and other places of Ukrainian's settlement. On October 17, 2005 "Rada of the Ukrainians of Kazakhstan", which unites ethnic Ukrainians and representatives of

other nationalities in 11 Ukrainian national centers, 9 regions and 2 cities, was established from 2007 “Rada” has issued Republican newspaper “News of Ukraine” in Kazakh, Ukrainian and Russian languages, which is being read in other countries as well.

Today, Ukrainians of Kazakhstan have opportunity to build their temples, which has positive impact on strengthening of friendly ties and respect between two nations. Particularly, parishes of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the Kiyvan Partiarhate and Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church function on the territory of Kazakhstan. Opening of the Ukrainian cultural centre, which took place on November 24, 2011 with the participation of Prime Minister Nikolay Azarov in N.Gumilev Eurasian National University, indicates that relations between our nations and state will further develop.

We understand that current revival of Ukrainian spirituality in Kazakhstan became possible by virtue of constant attention of the government to the problems of strengthening national consent, particularly to propaganda of Kazakhstan patriotism among local Ukrainians.

Today, Kazakhstan is the only state in the Post-Soviet area, which publishes weekly newspaper “Ukrainski novini” at the state expense.

Ukrainians clearly see that such attitude to salvation of their spiritual problems in Kazakhstan is result of scrupulous attention and constant support from Nursultan Nazarbayev, who never forgets sincere support from Ukrainian nation at the time when he, as a young boy, had ben mastering his first profession on the shores of Dnieper.

Mutual gratitude of both nations is pledge of their friendship and understanding in future.

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