

The formation of Tatars ethnic groups in the Southern Urals and Trans Urals region

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Abstract. The formation of the Tatar people and the Tatar nation occurred at the basin of the middle current of the Volga and the bottom current of the Kama rivers. The authors examine the evolutionary nature of the formation of the Tatar ethnic group on the basis of ethnographic, historical and linguistic data. Linguistic data enable us to refine the process of settlement of the Tatar tribes in the study region. The authors conducted an expedition to the places of compact residence of Tatars, they revealed new folklore materials about the time of the Tatars in this or that region. These materials make it possible to make adjustments to substantiate the formation of the Tatar ethnic group.

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Introduction

Moreover, many researchers fairly include the Urals territory in this geographical zone and as soon as the borders of Bulgar and Kazan Khanates reached the coasts of the Belaya and the Ufa rivers [1]. Historically, Southern Urals, Trans Ural region and West Siberian Plain were considered as one of the centers of human civilization origin. Numerous ancient burial mounds of that epoch are extant to our days. According to the historians, there embraced Andronian culture in the 2nd millennium BC, which was common to the different tribes. Later, in the 1st millennium BC and the early Iron Age these traditions remained the same in Potchevashsk, Sargat, Barabinsk archaeological cultures. It is reasonable to say that the Turkic peoples have also made a remendous contribution to the history of human civilization. In fact, a penetration of the Huns to Baraba and along the Tobol River was in 55, 93, 155 years BC [2].

However, the period of their settlement in the West Siberian Plain is still uncertain. We don't accept the point that Turkic tribes inhabited these lands only in the 4th century and later, because it has been recorded that they had already lived there in the 1st and the 2nd millennium BC [1; 3].

The forest steppe part of this territory had been a part of Hunn Khaganate since the 3rd century BC, a part of Turkic Khaganate in the 6th century AD, Uyghur Khaganate in the 8th century AD and Kyrgyz Khaganate in the 9th century AD. In the 9th-10th centuries AD the southern part of the territory was integrated into Kimak Khaganate, formed by the Kimek and Kipchak people. As we know, the Kipchaks lived along the Irtysh River in 7th-9th

centuries AD, but in 890 a part of them migrated to the Urals. Subsequently, Kipchak tribes played a decisive role in the formation of the Tatar tribes in the Cisurals, Southern Urals, and Trans Ural region.

Penetration of Volga Bulgars to the territory of the Urals begins in VIII–IX centuries. According to the Bashkir the western Bashkirs were put on the influence of the Bulgars. Within several centuries Volga Bulgars gradually got into free lands currently concerned as the territories of modern Perm, Sverdlovsk, Chelyabinsk and even Kurgan districts. The Russian historians, who took up the question of the Urals and Siberia colonization, note that the eastern frontiers of Bulgar Khanate were stretched to the coasts of the Belaya river and the Ural Mountains. Famous Bashkir researcher R. Kuzeyev considers that the western Bashkiria has been actively occupied by Bulgars since the most ancient ages. These lands, being very convenient for the agricultural works, were the aim of colonization by the Bulgar tribes long before Bashkiria joined Russia. According to the modern Bashkir historians a considerable part of the western Bashkiria in the XIII century was a part of the Bulgar state. After the defeat of the Bulgar Khanate by the Mongols, resettlements of Bulgar tribes to these lands became a large-scale phenomenon. The authors of the "Sketches on the Bashkir ASSR History" consider that the basis for the formation of various groups of the Turkic population of Bashkiria was established exactly during the Bulgar period. Constant economic contacts close ethnic interaction between the Volga region, the Urals and Western Siberia people led to the further development of common features and gradual formation of various ethnographic groups of

the Tatar population who lived between the Urals and Western Siberia. It is known that these lands since the most ancient times have been occupied by Turkic-speaking tribes close by their language, both material and spiritual culture to the population of the Bulgar-Tatar states. Although the people living in an adjacent territory were not a part of the Kazan Khanate, this area in economic, cultural relations had the closest communication with the Kazan Tatars.

In the Golden Horde period a group of Kazan and Ural Tatars moved to the Southern Urals and Trans Ural region and mixed with the Turkic tribes. During their reign, Kuchum Khan and Ibak Khan developed strong relationships between Kazan and Siberian Khanates. After the fall of Kazan Khanate, the significant number of Tatars found shelter with local Turkic population that was close to them by language, religion, and spiritual culture

After the establishment of the Siberian Khanate, which was oriented to the strong economic and cultural contacts with the Kazan Khanate, the inflow of Volga Tatars to the neighboring Ural lands has increased even more [1; 2].

By the XVI century on the Ural and the trans-Ural territories was generated a special Turkic tribe close both to Kazan and Siberian Tatars. Many researchers note that this group of Tatars was a considerable part of the Siberian Khanate's population. The economy not only of the given region, but of all the Siberian Khanate, throughout several centuries, up to the beginning of the XX century, was handled by this group of Tatars. It is also believed that the religion of the Siberian Tatars has been introduced by Sart-Uzbeks of Bokhara, however, as the latest researches show, the local Tatar population has got acquainted with the Islam through the Bulgars and Volga Tatars. Interactions between the Kazan and Siberian Tatars reach its climax during the governing of Ibaka and Kuchum Khans. For the Tatars who moved from the Volga region there all the possible favourable conditions were created, they constantly were under the protection of the local administration [4]. The Tatar settlements located along the main roads from Asia to Europe, which simultaneously carried out a role of boundary and customs control. That is why these Tatars from generation to generation fairly consider the Urals as their historical native land. The opinion that Tatars have appeared there only after the devastation of the Kazan Khanate had been dictated, firstly, followed by the political aims, in order to legalize the unfairness of cutting down the Tatar Socialistic Autonomous Republic's borders, which were defined after the October revolution.

Subsequently, in the census registers these Tatars have been noted as "Tatars of the Siberian road". After the Kazan Khanate falling, the Volga region Tatar population was expatriated from their own cities and villages, they being deprived of the best lands, imposed by taxes, dissatisfied with the policy of forcible Christianization, also direct to the Urals and Western Siberia. Escape of the Kazan Tatars to the south-east lands in the end of the XVI - beginning of the XVII century gets mass character.

As a result of Yermak's campaign in 1581 many villages of these Tatars have been destroyed on the first day of that undeclared war. After the fierce fights by the Russian army which have destroyed almost all the male population of the Siberian Tatars on this territory, most people leave over the Irtysh River. On the former lands stay only the newcomers and the mixed population, basically consisting of the Kazan and Siberian Tatars. After the Siberian Khanate's falling, the trans-Ural lands stay uninhabited for a long time, and the basic population leaves for the East. Sometimes Karatabyn kin of Ural Bashkirs were coming here on summer pastures. After the Bashkir revolts these lands become governmental, and in the year of 1750 89000 dessiatinas of the land, which lies between Verhneuralsk and Chelyabinsk, were given to the service Meshcheryaks from Kushanak, Muslyumovo and Kurmanayevo villages for their fidelity to the Russia during the Bashkir revolts. From this point starts the next stage of colonization of modern Safakul, Almenevsk, Tselinniy territories. These Tatars simultaneously cultivate the virgin lands of Uysk, Verhneuralsk areas of modern Chelyabinsk district, Uchalinsk and Beloretsk areas of Bashkortostan Republic.

It is known that the first service Tatars (Mishars) appear on the historical scene after the capture of Kazan. For their service for Russian government these Mishars were granted with lands over the Kama, representatives of the ruling class among them even could keep some of their privileges. Thus, on the territory of the Kazan Khanate appear the first strengthened lines providing safety for the eastern frontiers of Russia. Russian administration during the process of Bashkirian colonization again falls back upon help of the devoted service Mishars for strengthening the new South-East borders with military fortresses. Following these goals, new settlements such as Ufa, Birsks, Menzelinsk were built. Subsequently these cities were occupied by people faithful to the Moscow state, i.e. by service class, the considerable part of which were service Mishars. In the Russian official documents of Ufa and Orenburg provinces they are meant as service Meshcheryaks. In the description of the people living

in these provinces given by P. Keppen it is said that service Tatars are called Meshcheryaks [5]. V.E. Den, studying the statistic materials on the population census, comes to the conclusion that terms “Mishar”, “Meshcheryak”, as well as the term “Bashkir”, on this territory were used not for ethnical identification, but for showing person's social status. Service Meshcheryaks were put equal to Cossacks; therefore they were ruled by the Cossack army. In many historical documents it is said that their ancestors moved here on the command of the Imperial Majesty to defend “the Bashkirs who came into the All-Russia citizenship” [5; 6].

The main duty of Ufa and Orenburg provinces service Tatar-Mishars consisted of protection the eastern frontiers of Russia and the Bashkir from Nogay people and since the year of 1699, on the contrary, the protection of the lands recently joined Russia from the constantly arising Bashkir revolts. Tatar-Mishars (Meshcheryaks) during the peace time were engaged in agriculture and cattle-breeding on the lands granted by the government for the faithful service and also rented from the local Bashkirs. At the same time they protected eastern frontiers of Russia from attacks of the neighboring Kazakhstan and Western Siberian people. During the Bashkir revolts Tatar-Mishars (Meshcheryaks) had to be on the side of the governmental forces.

In 1700, according to the Senate decision, service Tatar-Mishars (Meshcheryaks) were moved from Bashkiria to the strengthened lines between Bashkiria and the former Siberian Khanate [5;7]. On the basis of decrees of the years 1736 and 1739 all the serve Meshcheryaks who have confirmed their fidelity to Russia during the Bashkir revolts, were left forever on the lands rented or bought on a contract.

The first data about Safakul, and Kunashak Tatars appear in archival materials with the lounge of local Russian administration, primarily, in materials of the Isetsk province formed in 1738. During the first years of its existence this administrative unit consisted of Shadrinsk, Okunevsk, Isetsk districts

Long ethnic interactions of the newcomers and the local Turkic population resulted in appearance of various ethnographic groups of Tatars on the territory of the Urals. These Tatars in the archival materials are noted as yasack Tatars, Kazan Tatars, Kazan people, citizens of Kazan, Tiptyars, solitary men, real Bashkirs, new Bashkirs, Mishars, Mescheryaks etc. In archival materials the former population of the Siberian Khanate is also marked separately: the Siberian Tatars, Tatars of the former Siberian Khanate, descendants of Kuchum, Kuchum's Tatars, Kuchum's people etc. Such division of Tatars is reflected in many historical

documents of this period. The scientific expeditions conducted on the purpose of studying Safakul and Ichkin Tatars who live in Kurgan and Chelyabinsk districts, have shown that up to the present days the division of settlements into Kazan, Kurgan and the Siberian ends has remained. Many families still quite accurately realize the origin of their kin, which usually has either the Kazan or Siberian background [7; 8].

Different independent ethnic groups and dialects formed as a result of mixing between Volga and Ural Tatars with Turkic peoples during the centuries on the territory of Southern Urals and Trans Ural region. They combined the features of the local Turkic tribes and migrant populations in language [8; 9; 10; 11], lifestyle, and spiritual culture, but with a predominance of Volga-Turkic elements. These were Safakul and Ichkin Tatars [12].

Nowadays Safakul and Ichkin Tatars live in Safakul, Shadrin, Almendistricts of the Kurgan region, Kunashaksky and some other districts of the Chelyabinsk region. Close neighbors of Safakul and Ichkin Tatars call them Safakulleler and Ichkins. These Tatars name them self Mishars, Tatars, opposing to the next Bashkirs, the native language is considered as Tatar. Formation of Safakul and Ichkin Tatars into an independent ethnographic groups finishes by the end of the XIX century. There was no special research conducted on the history of Safakul and Ichkin Tatars till now, as data on them appear only in the middle of a XVII century when there the local administration establishes [5; 12].

Localization Tatar groups shows the evolution history of the Tatar ethnic group given the inclusion of other ethnic Tatar dominant components [13; 14; 15; 16]. Saving the Tatar ethnic group in areas where due to the very nature of land development and consolidating the new lands. Tatar ethnos accommodated in according to with general trends of migration of nomadic peoples [17; 18; 19]. Creative nature manifested in the formation of specific features in different dialects of the Tatar language [13; 20; 21; 22].

Therefore an intensive process of formation of the Tatar ethnic group came much earlier than scientists expected it.

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