



## Historical-Demographic Foundations of Inter-Ethnic Relations in the Republic of Karakalpakstan

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### **Abstract**

Most countries in the world are now multinational. It is known from world experience that the stability of States is largely connected with the ability to solve various problems in international relations. In the various conflicts, especially those between ethnic groups, which are taking place in the next era of globalization, such problems become particularly relevant. Therefore, inter-ethnic harmony is of particular importance as a decisive factor for any multi-ethnic country. In this article, the historical roots of inter-ethnic relations in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, historical and demographic factors of the formation of multi-ethnicity, demographic indicators of representatives of nationalities, it is stated that the composition of the country's multi-ethnic population is the product of a long historical process.

**Keywords:** *Nation; Multi-Ethnicity; Ethnic Composition; Inter-Ethnic Harmony; Demographic Processes; Population Census; Migration; Statistical Data*

### **Introduction**

Uzbekistan's multi-ethnic population, including Karakalpakstan, has a long history. We can learn about this from "Avesta", which tells about the ancient history of our people, the works of Greco-Roman authors, scientists and tourists who lived in our country in the Middle Ages, as well as scientific expeditions carried out in our country, and the knowledge of historians extant to us.

The repeated displacements of peoples throughout the country at certain times, the violent wars of destruction, and the battles of different rulers - all this has affected demographic processes. Over the centuries, Uzbekistan was invaded by various conquerors: Kir II, Alexander the Great, the Arab Caliphate, Genghis Khan, the Russian Empire. During the period of state activity of Amir Temur representatives of other peoples began to move here [1].

There were territories inhabited by the peoples who came here, new cities. As a result of conquest and colonization, a new language, religion and cultural values came here, a new culture was introduced. All these processes have affected the national composition of our country.

Thus, a diverse ethnic composition of the population of Uzbekistan was formed during long historical processes, as a result of which in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Large ethnic groups have been formed, and on the basis of migration different ethnic groups have been formed [1].

The fate of the Karakalpak, Uzbek, Kazakh and Turkmen peoples who had inhabited Central Asia since ancient times was closely connected with the Aral Sea. The territory along the island has played a great role in the formation of these peoples as a nation, that is, it has become its cradle [2]. For example, the Oguz, who played a major role in the formation of the Turkmen nation, are part of the Karakalpaks. There are also kipchaks and Karakalpaks, which are the basis of the formation of the Kazakh people. The Karakalpaks also mingled with the Kharezm, which formed the basis of the Uzbek people during its formation, and have always lived with it. A number of Uzbek peoples also belong to the Karakalpaks [3].

According to academician S. Kamalov “the ... Karakalpak, Uzbek, Kazakh, Turkmen peoples are in the same fate. The whole island since ancient times is considered the cradle of their becoming as a nation. Their friendship is deeply rooted, difficult though the situation may be, it cannot break their friendship and solidarity” [3], the quality of hospitality, care and tolerance peculiar to our people are the guarantee of friendship between the peoples living on this holy ground.

The cultural landscape was created by the economic and agricultural activities of ethnic groups living on the island's shores for several millennia, the accumulated economic experience passed from generation to generation [6]. The adaptation of ethnic groups to the surrounding natural conditions was different: some (for example, Uzbeks and Karakalpaks of the Aral Sea Region) adapted the landscape to their needs, others (Kazakhs and Turkmens) tried to adapt to it as needed. To the extent possible, without making significant changes [5]. It can be seen that each people on the island's coast had its own landscape, which prevented conflicts between peoples over land and economic and social conflicts.

### ***The Main Findings and Results***

Census work is important in international relations research. During the period of independence, which is the chronological limit of the topic under study, no population census was conducted in our republic. This causes problems in the in-depth study and comparative analysis of the size, age, national composition and changes over the years.

Data from the 1989 All-Union Population Census could be used to compare changes in the national composition of the population of Karakalpakstan.

According to the All-Union Census of 1989, 1,212,207 people lived in the territory of the Autonomous Republic of Karakalpakstan. Uzbeks made up 397,826, i.e. 32.82%, Karakalpaks 389,146 people i.e. 32.10%, Kazakhs 318,739 people i.e. 26.29%, Turkmens 60,244 people i.e. 4.97%, Russians 19,846 people i.e. 1.64%, Koreans 914 people i.e. 0.76%, Tatars 7,767 people i.e. 0.64%, Ukrainians 2,271 people i.e. 0.19%, Bashkirs 1,090 people i.e. 0.09%, Kyrgyz 867 people i.e. 0.07%, Moldovans 632 people i.e. 0.05%, Belarusians 567 people i.e. 0.05%, representatives of other nationalities 4,038 people i.e. 0.33% of them [6].

As of January 1, 2020, the population of the Republic of Karakalpakstan reached 1,898,351 people. Uzbeks made up 765,820 of them, i.e. 40.3%, Karakalpaks 701,227 people i.e. 36.9%, Kazakhs 294,965 people i.e. 15.5%, Turkmens 101,964 people i.e. 5.37%, Russians 10,235 people i.e. 0.54%, Koreans 6,313 people i.e. 0.33%, Tatars 4,877 people i.e. 0.27%, Kyrgyz 1,450 people i.e. 0.08%, Ukrainians 1,056 people i.e. 0.05%, Belarusians 489 people i.e. 0.02%, Azerbaijanis 300 people i.e. 0.01%, Tajiks 272 people i.e. 0.01%, 9,383 people of other nationalities, i.e. 0.49% [7]. Through this information, we will be able to compare the demographic processes of the nations.

Fertility has always been an important demographic process, contributing to population growth. The change in the birth rate in Karakalpakstan can be shown by its total coefficient. Analysis of the birth rate shows that the total fertility rate in Karakalpakstan declined by 15.3 % between 1991 and 2018.

In the 1990s, the birth rate fell sharply. From 1991 to 2000, the crude birth rate fell by 12.9 %. From 2000 to 2018, it fell by another 2.4 %. Karakalpakstan is one of the 14 regions of the Republic of Uzbekistan with a relatively low birth rate. Only Tashkent, Tashkent and Bukhara provinces lag behind Karakalpakstan in terms of birth rate. Over the past 10 years, the birth rate in Uzbekistan has declined by 0.1% and in Karakalpakstan by 3.1% [8]. The main reasons for this were economic and social factors, as well as the result of State family planning measures [9].

According to the analysis of demographic growth indicators of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, almost half of the population (48.7 per cent) lives in the Amu Darya delta in the southern part of the region. For example, in the Moynak region off the Aral Sea, the population was 27,400 in 1989, but by 2019 it had declined to 3,900. From 1991 to 2019, the population decreased from 46% to 27.7% in the Kungirat and Khojaili districts, respectively. During this period, the demographic growth was significantly higher in the southern part of the region, i.e. in the Beruniy, Tortkol, Amu Darya, Ellikkaly districts [9].

The mortality rate reflects the health status of the population over time. Despite the strengthening of the health-care system since Uzbekistan's independence, the incidence of certain diseases has increased. As a result, child, adolescent and maternal mortality rates remain relatively high. In Karakalpakstan, the highest maternal, adolescent and child mortality rates in Uzbekistan and the high mortality rate in the region are due to the drying up of the Aral Sea, the lack of clean drinking water, atmospheric air and the deterioration of soil quality. In the northern part of Karakalpakstan (near the Aral Sea) - Moynak, Takhtakopyr, Kegeilli, Gonlikul, Chimbo districts mortality is higher than the average in Uzbekistan and Karakalpakstan, these areas were the most affected by the environmental crisis, which adversely affects public health [8].

In recent years, migration in the region has been a factor that has had a direct impact on population growth and settlement in Karakalpakstan. This process is reflected in a decline in the population growth rate, with an increase in emigration as compared with immigration to the Republic and, as a result, an increase in the net migration surplus. For example, the number of immigrants in 2020 was 7,778. The number of emigrants in 2020 was 12,517 [7]. In fact, the environmental situation in the region and new socio-economic conditions during the transition to a market economy have influenced migration. Historical, national and ethnic factors are also important in the migration process.

The migration history of our country includes a long and difficult period. Mainly during the drought of the 1930s, many Kazakhs immigrated to Uzbekistan. At that time, the climate and natural conditions of the region, suitable for rice and cattle farming, became the main factor of immigration to the area of Koreans and Kazakhs. It should be noted that at that time some peoples were exiled to the Central Asian republics.

Since then, especially during the Great Patriotic War, as a result of migration of the population and industry to the east, mainly to Uzbekistan, more and more nationalities have come and settled in the Republic. Later, specialized personnel and workers moved to Uzbekistan, mainly representatives of Russian, Ukrainian, Belarusian and other nationalities. These processes have to some extent influenced the formation of the national composition of the population of Karakalpakstan.

The result of population migration in Karakalpakstan was positive until the 1990s, and the population grew very rapidly due to high natural growth. With the dissolution of the former Union and the emergence of independent republics in its place, the migration process intensified. As a result of the drying up of the Aral Sea in our multi-ethnic Republic, the ecological situation in the region has

negatively affected the nature and health of the population, and economic and social factors have led to the development of ethnic migration in the region. The large flow of external migration is characteristic of the northern and central regions of Karakalpakstan, and these regions embody the aforementioned factors that cause the migration process.

Demographic developments in the region have affected the way of life of all nationalities living in the Republic of Karakalpakstan as a result of economic, social and environmental problems caused by the drying up of the Aral Sea, There have been migratory movements of a number of nationalities. All this led to demographic changes in the national composition of the republic.

Karakalpakstan is a multinational republic. As of 1 January 2021, the permanent population of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, where representatives of such nationalities as Karakalpak, Uzbek, Russian, Ukrainian, Belarusian, Kazakh, Azerbaijani, Kyrgyz, Tajik, Turkmen and Tatar live together, Korean, 1,923.8 thousand men. This figure has increased by 25,500, or 1.3 per cent since the beginning of 2020. Among them, the number of urban residents is 942.1 thousand. (share of the total population 49.0%), the number of rural inhabitants is 981.7 thousand (51.0%) [10].

Statistical data are of particular importance in the scientific study of the country's national composition. Statistical data show that the number of Karakalpaks, Uzbeks and Turkmens has increased over the years of independence, while the number of Kazakh, Russian, Korean and Ukrainian nationalities has decreased. The main causes were socio-economic problems caused by the unfavourable environmental situation in the region, migration processes and low birth rates.

An analysis of the changes in the national composition of the Republic of Karakalpakstan shows that the Russian-speaking nationalities constituted the majority in the first years of independence, and then their numbers decreased due to migration and low birth rates. Armenians, Jews, Moldovans, Germans, Georgians, Lithuanians, Estonians and Latvians will disappear in our republic after 2012 in statistical data, that is, the disappearance of nationalities is caused, firstly, by the migration process, secondly, the low birth rate, and third, the aging process.

## **Conclusion**

In the national composition of the Republic of Karakalpakstan in the years of independence, as well as in the development of science and production, the process of outflow of foreign migrants as a result of attracting foreign investment, Building new industrial enterprises and attracting foreign specialists. All these processes are considered to be a factor affecting inter-ethnic relations.

Thus, the historical basis of inter-ethnic relations in the Republic of Karakalpakstan has its own characteristics. Representatives of the Turkic-speaking population lived here since ancient times, representatives of each nationality owned their land and created their own types of economy. As a result of the socio-economic, commercial and cultural ties of the peoples living in the region in historical times, this has led to the formation and development of inter-ethnic relations.

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