

Kazakh nobility of the Russian Empire: civil service, scientific and political life

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Abstract

Reforms of the first half of the nineteenth century conducted by the Russian authorities on the territory of the Kazakh Steppe affected many areas of life of the Kazakh nomadic society. The process of destruction of the traditional social and political structures began, the elimination of the Khan's power and the creation of new caste groups, in particular the Kazakh officials and Kazakh nobility. The formation of the Kazakh officials and nobility was simultaneous. Kazakh elite being on the positions in the local government system, obtained military or civilian ranks of the Russian service, the Russian medal, which gave the right to enter the privileged class of the Empire - Russian nobility. Moreover, the Kazakhs, who served as a senior sultan of three three-year period, had the right to apply for entering into the hereditary of the Russian nobility. On the basis of new documents, which I have discovered in the central state archives of Kazakhstan and Russia, I want to reveal activity of the Kazakh nobility, their lineage, status in nomadic society, level of education, participation in geographical scientific societies. And of course the interesting question - how did Kazakh nobility of the Russian Empire meet the 1917-year revolution? How they reacted to the events of February and October of 1917 year and included in political life?

Author information

Gulmira Sultangalieva is professor of Historical faculty at al Farabi Kazakh National University. She was foreign visiting fellow at the Slavic Research Center, Hokkaido University, visiting professor of Wisconsin University, got scholarship of German Historical Institute in Moscow and Fondation Maison des Sciences de l'Homme (Paris, France). She is ambassador of Hokkaido university (2018-2020, Japan). My research interests (keywords): Comparative research of policy of Russian Empire, social history nomads of Central Eurasia, formation of Kazakh officials in 19-th century, role of Tatars mullahs, translators in the Kazakh steppe (18-19-th centuries).

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