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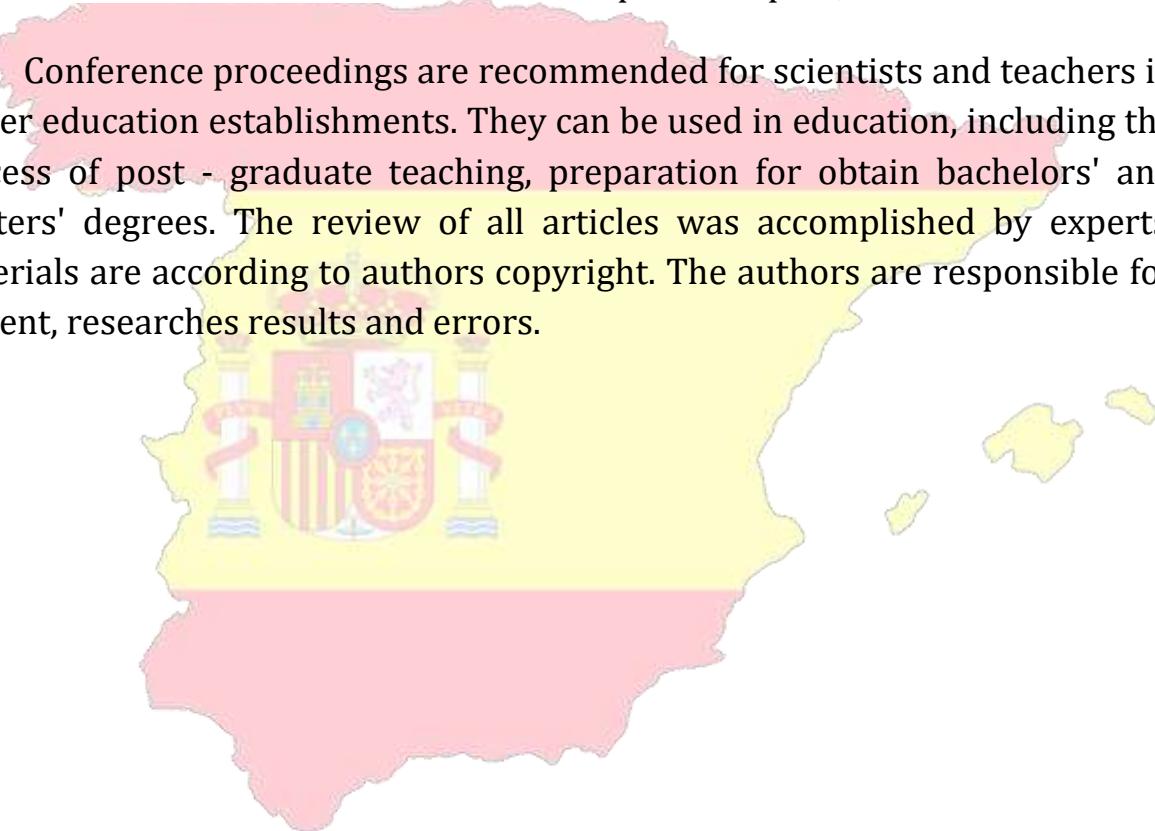
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## **The Formation of Russian Villages in the Fergana Valley and the Migration of the Russian-Speaking Population**

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**Abstract.** This article examines the resettlement policy implemented by Tsarist Russia in the second half of the 19th century and the early 20th century, the Stolypin agrarian reform, and provides certain information about Russian villages established in the Fergana region. In addition, the article presents data on the social composition of representatives of other ethnic groups who migrated to the Fergana Valley, their relations with the local population, and the impact of the resettlement policy on the indigenous inhabitants. Historical information concerning the level of industrial development and transformation of Russian villages, as well as their influence on the social life of the valley, is analyzed.

**Keywords:** Stolypin, Tsarism, village, resettlement, agrarian reform, Fergana, valley, peasant, indigenous population, local, industry, manufactory.

**Introduction.** At present, ongoing migration processes are exerting a significant influence on the course of global historical development. Population movements observed in various regions of the world are among the factors giving rise to political, socio-economic, cultural, and religious problems within societies.

Numerous studies are being conducted in leading research centers around the world on migration processes during the period of the Russian Empire and the settlements that emerged as a result. These studies are mainly devoted to population resettlement issues in Ukraine, Belarus, the Caucasus, and other regions, while insufficient attention has been paid to the migration of the population from the central regions of Russia to Turkestan. The study of population resettlement into the region, the emergence of the first Russian settlements and villages, the formation of inhabited localities, and the distinctive features, conflicts, or cultural exchanges between Slavic and indigenous populations—along with their lifestyle, economic activities, cultural life, and interactions with local peoples—is of great importance for revealing the essence of migration research.

This dissertation contributes, to a certain extent, to the implementation of the tasks outlined in the Decrees of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan: Decree No. PF-4947 of February 7, 2017, “On the Strategy of Actions for the Further Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan”; Decree No. PF-5655 of February 5, 2019, “On Approval of the Concept for Conducting the Population Census in the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2022”; Decree No. PF-5876 of November 15, 2019, “On Approval of the Concept of State Policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the Field of Interethnic Relations”; as well as other relevant normative legal documents.

**Literature Review and Methodology.** The first group of scholarly sources consists of works published during the years of Russian imperial colonial rule. In

the works of authors such as V. Grigorev, A.P. Khoroshkhin, A.F. Middendorf, A. Fedchenko, N.A. Maev, G. Arandarenko, V.I. Kushelevsky, V.I. Masalsky, A.I. Shakhnazarov, E.S. Vulfons, I.I. Geyer, A. Korsish, V.F. Karavaev, A.P. Koplast, and N.N. Alexandrov, the resettlement of the population to Turkestan was assessed from the standpoint of great-power chauvinism and was generally regarded as a positive process. Reports and studies by A. Glebov, K.K. Palen, I.A. Komarov, V.P. Voshinin, and E.Ya. Akinov also reflected the process of population resettlement from Russia to Turkestan. Dozens of articles on the resettlement process and the history of newly established villages, stanitsas, and settlements in Turkestan were published in the *Turkestanskiy Sbornik* and in the periodical press of that time.

The second group of literature includes publications produced during the Soviet period. In the 1920s–1930s, no specialized studies were created in Soviet historiography on the resettlement policy of the Russian Empire. However, the works of authors such as V.I. Yuferov, A.K. Silenov, V.V. Bartold, P.G. Galuzo, and V. Lavrentev discussed the emergence of settlements and villages of the population relocated to Turkestan and the changes that occurred in economic life. In the second half of the 20th century, the works of M.N. Kabirov, A.P. Fomchenko, P.L. Vereshchagin, N.N. Kanoda, D.O. Aytmambetov, and A.I. Ginzburg addressed the history of population resettlement to Turkestan under the influence of communist ideology, based on a conceptual approach that emphasized the “progressive significance” of incorporating the region into the Russian Empire, while providing extensive factual data.

The third group of literature consists of scholarly works produced during the years of independence. In the studies of N. Abdurakhimova, F.B. Iskhakov, Kh.Z. Ziyaev, S.B. Shodmonova, N.U. Musaev, Shtafforov, N. Sobirov, N.B. Mahmudova, J.Sh. Khayitov, M. Jabborov, and R. Arslonzoda, the essence and objectives of the empire’s colonial policy were interpreted, including issues of Russification, exploitation of regional resources, strengthening the raw material base, and expanding markets for industrial products.

**Discussion.** Due to the emergence of numerous problematic situations during the process of population resettlement to Turkestan, the imperial government found it necessary to develop special rules and regulations in this field. It was natural that the population resettled to Turkestan encountered a number of difficulties while adapting to new local conditions. These problems included challenges related to relocation from reception points to new settlement areas, difficulties in settling in the designated locations, unfavorable living conditions in the initial dugouts and reed huts, the necessity of changing one’s occupation, the insufficiency of land funds for all resettled families, the poor quality and low fertility of the allocated lands, the costs of renting draft animals for land cultivation (for sowing purposes, oxen or horses were rented at a cost ranging from one to two rubles per desyatina—dissertation), as well as the high cost of housing rentals from Cossacks (up to 30 rubles per year—dissertation).

In the 1870s, the process of population resettlement to Turkestan followed specific routes and directions. The distance between Orenburg and Tashkent amounted to approximately 2,000 versts, while the route via Astrakhan was even longer. To reach Turkestan from the Caucasus via Uzun-Ada and the Mikhailov Bay, it was necessary to cross deserts and steppes over a distance of about 1,500 versts. Migrants traveling from Southern Siberia via Akmolinsk, Turgay, and Uralsk were also required to traverse approximately 1,500 versts of sandy desert routes. [4:98] Even after the Turkestan region was officially closed to resettlement by the government, landless and land-poor peasant families continued to migrate independently and at their own risk. Those who migrated without official permission generally headed toward Tashkent, the administrative center of the Turkestan Governor-Generalship.

**Results.** The Fergana Valley is one of the most densely populated, economically significant, and strategically important regions of Central Asia, and its historical development has been shaped by multifaceted and complex socio-economic factors. The conquest of Turkestan territories by the Russian Empire in the second half of the 19th century marked a fundamental turning point in the life of the Fergana Valley. From this period onward, the political administration system, land and water relations, population structure, and forms of economic activity in the region underwent profound changes. In particular, as a result of the resettlement policy of the Russian Empire, Russian populations began to migrate to the Fergana Valley, where they established new villages. These villages emerged as an important factor in the economic development of the region.

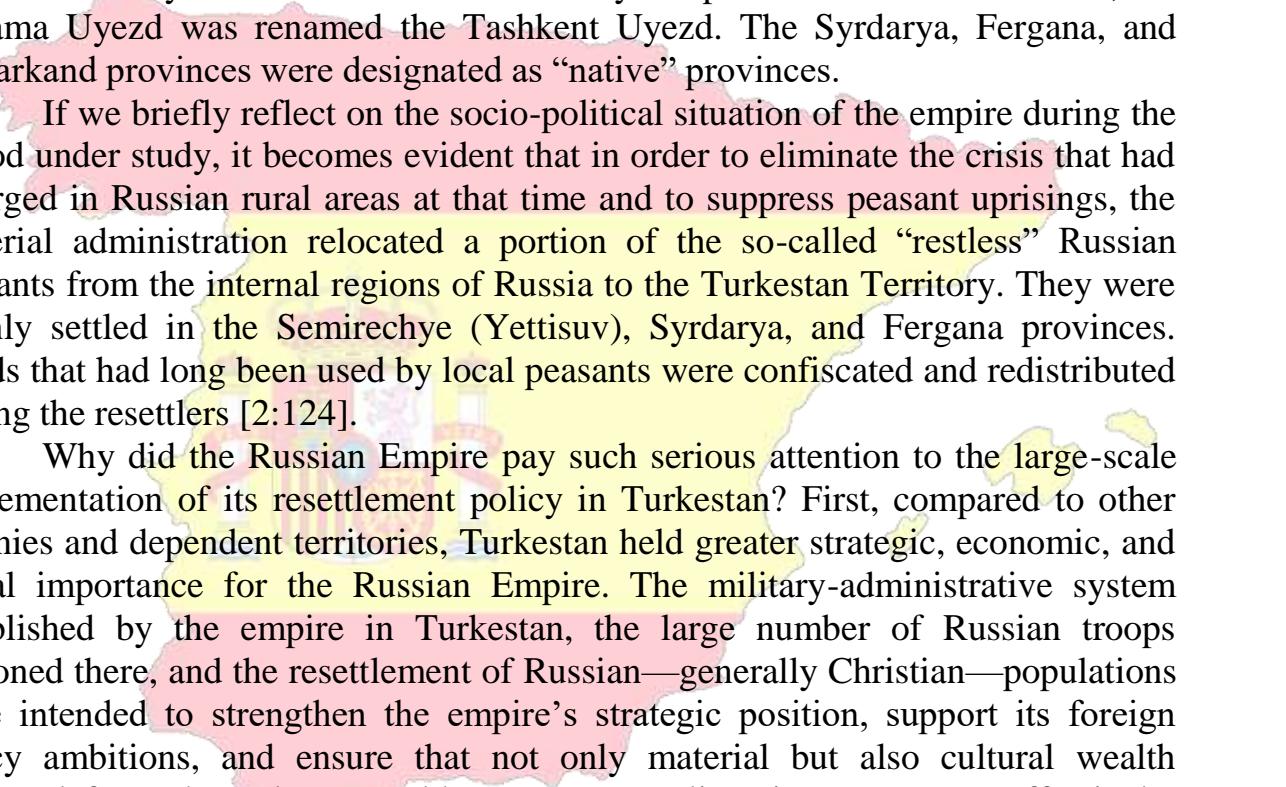
The establishment of Russian villages contributed to the introduction of new methods and technologies in agricultural production in the Fergana Valley. Processes such as land development, construction of irrigation facilities, and the organization of agriculture and animal husbandry on a systematic economic basis intensified due to the activities of the resettled population. As a result, the agrarian potential of the region increased, and the Fergana Valley became a major agricultural area within the Russian Empire and later during the Soviet period. In particular, the development of cotton growing and its integration into the market economy were directly linked to the activities of Russian villages. [1:47]

At the same time, Russian villages also influenced the development of infrastructure and production relations in the Fergana Valley. The emergence of roads, irrigation networks, warehouses, markets, and processing enterprises led to the activation of the regional economy. These processes strengthened economic ties between the local population and Russian villages, contributed to the redistribution of labor resources, and caused changes in the socio-economic environment. As a result, a multi-layered economic system was formed in the Fergana Valley.

Beginning in 1892, it was announced that individuals who migrated independently from Russia could also take advantage of the benefits granted to those resettled with administrative permission. [3:63] This led to a sharp increase

in the number of migrants arriving in the region. The growth in the number of resettled populations and the allocation of fertile lands to them caused serious dissatisfaction among representatives of the local population. Settlements of migrants also appeared in Tashkent and in cities such as New Margilan, Samarkand, and Andijan. Major cities of the region were divided into two parts: one consisting of areas inhabited by the new administration, military units, and resettled populations, and the other comprising quarters inhabited by the indigenous local population. For example, the Bozsuv canal in Tashkent became a boundary dividing the city into two parts.

The internal administrative structure of the Fergana Province was left unchanged. In the Syrdarya Province, the previously established uyezds were supplemented by the inclusion of the Amudarya Department. At the same time, the Qurama Uyezd was renamed the Tashkent Uyezd. The Syrdarya, Fergana, and Samarkand provinces were designated as “native” provinces.



If we briefly reflect on the socio-political situation of the empire during the period under study, it becomes evident that in order to eliminate the crisis that had emerged in Russian rural areas at that time and to suppress peasant uprisings, the imperial administration relocated a portion of the so-called “restless” Russian peasants from the internal regions of Russia to the Turkestan Territory. They were mainly settled in the Semirechye (Yettisuv), Syrdarya, and Fergana provinces. Lands that had long been used by local peasants were confiscated and redistributed among the resettlers [2:124].

Why did the Russian Empire pay such serious attention to the large-scale implementation of its resettlement policy in Turkestan? First, compared to other colonies and dependent territories, Turkestan held greater strategic, economic, and social importance for the Russian Empire. The military-administrative system established by the empire in Turkestan, the large number of Russian troops stationed there, and the resettlement of Russian—generally Christian—populations were intended to strengthen the empire’s strategic position, support its foreign policy ambitions, and ensure that not only material but also cultural wealth extracted from the colony would serve metropolitan interests more effectively. Second, the primary objective of the Russian Empire’s resettlement policy was to consolidate its position in Turkestan by relying on the relocated Russian population and to pursue the Russification of the local population.

Turning again to historical evidence: in 1865, the year Tashkent was captured by Russian forces, the city had a population of 76,000 people living in 13,000 households. Forty-five years later, in 1910, the population had grown to 150,000 people living in 21,000 households [6:68].

In 1911, 54,000 Russians lived in the Russian part (new city) of Tashkent, which had been founded in 1865. Thus, in cities occupied by Russians, special residential areas designated for settlers emerged. As a result, cities were divided into two parts: the old city and the new city. In addition, dozens of cities such as



Kazalinsk, Petro-Aleksandrovsk, Skobelev, and Chernyaevka emerged in the territory of Western Turkestan under colonial rule.

It should be emphasized that the first Governor-General, K.P. von Kaufman, was granted almost unlimited authority by the emperor. His great-power stance, extreme injustice toward local peoples, and the perception among metropolitan representatives that they were victors in the region were reflected in the policies and practical activities of the Russian Empire's colonial administration.

Relying further on historical facts, it should be noted that among the Russian population that voluntarily migrated to the lands of Semirechye and the territories along the Syrdarya River in the 1860s, urban poor, petty traders, and impoverished peasants constituted the majority. They often behaved rudely and criminally toward the local population. Instances of land confiscation from local peasants and pastoralists were widespread. As mentioned above, von Kaufman, taking advantage of his virtually unlimited authority, established that the Russian population migrating to the Syrdarya Province could be permitted to purchase land if necessary. However, the primary intention was to settle Russians on state-owned lands and lands confiscated from the indigenous population.

It should also be noted that during the early period of Turkestan's colonization, in the Semirechye and Syrdarya provinces, each adult male in the families of discharged Russian soldiers and peasant settlers from the metropole was granted up to 30 desyatinas of land. Newly arrived peasants were exempted from all taxes and payments. In addition, each family in need of material assistance was granted a long-term loan of 100 rubles.

As a result, in the absence of strict regulations and protective measures for the local population against the abuses of settlers, more than 95,000 Russian peasants and urban poor migrated to the Syrdarya and Fergana provinces, the Zarafshan Okrug, and the Amudarya Department between 1865 and 1881 [7:144].

In 1912, a total of 73,674 desyatinas of land—of which 65,409 desyatinas were suitable for agriculture—were confiscated for the provincial resettlement fund. That same year, 1,569 families comprising 4,630 individuals relocated from Russia were settled on these lands.

Although the privileges granted to settlers from Russia in Turkestan were later significantly reduced, population migration from the metropole to Central Asia, particularly to Turkestan, continued to expand. Even while pursuing aggressive expansionist policies in Central Asia for foreign policy and colonial objectives, the Russian Empire placed great importance on relocating militarized Cossacks and Russian civilians to the conquered territories and providing them with various privileges. This issue was not directly linked to alleviating social tensions in Russia's internal governorates, because even in the first half of the 19th century—during the abolition of Kazakh khanates and the conquest of the lower Syrdarya region belonging to the Kokand Khanate—and later periods, the policy of resettling primarily Orthodox Christian populations into newly conquered



territories was an integral part of the empire's geostrategic military-political, economic, social, and ideological plans.

From the very beginning of the conquest of Turkestan, Tsarist Russia regarded the region as a source of wealth. In order to ensure a steady supply of raw materials for Russian industry, the development of cotton growing and other industrially oriented branches of agriculture was considered a primary objective. Therefore, the tsarist administration spared no resources in developing the cotton industry in the region. To establish cotton monoculture, cotton exported from Turkestan to Russia was initially exempted from customs duties. From 1879 onward, a customs duty of 40–50 kopecks per pood of cotton was imposed. One of the main cotton-producing regions of Turkestan was the Fergana Province [1:58]. The imperial administration implemented all necessary measures to develop the cotton industry in the province. According to the “Collection of Rules on Social Taxes and Land Issues,” adopted in 1875 and applied exclusively in the Fergana Province, administrative authorities were granted ownership rights not only over private lands but also over waqf (endowment) lands.

**Conclusion.** The formation of Russian villages and the migration of the Russian-speaking population to the Fergana Valley constitute a historically and socially significant process that had a noticeable impact on the region's demographic and cultural structure from the 18th to the 20th centuries. The study reveals that the emergence of Russian villages was primarily driven by agrarian objectives as well as strategic and administrative policies. The composition of the Russian-speaking migrants included agricultural laborers, craftsmen, and administrative personnel, who played an important role in the economic development of the valley and the formation of urban infrastructure.

At the same time, the establishment of Russian villages intensified cultural exchange with the local population, though in some cases it also affected local traditions and social structures. This process increased the ethnic diversity of the Fergana Valley and contributed to the emergence of new systems in agriculture, education, and culture.

Overall, the formation of Russian villages and the migration of the Russian-speaking population can be regarded as an important source for understanding historical demographic changes, socio-economic development, and cultural integration in the Fergana Valley. This topic remains relevant not only for historical studies but also for the analysis of contemporary ethnic and social processes.

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