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NUMERICAL AND NATIONAL COMPOSITION OF URBAN POPULATION OF BASHKIRIA IN 1930S

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Abstract

The paper discusses the specific features of urban population of the Bashkir Soviet Socialist Autonomous Republic in the 1930s of the last century. The national composition of the urban population of the Republic and some of its features are analyzed. The nature of the national urban development policy of the Soviet state is revealed in terms of the territorial borders of the Republic of Bashkortostan. The paper attempts to study the sources and channels of the development of numerical structure of the urban population of Bashkiria. A comprehensive analysis of the demographic issue of urban development is based on the involvement of a wide range of sources. The features of urban population growth are studied and the most significant channels in the history of replenishing the number of citizens of the Republic are investigated. The main trends, including regional ones, of the development of the urban population of the region are revealed. The subordination of the studied processes conducted by the state policy of the USSR is demonstrated. Besides, the focus of the attention and analysis is placed on the totality of historical phenomena that were of great importance regarding their impact on reproductive and settlement processes. Based on the analysis, the author's conclusion is made on general historical trends in the development of population reproduction processes in the cities of the BASSR and regional features arising from the specifics of economic, geographical characteristics of urban areas and their political and administrative justification.

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1. Introduction

The stability of the social system is determined by the balance of political and social decisions and actions in the state. One of the important factors of productive relations in the country is a clearly developed, theoretically calculated demographic policy, which we consider as administrative and economic measures that affect the natural and mechanical behavior of the population. The historical goal is to achieve demographic optimum. Modern society is undergoing qualitative changes in all areas of public life, as a result of which a historical analysis of previous events that have influenced the current state of the demographic indicators of society is in demand.

2. Problem Statement

The main problem of this work is the study of the most active stage of urbanization in Bashkortostan, associated with tremendous growth not only of urban settlements, but also of the urban population, which dramatically changed both ethnic and demographic indicators of the population of the Republic and historical development of the Region.

3. Research Questions

Western researchers paid particular attention to the demographic laws of social development (Glick & White, 2003; Light, 2004). American scientists (Bourdieu & Richardson, 1986; Massey, 1989; Todaro, 1980) made a large contribution to the development of the theory of migration processes. On the one hand, they revealed attractive and pushing factors affecting the mechanical reproduction of the population (Piore, 1979), on the other hand, they correlated migration relations with the specific nature of rural and urban economies (Todaro, 1980), and studied the main motives of migratory behavior of people. Russian scientists most often give an assessment of the population status of society through the prism of the impact on it of territorial and regional features of the development of the country's social structure. A special area of research is the study of the theory of migratory mobility of people (Rybakovsky, 1976; Uralnis, 1976), the specific nature of migration behavior of different social and demographic as well as territorial groups of the population (Volkov, 1999). The study of the urban population, from its historical point of view, has recently expanded in Russia, and yet, despite this, some aspects of the development of the population of the mid-20th century have to be studied in more detailed way.

Based on the foregoing, the research questions were identified in the following order: Features of ethnic and demographic indicators of the urban population of the Region. The study of historical events that determined the numerical structure of the urban population and the specific nature of its location in Bashkiria.

4. Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the work is to analyze the historical patterns of the territorial distribution of the population, which is a complex relationship of constituent elements of social development. The main goal of this work involves solving a number of problems, i.e. to reveal the history of urban development in

Bashkortostan in 1930s of the last century, to identify and study the sources and channels of replenishment of the population of Bashkortostan in the context of state transformations in the Russian state during the period under study.

5. Research Methods

The analysis of historical and demographic material proposed in this paper is based on the principles of chronological method, historical modeling and classification method, as well as correlation of general and special. To restore the data on the real population, the mathematical processing of the sources used and historical and statistical calculations were applied.

6. Findings

One of the development trajectories of political and economic relations is the urbanization process, which begins to develop in our country from the beginning of the 19th century. The period of Soviet history is marked by a planned, tactically calculated growth of cities, where the increase in the urban population was logical. Urbanization directly affected the Bashkir Autonomous Republic. The construction of the largest industrial enterprises, powerful hydraulic and energy systems and other facilities acquired tremendous proportions in the Bashkir Region. The development of Bashkortostan in 1930s of the 20th century was based on the development of oil and gas fields, the construction of oil refining facilities, and resource transportation points. Most of the urban villages with major oil and gold industries – the copper industry – arose precisely at the request of the country's industrial complex in 1938, which suggested the mechanical movement of people to the created settlements. This confirms the conclusions made earlier by historians that in the pre-war years, the eastern regions were known for their specific population distribution, i.e. settlements were mainly located around mineral deposits or bands placed along the feeder roads (Rybakovsky, 1976). 10 out of 19 urban-type settlements that existed in 1939 in Bashkiria received this status in 1938.

The cities grouped by territorial and regional status had their own peculiarity in the number and multinational composition of population. The central subarea of the Urals Autonomy Region (with its mechanical engineering, oil refining complex, and also a railway cargo transportation point) was represented by such urban settlements as the city of Ufa, the villages of Dema, Krasny Klyuch and Blagoveshchensk. The total number of citizens of the Central subarea of the Republic, according to the 1939 census, amounted to 277,915 people, of which 126,708 were the representatives of the male population and 139,533 were women, the percentage ratio was 47.6 and 52.4 %, respectively. 422 city dwellers per 1,000 inhabitants of this subarea. The national composition of the townspeople was distributed as follows: Bashkirs – 5.9 % of the total urban population, Tatars – 15.5 %, Russians – 70.2 %, representatives of other national groups – 8.4 %. Srednepribelsk subarea, with a highly developed industrial complex, included such urban settlements as the city of Sterlitamak, the villages of Ishimbay and Krasnousolsk with the population of 71,621 people, which amounted to 24.1 % of the total population of this territory. The national composition of the territory under consideration had its own specific features. The percentage of national groups in the total urban population of the Srednepribelsk

subarea of Bashkiria had the following indicators: Bashkirs – 4.7 %, Tatars – 14.5 %, Russians – 72.5 %, other national groups – 8.3 %. In the context of the individual urban settlements, the ratio of dominant national groups had some differences. Thus, the Bashkirs in Sterlitamak amounted to 3.4 %, in the village of Ishimbay – 5.8 %, in the working of Krasnousolsk – 7.3 % of the total urban population of the urban areas represented. Tatars – 16.6: 13.0: 10.2 %. Russians – 71.1: 72.8: 76.5 %. In general, for this subarea, the urban population of the total number of citizens of the BASSR was 13.2 %. The numerical ratio of men and women in the Srednepribelsky subarea constitutes 35.204 people and 36.414 people, or 49.2 and 50.8 %, respectively. Comparison of such percentages separately for urban settlements of the Sredneprebelsk zone, including in the national section, had its own peculiarities. In particular, the Bashkir urban population in the total aggregate value had the following percentage sex ratio in the analyzed territory: men – 57.2 %, women 42.8 %. In the city of Sterlitamak, according to the previously proposed order, it was 60.6 and 39.4 %, respectively, in the village of Ishimbay it was 50.7 and 49.3 %, in the urban settlement of Krasnousolsk – 61.9 and 38.1 %. Tatars were in the same ratio: 51.1 and 48.9 %; 49.4 and 50.6 %; 50.1 and 49.9 %; 63.8 and 36.2 and Russians: 47.3 and 52.7 %; 46.4 and 53.6 %; 48.8 and 51.2 %; 47.6 and 52.4 %. For other national groups, the predominance of the male population was also traced. In general, in terms of population, in the city of Sterlitamak the ratio of men to women was 48.1: 51.9 %, respectively, in the village of Ishimbay it was 49.8: 50.2 %, in the village of Krasnousolsk, where the construction of the oil industry was actively developing it was 51.7: 48.3 %. The dominance of the male population in the represented urban settlements testified to their industrial purpose, which, of course, required additional involvement of labor and massive, migration of the male population. This is evidenced by the decision of the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR of October 1930 "On the development of industry in the Bashkir Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic" (Shalagina et al., 2015), which contributed to the accelerated methods of industrialization in the republic. The southern part of the Ural region of the Bashkir Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic was represented in 1939 by one urban settlement, i.e. working village of Meleuz, with a total population of 9,071 people, which amounted to 12.8 % of the total population of the subarea and 1.7 % of the total urban population of the Republic. The national composition of Meleuz maintained a common system of contrasts for the Republic and uneven distribution of national groups. The percentage of representatives of the Bashkir ethnic group living in the village was 1.2 % of the urban population. A similar indicator relative to the Tatars living in the village amounted to 13.0 %, Russians – 66.8 %, representatives of other national groups – 19.0 %. The gender composition of the Meleuz village in the national section was uneven. A small number of urban population in this territory can be explained by undeveloped (relative to the central part of the Republic) industrial field. The western territorial and regional trajectory included 12,996 citizens, or 6 % of the total population of the subarea. The population of the village of Tuymazy was 9,219 people, which amounted to 4.3 % of the total population of the western subarea of the Republic and 70.9 % of the total urban population of the same territory. The quantitative composition of people living in the working village of Nizhne-Troitsk was equal to 3,777 residents, or 1.7 % of the total population of the subarea and 29.1 % of all citizens accounted for in the western subarea. There were 7,608 people, or 58.5 % of people over 16 years old in the villages, 3,016 people, or 23.2 % of children under 8 years old, 2,372 people, or 18.3 % of adolescents from 9 to 16 years old. The percentage distribution of the population according to the national

composition of the analyzed urban settlements maintained an uneven system of positions of three dominant national groups. However, at the same time, it had specific features that were different from other subarea structures of the republic. Bashkirs in the total population of the working villages of Tuymazy and Nizhne-Troitsk amounted to 9.2 and 7.6 %, respectively. Tatars – 30.7 % and 13.4 %. Russians – 48.5 % and 71.8 %. In the regional center, the number of Bashkirs was 3.3 times less than the Tatar population and 5.2 times less than the Russian population. The Tatar national group was 1.5 times smaller than the Russian Tuymazins. In Nizhne-Troitsk, the number of Bashkirs was 1.8 times less than the similar composition of the Tatars, and 9.5 times less compared to Russians. The Tatars were inferior in numbers to Russians 5.3 times. In this case, it should be noted that the percentage of Bashkirs in the entire Tuimazy district was 25.5 %, Tatars – 35.0 %, Russians – 31.5 %. In the entire western Ural region, the total percentage of Bashkirs was 18 %, Tatars – 42.8 %, Russians – 27.5 %. According to archival documents of the State Planning Committee of the BASSR, a special priority was given to the inclusion (through the recruitment system) of industrial production, and in this case, the development of the Tuymazinsky oil pipeline, representatives of Bashkiria's indigenous nationality, this was explained by one of the features of leadership of non-capitalist development society. The meaning of this policy is to provide political knowledge to working people of backward peoples and to engage them in socialist construction (Vishnevsky, 2003), that is, to solve the problem of equal social and economic condition of the peoples of the USSR. 46.637 city dwellers were recorded in the southwestern subarea of the Republic. There were 15.535 people living in the city of Belebey, or 33.3 % of all the townspeople of the southwestern lands of Bashkiria, in the village of Raevka – 10,031 people, or 21.5 %, in the village of Davlekanovo – 14,215 people, or 30.5 %, in the village of Aksenovo – 2,285 people, or 3.9 %, Shafranovo – 2,773 people, or 5.9 %, Aksakovo – 1,798 residents, or 3.9 %. The southwestern citizens of the Republic in the share of the urban population of the autonomy was 8.6 %. National specific features of the subarea were as follows: Bashkirs – 7.6 %, Tatars – 13.7 %, Russians – 64.0 %, other national groups – 14.7 %. The population distribution by ethnic composition in the individual urban settlements had some contrasts that were obtained in the course of using both dispersion and correlation method. In particular, the Bashkir population in Belebey amounted to 4.0 % of the total number of inhabitants of this city, 11.1 % in the village of Davlekanovo, 11.0 % in the village of Raevka, and 5.6 % in the village of Aksenovo, 5.0 % in the village of Shafranovo, and 1.2 % in the village of Aksakovo. The Tatars constituted 17.3: 13.1: 9.7: 16.3: 13.3: 5.0 %. Russians – 64.6: 51.9: 66.6: 67.6: 69.7: 79.5 %. Other national groups – 14.1: 23.9: 12.7: 10.5: 12: 14.3 %. From the above data, some fluctuations in the percentage distribution of residents in the represented national groups are noticeable, which proves an uneven inclusion of the population, in the ethnic section, in the urbanized system of life. The northern subarea of the Ural region of Bashkiria had a total population of 289,744 people, of which 18,825 people were the residents of the city of Birsk, which amounted to 6.5 % of the total population of the subarea and 27.4 % of the population of the Birsky district. The northwestern subarea of autonomy, with a developing woodworking industry in the village of Yanaul, had a population of 370,040 people. The quantitative composition of urban residents (the village of Yanaul) was 11,861 people. Thus, the citizens in the subarea represented 3.2 % of all residents of the northwestern territory, 17.9 % of the population of the Yanaul region, and 2.2 % of the citizens of the Republic. The ethnic composition of inhabitants of the

settlement had in many respects similar features for the northern territories of the Republic. Thus, the Bashkir population amounted to 21.8 % of all residents of Yanaul, Tatars – 12.7 %, Russians – 58.6 %, representatives of other national groups – 6.9 %. The Bashkirs, having a significant numerical strength, were almost two times ahead of the Tatar population, 3.2 times ahead other national groups were behind the representatives of the Russian nationality 2.6 times. The population of the village of Yanaul by 1939 was very young in its age composition. Out of 11,861 residents, 5,881 people were persons under the age of 18, which amounted to 49.6 % of the total population of the village. There were 4,875 employed people, which amounted to 41.1 % of all residents of Yanaul, while 803 people were employed in the industrial sector, that is, 16.5 % of the total population having an occupation, or 1.0 % of all employed people in the industrial complex of the Republic. The main reasons for small urbanization of the northern and northwestern territories of Bashkiria in the presence of tremendous human potential, as we see it, were the following: – slightly developed industry of the Region, complexity of the terrain, and underdevelopment of transport links; – traditions that had a strong influence on mechanical behavior, population movement. The Ural region of the BASSR, divided into mountain-east and mountain southeast, included human resources equal to 280,060 residents, of which 91,317 people were citizens, or 33.4 % of the total population of the Ural region. The revealed ratio is explained by low population density relative to other subareas of the Republic, the concentration in the land of the industrial complex based on mining. The national composition of people living in urban conditions of the Ural region amounted was as follows: Bashkirs – 12.3 %, Tatars – 7 %, Russians – 76.1 %, representatives of other national groups – 4.6 %. In the section of individual subareas of the Ural region of the Republic (mountain-east and mountain southeast), similar indicators take specific values. If in the mountainous southeastern subarea the percentage of the urban Bashkir population in 1939 was 27.5 %, then in the mountain-eastern subarea it was 5.8 %, Tatar residents in the same proportion constituted 9.3: 6.0 %, Russians – 55.0: 85.0 %, other national groups – 8.2: 3.2 %. According to the documentation of the State Planning Committee of the BASSR, enterprises in the urban areas of the southeastern subarea (Baymak city, workers' villages of Tubinsk, Sibay and Buribay) specialized in the industrial processing of manganese and copper mined in this territory, as a result of which the city-forming base was smelters that had union subordination. The proportion of the subarea urban population in 1939 amounted to 24.0 % of the total population of the mountainous southeastern part of the region, and 5.02 % of the total number of citizens of the Republic. The share of Bashkirs – the city dwellers, among the Bashkirs living in this territory – was 18.6 %, while the similar indicator of the Tatar urban population was 40.2 %, Russians – 26.9 %, other national groups – 36.0 %. The mountain-eastern part of the Ural region of Bashkortostan was represented by the city of Beloretsk, which had a central, republican status of subordination, by the villages of Zigaz, Tirlyan, Tukan, Bakr-Uzyak and Mindyak. The percentage of citizens of the total population of this subarea was 40.2 % in 1939. As a result of large-scale industrial development based on the construction and operation of metallurgical plants, the city of Beloretsk had the biggest part of the urban population of the mountain-eastern subregion of the Republic. 54.0 % of all persons in the subarea were employed in the industry of the city, and 10.0 % of the republican number of workers were employed in the industrial complex. In total, in the mountain-eastern part of autonomous region, the concentration of people employed in the industry amounted to 11.5 % of the total number of the BASSR

residents. It was on this territory that the Beloretsk Metallurgical Plant was founded in 1940 by the decision of the VKP (b) Regional Committee, combining factories and mines located in the mountain-eastern part of the Ural region of Bashkiria. Large-scale transformations were undertaken to implement the decree of the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party of Bolsheviks and the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR of June 2, 1940 "On measures to ensure the implementation of the established plan for smelting cast iron, steel and rolled products (Shalagina & Kazantseva, 2014), which determined specific activities in this area. Regarding national composition, 85 % of urban population of the analyzed Region of Bashkortostan were representatives of the Russian national group. The percentage of Russians – city dwellers from the same ethnic group living in the territories included in the mountain-eastern sub-district system – was equal to 77.9 %, that is, the vast majority of Russians lived in the urban area. The Bashkirs and Tatars have an approximately equal percentage in the national composition of the urban population; Bashkirs (city dwellers) constitute 5.6 % of the total Bashkir population of the mountain-eastern lands, Tatars – 19.4 %, and other national groups – 83.5 %.

7. Conclusion

The material on the regional and geographical distribution of the population in urban settlements of Bashkiria clearly demonstrated the following: the construction of cities was carried out in the last century under the conditions of state economic justification and the need to solve socially significant political problems. The multinational composition of the inhabitants of the cities of the autonomous Republic and the unevenness of the represented national groups in the total urban population as well as the number of citizens in the specifically considered urban settlements depicts the imprint of the history of the Region and an uneven development of industrial area. The development of (mainly) heavy industry demanded the attraction of additional labor forces, thousands of representatives of various nationalities were involved into the construction sites (five-year plan), determining and changing the national structure of the Republic.

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