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**RESTORATION OF THE NATIONAL AUTONOMY OF THE
CHECHEN AND INGUSH PEOPLES**

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Abstract

From 1944 to 1957 the Chechens and the Ingush were forcibly exiled to Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan under a curfew. After the death of I. Stalin and the execution of L. Beria, the first steps were taken to liberalize their legal situation. The paper analyses the measures for the rehabilitation of the Chechens and the Ingush, which began only at the end of autumn 1956. In solving the problems of rehabilitation of the Chechen and Ingush peoples, 1957–1958 became an important stage, the results of which largely predetermined the success in the implementation of the entire multifaceted program for the restoration of the Chechen-Ingush Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic, its further progressive development. Key episodes of the activities of state and economic bodies at all levels deserve serious analysis and objective assessment due to the fact that many of them remain out of demand both in the academic environment and in a wide readership. The process of restoring the national autonomy of the Chechens and the Ingush began after on January 9, 1957 the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR issued a number of other regulatory legal acts. The established deadlines for the implementation of the entire program for the restoration of the national autonomy of the Chechens and the Ingush were 1957–1962. The functions of coordinating this work were entrusted to the Organizing Committee for the Chechen-Ingush Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic.

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1. Introduction

In solving practical problems related to the rehabilitation of the Chechen and Ingush peoples 1957–1958 became an important stage creating programs to restore the Chechen-Ingush Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic and ensure its further progressive development (Tsutsulaeva et al., 2020).

A large-scale program to restore the autonomy of the Chechen and Ingush peoples, successful implementation within the established time frame (Inurkaeva, 2013) was a priority task for the whole republic and did not interfere with the implementation of previously set development plans for the entire national economic complex.

2. Problem Statement

During the Great Patriotic War (1941–1945) many peoples were deprived of their autonomous state. In February 1944, the Chechen and Ingush peoples were forcibly evicted to Central Asia and Kazakhstan; on March 7, the Chechen-Ingush Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic was abolished by the Decree of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR. The actions of the Stalin's regime on deportation on the grounds of ethnicity were illegal and anticonstitutional. The issues of rehabilitation of the Chechen and Ingush peoples in the 50s of the 20th century are not only scientific, but also practical, applied. Setting the problem of restoring the Chechen-Ingush Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic is an important area of scientific search.

3. Research Questions

Published studies and identified materials provide an opportunity for an objective and comprehensive analysis of the restoration of the Chechen-Ingush Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic, formation of a political system, development of the main directions of national building and their impact on the subsequent socio-cultural development of Chechen-Ingushetia.

4. Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study is to outline the strategic directions of the socio-economic and cultural development of the republic during 1957–1962, to show the main directions, forms and methods of restoring the Chechen-Ingush Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic, to analyze the activities of election campaigns, and to consider the development of the relevant political system in the republic.

An important task is to reveal the socio-cultural aspect of the restoration of autonomy of the Chechen and Ingush peoples in the context of the nation-building strategy.

5. Research Methods

The study utilized the general scientific principles of systemic and structural-functional analysis, objectivity and historicism. The paper used special historical methods: retrospective, typological, comparative analysis, which made it possible to analyze the activities of all authorities during the

restoration of the republic. A sociocultural approach presents great opportunities for understanding the national relations.

6. Findings

In solving the practical problems of rehabilitation of the Chechen and Ingush peoples, 1957–1958 became a peculiar initial stage, the results of which largely predetermined the success in the entire multifaceted program for the restoration of the Chechen-Ingush Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic, its further progressive development.

1958 was critical in the implementation of a large-scale program to restore the national statehood of the Chechen and Ingush peoples.

The sixth Chechen-Ingush regional party conference was held on January 9–10, 1958. The final resolution of the conference noted that in January 1956 – January 1958 the republic managed to solve key party and state tasks aimed at the “restoration and development of the economy and culture of the Chechen-Ingush Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic” (as in the text of the document). This was also evidenced by the figures given in the report of the first secretary of the Chechen-Ingush regional committee of the CPSU A.I. Yakovlev (Inurkaeva, 2013).

A large-scale program to restore the autonomy of the Chechen and Ingush peoples, the successful implementation of which for the whole republic was a priority in the broad sense of this definition within the established time frame (1957–1962), did not become an obstacle to the timely implementation of previously set development plans for the entire national economic complex.

By the beginning of 1958, more than 200 thousand Chechens and Ingush people returned to the republic, including 79 thousand able-bodied citizens. Over 55 thousand were employed in various sectors of the national economy of Chechen-Ingushetia, 1734 people were nominated for leadership positions in party, Soviet, Komsomol, trade union and economic bodies.

Those who wished to build individual housing were given land plots, and “more than 200 million rubles of cash loans were issued for the construction and repair of houses, the acquisition of... cattle” for personal subsidiary farms. Hence, by the end of 1957, about 37 thousand families built new houses.

Acknowledging the progress in the implementation of the reconstruction tasks of the Chechen-Ingush Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic, it is impossible to disregard that their achievement was sometimes carried out through certain difficulties caused by not only objective but also subjective factors. It should be particularly noted that the daily activities of the authorities and their leaders did not always correspond to the ever-growing scale of tasks, the level of their complexity.

On October 26, 1957, the Council of Ministers of the RSFSR approved a comprehensive (target) program of economic and cultural construction in the Chechen-Ingush Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic for 1958–1960. The proposals formulated by the institutions of power and economic bodies of the republic were mainly taken as its basis.

In early December 1957, the plenum of the Chechen-Ingush Regional Committee of the CPSU discussed the issue “On the tasks of the party organization of the republic for economic and cultural construction in the Chechen-Ingush Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic in 1958–1960”.

At the same time, the tasks of creating the corresponding political system of the republic were also solved. In December 1957, the CPSU Regional Committee and the Organizing Committee for the Chechen-Ingush Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic petitioned the country's leadership to authorize the election of deputies of the Supreme Council of the Chechen-Ingush Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic on March 16, 1958. The proposals of the republican authorities were approved. Thus, this was the beginning of a republican system of public administration.

In January 1958, the Organizing Committee for the Chechen-Ingush Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic and the Bureau of the CPSU Regional Committee adopted a number of decisions provided for by the election regulations. In the following days – until March 16, which was the voting day – an election campaign was held in the republic. Its real purpose was not only in the political sense, but also in the moral and psychological. The election campaign itself and its course created a feeling among the bulk of the Chechen and Ingush population, perhaps illusory, that they again became the full-fledged citizens of the great country.

The election of deputies of the Supreme Council of the Chechen-Ingush Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic was held on March 16, 1958. Their results once again confirmed the “inviolability of the Communist and non-Party bloc”. The voter turnout was traditionally high: almost a hundred percent – 99.98 %. In total, 98.6 % voted for candidates for deputies (Igonin, 1958).

The Central Election Commission registered elected deputies in all 116 districts (Igonin, 1958).

The first session of the Supreme Council of the Chechen-Ingush Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic of the new composition – the second convocation – began its work on April 15, 1958 (Itsoyev, 2012). At the request of the Council of Elders (Itsoyev, 2012) it was opened by the deputy Saidbey Arsanov, a famous Chechen writer (Igonin, 1958).

The session decided on all organizational matters. Akhmad Murdiyev, the Chairman of the Nad-Terek District Executive Committee, the veteran of the Great Patriotic War, was elected to the honorary post of the Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Chechen-Ingush Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic. His deputies were L.I. Shadyzheva – a teacher and G.M. Sukharev – a rector of Grozny Oil Institute, Honored Worker of Science and Technology of the RSFSR (Igonin, 1958).

The basic Law of the Chechen-Ingush Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic in force until March 7, 1944, i.e. before the publication of the Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR “On the Liquidation of the Chechen-Ingush Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic and on the Administrative Structure of Its Territory”, was its Constitution adopted back in 1937. The new deputy corps of the Supreme Council of the Republic recognized its legislative force, introduced a number of changes, amendments to it and brought it into line with Chechen-Ingush Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic current Constitutions of the USSR and the RSFSR (Igonin, 1958).

The permanent working body of the republican parliament was the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the Chechen-Ingush Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic. Its members approved 11 deputies: 5 – Russians, 5 – Chechens, 1 – Ingush. I.A. Almazov was elected the Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the Chechen-Ingush Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic, E.A. Izvarina and A.-V.T. Tepsaev – his deputies, and M.I. Komarov – the Secretary, who held this position from 1938 to March 1944.

The deputies also approved the structure and composition of the republican government. M.G. Gayrbekov was appointed the chairman, and from January 9, 1957 he served as the chairman of the Organizing Committee for the Chechen-Ingush Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic.

In accordance with the current regulations, M.G. Gayrbekov submitted the personal composition of the Council of Ministers of the Chechen-Ingush Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic for approval at the current session. The Organizing Committee for the Chechen-Ingush Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic – a working body established for centralized and operational management of processes of restoring the national autonomy, with the election of the Supreme Council of the Chechen-Ingush Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic and the formation of the Council of Ministers of the Chechen-Ingush Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic, has exhausted its tasks and duties.

In accordance with the established procedure, the session of the Supreme Council of the Chechen-Ingush Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic approved the composition of the Supreme Court of the Republic.

Thus, the branches of power of the Chechen-Ingush Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic – legislative, executive and judicial – were created in the spring of 1958. In other words, the national autonomy – statehood – of the Chechen and Ingush peoples in the constitutional and legal sense was restored in full.

The practical solution of these demanding challenges was carried out in extremely difficult conditions caused by the fact that at the state level (from the center and in the field) the relevant authorities were not able to achieve the readiness necessary for successful and consistent implementation of such large-scale programs that require special care. Looking further forward it is appropriate to note that the consequences of such disorganization had an effect at almost all stages of the restoration of the Chechen-Ingush Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic, including in the relations of various categories of the population. As Tsutsiev (2016) notes,

institutionally defined and ideologically justified discrimination, deepens alienation between peoples: for some, the Soviet state acts as a hostile force, for others, the same state acts as an instrument of fair retribution. Later, when the time comes for destalinization and the return of expelled groups home, this alienation will become one of the main lines of inter-ethnic tension. Deportation will seriously complicate the already difficult relations between the repressed and the immigrants. (p. 63)

By the summer of 1958, the severity of the situation, not only related to the mass return of the Chechen and Ingush people, including unauthorized, spontaneous, which was aggravated by the unresolved elementary, domestic issues, reached a critical point. At the same time, the criminal situation became quite critical. According to an official note signed by A.I. Yakovlev and sent to the Central Committee of the CPSU, over five months of 1958 the number of committed crimes was 1031, including 22 murders, 44 robberies, 145 thefts of state property, 287 thefts of personal property of citizens.

A noticeable influence on the situation in the Chechen-Ingush Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic was also made by problems that regularly arose in resolving the issues related to the return of the Chechen population to the Dagestan Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic and the Ingush population

to the North Ossetian Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic to the territory of settlements where they lived before eviction in 1944. In total, 5,218 Chechen families were expelled from the Dagestan Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic to Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, including 3,131 from the Aukhov region, with a total number of 22,264 people. After the start of the rehabilitation process, another 1,850 families arrived to Dagestan along with the organized return of 500 Chechen families without official permission.

The leaders of Dagestan supported the very idea of rehabilitation of the Chechen and Ingush peoples. However, at a preliminary stage of coordination of the draft of the Decree of Presidium of the Supreme Council of the USSR “On the restoration of the Chechen-Ingush Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic as part of RSFSR” (on January 9, 1957) the first secretary of the Dagestan Regional Committee of the CPSU Abdurrahman Daniyalov expressed his dissenting opinion in writing.

The Dagestan leadership managed to convince the relevant authorities of the impracticality of the restoration of the Aukhov region. Republican officials motivated their position by the fact that the quite understandable desire of the Akins to return to their previously owned settlements cannot be immediately satisfied primarily due to the fact that for the time being there lived a population displaced for permanent residence in 1944.

The authorities of Dagestan saw a way out in the deployment of the arriving Chechen population to Khasavyurt, Babayurt and Kizil-Yurt regions of the republic. V. Churaev, the head of the department of party bodies of the CPSU Central Committee for the RSFSR, who directly dealt with these issues, positively reacted to these proposals. At the same time, he was guided by the fact that the restoration of the former Aukhov region... may lead to the desire of other peoples (Ingush, Kalmyks, Chechens) to be housed only in their former settlements, and in houses that previously belonged to them.

According to party bodies, by mid-June 1958, out of 2350 Chechen families, who arrived to the Dagestan Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic, 1880 families were resettled and employed. A further solution to this problem “became impossible due to the disorganizing, provocative actions of the group of Chechens who ignore the established procedure for resettlement, oppose the decision of the regional party committee and the Council of Ministers of the Republic on the planned resettlement of arrived Chechens, demand the restoration of the former Aukhov region and the placement of returning families only in the villages from which they were expelled”.

No less acute were the issues of the return and placement of the Ingush population, in particular on the territory of settlements of the Prigorodny region, which in 1957 was left as part of the North Ossetian Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic by the decision of higher authorities.

7. Conclusion

Thus, after the issue of the Decrees of the Supreme Soviets of the USSR and the RSFSR on January 9, 1957 “On the Restoration of the Chechen-Ingush Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic as part of the RSFSR”, a lot has been done to restore the autonomy of the Chechen and Ingush peoples. In the spring of 1958, all branches of power of the Chechen-Ingush Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic were created – legislative, executive and judicial. The national autonomy – statehood – of the Chechen and Ingush peoples in the constitutional and legal sense was restored in full.

Besides, Chechen-Ingushetia turned out to be between two “hot” points – regions: Aukhov in the east and Prigorodny in the west. These barriers, without which a consistent and successful implementation of the multifaceted tasks of the complete rehabilitation of repressed peoples could not be carried out, were quite serious. The political balance in all three republics and their relations to a large extent depended on a clever and balanced approach to resolving the current situation. However, this approach was unclaimed for the authorities. Therefore, during the difficult period of the collapse of the USSR, the tragic consequences of such a short-sighted policy of the country’s leadership could not be avoided.

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