

Deportation of Volga Germans to Kazakhstan: Causes and Consequences

S. Kurmanova,
Ph.D., Lecturer at
ENU named after
L.Gumilyov
Astana, Kazakhstan

In recent years there have been significant changes in the development of ethnic communities living outside the main ethnic territory. They were caused by many factors, among which an important place is occupied by migration. In the history of the German diaspora migration has always played a special role. Not by chance the word “people on the road” (VolkaufdemWeg) became a symbol of their fate.

Table 1

**The number and placement of deported Germans
Kazakh SSR**

Regions	Population
Semipalatinsk	10 000
Akmola	20 000
North Kazakhstan	20 000
Kostanay	16 000
Pavlodar	18 000
East Kazakhstan	16 000

According to P. Rempel, in total to the European part of Russia were deported 805 thousand Germans, including the territory of Kazakh SSR - 407,931 people, which is 50, 67% of the total number of deportees [3, 74].

As for the reasons for such a complex and contradictory historical phenomenon as deportation, in science it is a controversial issue. According to one of the most authoritative experts in the field A. Herman, "when war started, especially after the first serious injury that resulted in the loss of large areas in the minds of the Soviet leadership and personally I. Stalin, the image of German “fifth column” in the USSR became more real and formidable. According to the scientist, not the last role in deciding the deportation of Germans from the Volga region in 1941 also played a “general lack of loyalty of ethnic Germans to the Bolshevik regime, quite notably seen in previous years of the Bolshevik regime.

German resistance regime was reserved for the Soviet leadership persistent image disloyal socialism and people's power” [4, 416].

Analyzing forced migration, S. Kretinin identified three main types of deportations during the Second World War. Stalin's deportation of the author attributed to the second type. Their goal, according to the researchers, was "preventive punishment"

unreliable "peoples" (Ingush, Kalmyks, Crimean Tatars, Volga Germans, Chechens, etc.) [5, 162]

V. Zemskov expressed his views on this issue in the "special settlers in the USSR, 1930-1960". He pointed out that the repressive policies of the Stalinist regime was prompted by the decision of the national question through the elimination of small nations, subjecting them to assimilate into the larger ethnic arrays. Deportation was designed to accelerate this process [6].

Currently, the theme of Soviet deportations, including the deportation of the Volga Germans in 1941, 170 calls attention to both Russian and foreign scientists. At the same time expressed different points of view and each of them has a right to exist. We believe that the adoption by the government of the deportation of the Volga Germans in 1941 served a number of reasons: political, military-strategic, national, economic, social and ideological.

As any migration, deportation of Volga Germans in 1941 has profound implications that affected all aspects of life: economic, political, social, ideological, education and language, family relations. For example, the political consequence of deportation is the problem of the restoration of the Volga Germans, which is still being actively discussed in the scientific community.

Physical death became one of the serious consequences of deportation. The exact number of death is impossible to establish. According to rough estimates, it is hundreds of thousands of people. Exactly deportation largely predetermined fate of the German diaspora in Kazakhstan associated with emigration of the 1990s. According to the Soviet census of 1989, the Soviet Union 2,038,603 Germans lived. In Kazakhstan, at the time lived biggest German diaspora groups, numbering 957,518 people [7], which was 46, 97% of the total number of Soviet Germans. (Table 2)

Table 2

The number of Germans in Kazakhstan according to Soviet census of 1989 and Census Republic of Kazakhstan in 1999 and 2009

Country	Years		
	1989	1999	2009
Kazakhstan	957518	353441	178200

By the beginning of 1990, there is a sharp decline in the German population, associated with emigration to Germany. According to estimates of P.Polyana, during the 1990s, from Kazakhstan to Germany annually in average about 100

thousand people, particularly, 114 thousand in 1992, 113 thousand in 1993, 121 thousand in 1994, and 177 thousand people in 1995. From 1992-1996 in the migration flow of ethnic Germans from the former Soviet Union Kazakhstan Germans were more than 50% [8].

According to the first census of the Republic of Kazakhstan in 1999, it recorded 353.4 thousand Germans [9], which accounted for 2.4% of the total population. Emigration largely changed the nature of the German settlements that of mono-ethnicity villages or villages with a predominance of the German population have become multi-ethnic. Today, most of the Germans left Kazakhstan. Those who remained keep immigration sentiments.

According to Census 2009, 178.2 Germans were in the Republic of Kazakhstan. Compared to 1999, there was a reduction of absolute abundance for 2,450 83 person. Reduction in the absolute number was certainly a result of emigration. Thus, the deportation of the Volga Germans in 1941 was the most monstrous migration of Germans in nature, content, focus and consequences. In its scope, it was the largest during the war deportation campaign, which meant a tragedy for the entire German people and led to heavy casualties.

References:

1. History of Russian Germans in the documents (1763-1992). M. MIGUP, 1993. p. 448.
2. A. Herman, German autonomy on the Volga. 1918-1941, part 2. Autonomous Republic: Saratov University Press, 1994, p.576
3. P. Rempel, Deportation of Germans from the European part of the USSR and the labor army on the "top secret" documents of the NKVD of the USSR in 1941-1944. // Russian Germans. Problems of history, language and current situation. 1996, p. 69-96.
4. A. German, The deportation of the Volga Germans in autumn 1941 // Initial During World War II and the deportation of Russian Germans: views and assessments 70 years later: Proceedings of the 3rd International Scientific-practical conference. Saratov, 26-28 August 2011, Moscow: "ITRF-Press", 2011. p. 415-441.
5. S. Kretinin, Mass expulsion of Germans in the Soviet Union and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe: the experience of historical and sociological analysis // On-initial period of the Great Patriotic War and the deportation of Russian Germans: views and assessments in 70 years: Proceedings of the 3rd International Scientific-practical conference. Saratov, 26-28 August 2011, Moscow: "ICSU Press", 2011, p. 155-163
6. V. Zemskov, Special settlers in the USSR, 1930-1960, 2005, p. 306
7. All-Union census 1989 // Website URL: http://www.demoscope.ru/weekly/ssp/sng_nac_89.php
8. P. Glades, Experience immigration policy and the position of foreign-Business Consulting in Germany // Immigration policy of Western countries: Al-

ternativa for Russia. Moscow, 2002, p. 36-37

9. A. Alexeenko, On some census of the population of Kazakhstan // Website

URL: <http://www.demoscope.ru/weekly/2002/057/analit04.php>