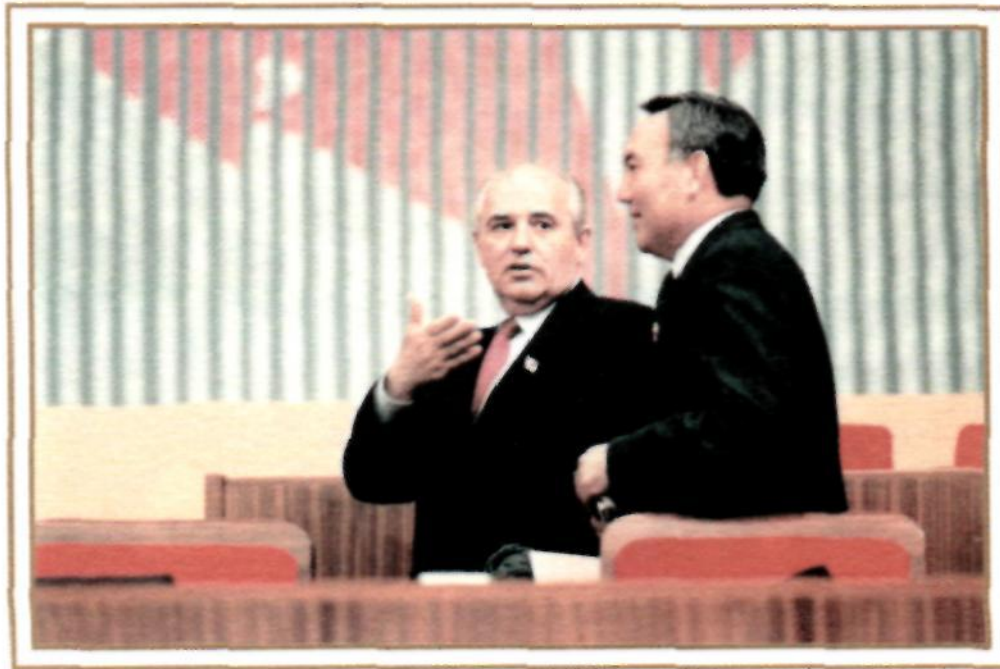


A PARLIAMENTARY REPUBLIC OF THE SOVIET TYPE (April — November 1990)

On 24 April 1990 Nursultan Nazarbayev was elected the first President of the republic by the Supreme Council of the Kazakh SSR. The legislative basis for introduction of a presidential institution was the Law of the Kazakh SSR “On confirmation of the Presidential post and introduction of amendments and additions to the Constitution (Basic Law) of the Kazakh SSR”. The post of the President in accordance with the law was confirmed “in order to provide further development of the deep political and economic transformation being implemented in the republic, to strengthen the constitutional order, rights and freedoms, and security of the citizens, and to improve interaction between supreme governmental authorities and administration”. The President as the head of the state acted as a guarantor of observance of the rights and freedoms of citizens on the territory of the Kazakh SSR; took necessary measures on defense of sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of the republic; provided observance of the Union treaty; represented the republic within the country, in international relations and in the Federation Council of the USSR; contributed to implementation of the powers of people’s deputy; provided interaction of supreme governmental authorities and government of the republic; submitted to the Supreme Council annual reports on the situation in the republic; and regularly informed the Supreme Council on the most significant issues of domestic and foreign policy of the state (Article 114—3, Clauses 1 through 6).

Although the parliament elected the first President on 24 April 1990, his status and executive power were not clearly defined until November 1990. Gradually it became clear that the Soviet political institutions could not co-exist with a Western-style presidential system.



Between 1989 and 1991, Nursultan Nazarbayev was the most respected leader among the leaders of the Union republics and his opinion had a great impact on the formulation of Soviet policies. He was even considered for the posts of the Vice-President of the USSR and the Head of the All-Union Government.





Visit of the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU Michael Gorbachev to Kokshetau Oblast, May 1991

During that period, Nazarbayev supported a balanced approach in transforming the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics into a federation of truly sovereign republics.

His views were highly respected by President of the Soviet Union Michael Gorbachev, President of the Russian Federation Boris Yeltsin and the administration of the Supreme Council of the USSR.



The government of Kazakhstan led by Nursultan Nazarbayev actively participated in discussions of the Draft Union Treaty of the Union of the Sovereign States (USS). The signing of the Union Treaty was scheduled on 20 August 1991. However, the coup d'état of 19–21 August 1991 changed everything.

The coup indicated the existence of serious threats to Kazakhstan's sovereignty and to democratic reforms, and a possibility of establishment of a totalitarian regime or dictatorship in the country.

Responding to these threats, on 24 August 1991 the Supreme Council of the Kazakh SSR adopted a resolution "On assessment of the current moment and measures on strengthening of the republic's sovereignty". The document created conditions for transfer of all All-Union enterprises and organizations on the territory of the republic under the jurisdiction of Kazakhstan and for the introduction of independence in foreign economic activities.

Kazakhstan's desire for state sovereignty had already been displayed during the Soviet era. The 12th Supreme Council of the Kazakh SSR announced the Declaration on State Sovereignty of the Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic on 25 October 1990. At the same time, Kazakhstan's leaders emphasized that Kazakhstan was willing to join other republics in becoming a part of the Union of Sovereign Republics (USS). It was intended that the USS would replace the USSR. Kazakhstan reserved the right to leave the Union at any time.

The Declaration highlighted the importance of the following sovereign rights of the republic:

a) principles of inseparability and integrity of the territory of the republic within the existing borders;

b) official recognition of the citizenship institution and the people of Kazakhstan *consisting of citizens of all nationalities, the only owner of sovereignty and source of the state power in the Kazakh SSR;*

c) the attaching of supremacy, independence, and full power within the republic as well as in foreign relations, to the state power of the Kazakh SSR within the frames of the Union Treaty;

d) the right of the republic to independently solve all issues related to political, economic and national-cultural development, administrative territorial system,

determination of the structure and competence of the state power and administration authorities as well as symbols of the republic;

e) the supremacy of the Constitution and laws in the Kazakh SSR which are liable to be followed by all state authorities, enterprises, institutions and organizations, citizens and stateless people, with the exception of issues voluntarily delegated to the Union by the republic;

f) the right of the republic to suspend force of law and other acts of the supreme Union authorities violating sovereign rights and the Constitution of the Kazakh SSR;

g) the attribution of land, subsoil, air space, flora and fauna, other natural resources, cultural and national historical treasures, all economic, scientific, technical potential — all national wealth situated on its territory — to the exclusive property of the republic;

h) the right of the republic to its own air force, state security and interior authorities subordinated and controlled by the Supreme Council and the President of the Kazakh SSR;

i) the right of the republic to be an independent subject of international relations, to define foreign policy in its interests, to exchange diplomatic and consular missions, to participate in the activity of international organizations including the UN and its specialized agencies, to independently and to solve issues of foreign economic activity.



Meeting with people, 15 July 1991

During meetings with the people, whether a rally of miners or a gathering of scholars and artists, Nursultan Nazarbayev presented himself as a genuine leader who could listen, offer his own ideas and persuade.

Source: NURSULTAN NAZARBAYEV: Founder of the Independent state (the Chronicles of a Leader) published in Almaty “Rarity” in 2010, pages 48 – 53

Data was given from the Institute of State History, Committee of Science of The Ministry of Education and Science