

THE SONS OF KYPCHAK PLAINS

Elbasy's vision

The Head of State, Nursultan Abishevich Nazarbayev regularly draws general public's attention to the history of statehood on the territory of Kazakhstan originating from ancient times.

The President announced and offered a fateful and consolidating national idea "Mangilik El" to the Kazakhstani society, first announced by Tonyukuk at the beginning of VIII century. The initial idea of "Mangilik El" was perpetuated in stone inscription at famous Otukan.

On President's initiative in 2015 we celebrate the 550th anniversary of the Kazakh Khanate.

Here, in our past as a part of world history, numerous answers to the difficult questions on our tangled and complicated historiography, at the times when the postwar world order was reviewed for the sake of one's personal ambitions and fulfillment of unrealistic plans, are hidden.

To retain and protect a vast territory occupying the 9th place in the world that in term of its size, was a task feasible only within the power of a State with a strong nation which has not only the great desire for freedom, but unrivaled warrior features, such as courage and bravery, valor and heroism, honor and dignity, strength and will.

Otherwise, we would have been devoured by a complex and tangled geopolitical vortex of military and political events of the latest three millennia.

We survived. We won

Having passed through millennia, having ensured continuity of statehood, language, culture, written language, ethnic core, we are further convinced that everything above mentioned will be carried into future centuries and millennia, and the life-affirming idea of "Mangilik El" will not disappear.

More than 5000 years, when horse was tamed; a free man on horseback made a revolution in the art of war, trade, and diplomacy. Giving a high estimate to the place of our nomad ancestors in world history, famous A. Veber (1883-1964) could not help admiring their deeds, “World history was formed under the stamp accompaniment of enormous mass of strategic cavalry of nomads”

This assessment applies to us, Kazakhstanis, and Kazakhs who managed to preserve great pastoral civilization up until the policy of forced collectivization occurred.

Own, inimitable handwriting

We have own inimitable handwriting in history. We are active throughout the world and looking for new sources on ancient and medieval history, we are writing own history that was more or less thrown into complete oblivion during the existence of Soviet system.

At that time any attempt to approach and research own history had a tendency to end up in failure. Thus, an eminent historian Ermukhan Bekmakhanov was arrested and sentenced for 25 years, simply for making an attempt to explore a “piece” of our history connected with the personality and work of Kenesary Khan...

Indeed, our ancestors – Saka tribes, Huns, Turks, Kypchaks, and now Kazakhs have played and continue to play the most prominent role in the development of world history.

This was most clearly and impartially written by a great French thinker Montesquieu who in virtue of prevailing eurocentrism views in Europe should have not given such an opinion: “No people in the world ... has surpassed the Tatars (Turks), its fame or greatness ... These victorious people are lacking only historians for the glorification of their miraculous deeds. How many immortal feats were buried in the darkness of oblivion! How many empires they founded whose origin we do not even know!”

Needless to say, further on there was a row of smooth and consecutive shifts of one Turkic-speaking countries to the other, on the local, autochthonous basis: States of Kangyuy, Usuns; Turkic, Western-Turkic, Turgesh, Karluk khanates; States of Qarakhanids, Kimaks, Kypchak; Gold Orda, AkOrda ...

We have not clearly researched Kypchak period of our history, the epoch of Genghis Khan's descendants, relations with neighboring countries: China, Kievan Rus', Georgia, Armenia, Iran and the Ottoman Empire, India, and then-young European countries and the Arab world.

Baybars. The trace in history

For a long time the name of the famous warrior, commander, Sultan Baybars remained outside the field of scientific interests of scientists. A native of the Great Steppe, due to his excellent qualities of warrior and commander, in a very short time managed to rise from the "almost a slave" position to an authoritative mighty Mameluke sultan of Egypt, one of the oldest centers of civilization in the world. Having reached the pinnacle of power, Baybars stopped the infighting among his subjects, and provided the iron discipline and strict order on the vast territory.

In the military field Baybars was able to stop the advance of the Mongol hordes through the Middle East to Africa, defeating another of our "fellow countryman" Ketbugu, a native of the militant Naimanulus.

A memorable and fateful battle took place on September 3, 1260 at Ain Jalut, near Beysana, a Palestinian city. It was one of the first major defeat of the Mongol Tatar troops, the ones who had never lost virtually any battle during the heyday of the Mongol Empire. About this victory enthusiastically wrote a Byzantine scholar, Tripolski Wilhelm, who happened to be Sultan's contemporary, unable to refrain from words of praise, "As commander, Baybars is on a par with Julius Caesar."

Sultan Baybars broke the resistance of European knights at the “Holy Sepulchre”, having deprived them of such strategically important cities of the Middle East as Aleppo, Caesarea, Arsuf, Jaffa, Antioch and Damascus.

Later, the commander was able to defeat impregnable fortress of the Order of the Ismailis-Assassins, whose fanatical killers kept all the rulers of the East in awe.

Propaganda and research of such personalities as Baybars will cause an unprecedented surge of patriotic feeling among the youth of the country and respect for our people and for country in the eyes of the world. Finally, it will show that we had not only been creating States on our land, but also had been helping the world to do it the most magnificent manner.

Reversion

Before gaining independence, our history was being written based on Russian sources. Today, the situation has changed. Through the implementation of the presidential program “Cultural Heritage”, “The people in the flow of history” we obtained alternative materials which have significantly changed the previous one-sided approach to the coverage of the Kazakh khanate history.

Indeed, the middle of the XV century serves as a starting point of the sovereign-governmental formation of the new order – the Kazakh khanate which played a significant role in geopolitics of the late Middle Ages and modern times. A whole row of Kazakh khans, beys and brave men made efforts to strengthen territorial integrity and unity of the people. The names of the great rulers of statehood are written in golden letters in the annals of history –Kerey, Janibek, Kasim and Khaknazar, Yesim and Zhangir, Tauke and Abylay and, of course, the mighty Khan Kenesary recognized by Russian scientists, military and royal satraps as “the Mithridates of Kirghiz steppe”, “the all-destroying hurricane of Steppe”, “a brave batyr”, “the rebellious Sultan,” and even “utterly brave.”

...Have sons of Kypchak plains ever quailed?

One of the hardest trials fell to the lot of the long-suffering people in 1723, the trial known in history as the years of the great tribulation (“Aktabanshubryndy, alkakolsulama”) which took lives of almost a million habitants of the Steppe.

And that time Bogenbay Batyr inspired fearless Kazakh warriors to protect the Fatherland and freedom: “Do not disgrace our honor! Let’s protect the land from the enemy, having left the ever-lasting memory of us to our descendants! Have sons of Kypchak plains ever quailed?!”

In the struggle against Dzhungars the female part of Kazakh society was actively involved: Aytolkyn - the daughter of sultan Abylay, Yesenbike - daughter of Uysun Karatay Batyr, Aybike - daughter of Bulanbay Batyr and many others.

Gauhar Batyr, the wife of Kabanbay Batyr, a native of Karakerey, led a reconnaissance unit, took part in many major battles. Subsequently, having become a mother, she sent her eldest daughter Nazym to the frontline. The folklore preserved words said by Gauharbatyr”Atadan ul bolyptuma, yer bolyptu” (“Don’t be born as a son of your father, but as a real hero”).

The role of personality in history can be great to a fatal extent in the destiny of nations and states. A sole, quite erroneous and ill-considered step to adopt citizenship of Tsarist Russia in 1731, made by Khan Abulkhair from Younger Zhuz launched a tragic, controversial and dramatic process of temporary loss of freedom and independence of Kazakhs as well as gradual elimination of the Kazakh statehood. After all, no ruler will ever voluntarily abandon the power. It is an axiom.

By the most basic fraud Abulkhair was involved in the so-called “citizenship”. Not long after the tsarist government began covering Kazakhstan with fortification lines, the national environment gave birth to a whole cohort of prominent figures of the national liberation movement; figures who sacrificed their lives for the sake of the freedom of their motherland - Syrym Datuly and Zholaman Tlenshiuly, IsatayTaymanuly and Mahambet Utemisuly, Khan Kene, Yeset Kotibaruly and Zhankozha Nurmuhameduly, AmangeldyImanuly and Athanasius Latuta

(Zhakyp Zholamanov) and others. Not only they were heroes and batyrs, but also excellent speakers igniting the hearts of other heroes.

In 1810-1822 the tsarist government annexed the northern part of the Kazakh khanate Novoiletsky district, 600 thousand acres.

In order to assert and protect own lands the Kazakhs rose headed by Batyr ZholamanTlenshyuly. On this occasion, in the middle of the XIX century a Russian officer and one of the famous and recognized researchers from Orenburg region I.F. Blaramberg noted: “With the blood price Cossacks bought the ownership of fruitful banks of river Ilek; its ancient rulers led by their batyrs gathered huge crowds and fought to the death, wanting to give up their life rather than a nomadic settlement of their ancestors”.

Bravery and courage, patriotism of indigenous residents were often noted by numerous researchers of Russian and foreign origins.

Realism of the ideas of Alash in modern world

In 1917, the Kazakh national democratic intelligentsia launched a very powerful Alash movement. The most educated, patriotic, honest part of the society, headed by Alikhan Bukeykhanov initiated organization of the government of Alash Orda, “Alash”party.

In the early 20s of the last century the intelligentsia had to vigorously defend the borders of Kazakhstan and its territorial integrity. Especially difficult was the return of Akmola and Semipalatinsk region. Only logic, a strong argument and knowledge of history, great love for the native land allowed to retain significant amount of the indigenous Kazakh land.

...The people tortured by the War...

In the XX century under the Soviet totalitarian system Kazakh land had to endure the most severe tests. The famine nearly 30's destroyed almost half of the ethnic group. Some part of indigenous population saved from inevitable death by immigrating into neighboring countries. Currently, this emigration has form diaspora counting almost 5 million Kazakhs waiting to return in the name of historical justice. In 1937- 1938 the best part of Kazakh intelligentsia and citizens of Kazakhstan were destroyed by totalitarian Stalinist system in the amount of more than 120 thousand people. From 1936-1937 started a deportation of whole nations into Kazakhstan. The total number of deportees met a 2 million people bar.

During the Great Patriotic War Kazakhs, representatives of other diasporas living in the republic showed miracles of heroism and bravery.

The Great Patriotic War called about half a million Kazakhs who fought and died not only on the battlefields, but in captivity, in partisan unions, in the resistance troops against the Nazi resistance in Europe.

In December 1979, Afghan saga began. Kazakhstan sent to the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan about 22 thousand of its best sons who, like their fathers and grandfathers in the Great Patriotic War showed heroism fulfilling their internationalist duty.

The code of nation can't be destroyed

In December 1986, the Kazakhs were among the first to protest against the totalitarian Soviet regime and brought the collapse of the Soviet Union. After the meeting of the youth the whole socialist system in the world began to crack, as well as in 1916, was laid the foundation of the disintegration of the Russian Empire created on the basis of force and lies, deception and violence.

We must once and for all forget the dangerous and unrealizable idea of some politicians who live by the categories of past centuries and preserved unattainable illusion about the possible revival of the Soviet Union which was irrevocably pushed into oblivion. On this matter clearly and

unambiguously spoke L.N. Gumilyov, Russian scientist who predicted the imminent death of the Soviet Union in 1972, 1986 and 1990. In his turn, Gumilyov offered the most prosperous alternative formula on coexistence on Eurasian continent in the beginning of the third millennium: “Better apart, but in peace!”

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