



The Population of Rural Areas of Uzbek Part in Fergana Valley (Late XIX - Early XX Centuries)

Hasanboy Rakhmatillaev*

*Candidate of Historical Sciences Fergana State University Uzbekistan, Fergana

Article History	Abstract
<p>Received: 24 November 2023 Revised: 12 December 2023 Accepted: 27 December 2023</p> <p>CC License CC-BY-NC-SA 4.0</p>	<p><i>The dynamics of the ethnic composition of the rural population of the Fergana Valley during the years of Czarist Russia and Soviet totalitarianism based on historical sources, archival documents and census results are analyzed in the article. It is based on the population census materials and oral history records that were carried out during Tsarist Russia and Soviet totalitarianism, namely in 1897, 1920, 1926, 1937, 1939, 1959, 1970, 1979 and 1989. Specifically, the article examines the settlement of Europeans: Crimean Tatars, Russians, Germans, Koreans and others in the valley regions together with the local population such as Uzbeks, Tajiks, Kyrgyz, Kazakhs, Karakalpaks, Uighurs, as well as their dynamics.</i></p> <p>Keywords: <i>Ferghana Valley, ethnic composition of the population, dynamics of ethnic composition, Tsarist Russia, Soviet period, Uzbeks, Tajiks, Kyrgyz, Kazakhs, Karakalpaks, Uighurs, Europeans.</i></p>

1. Introduction

The essential problematic moment in the long history of any multi-ethnic region is studying the ethnostructure of the population, while analyzing the ethnostructure not in statics, but in dynamics. Based on the population censuses conducted in 1897, 1920, 1926, 1937, 1939, 1959, 1970, 1979 and 1989, detailed statistical data were obtained and the demographic, migrating and ethnic processes of the villagers of the Ferghana Valley were studied.

The work traces the changes separately in the ethnic composition of the population in countryside, so as to further compare the results of these researches with the alterations that took place in the urban areas.

The ethnic structure of the country people of the valley altered primarily under the influence of endogenous, however in some periods exogenous influences.

During the period under review, the Uzbeks made up the majority of the rural population in the studied area, and in most periods their share in this population gradually increased.

Studying the ethnic structure of the population has been and remains a major problem in the history of any multi-ethnic region. At the same time, it is important to study the ethnostructure not in statics, but in dynamics, since it is constantly converting under the influence of demographic, migration and ethnic processes. The role of each of the listed processes in the dynamics of the ethnostructure of this or that mass of the population is different, as they change over time and sometimes lead to changes in the ethnic composition of the population beyond recognition. Naturally, the regions whose population is characterized by a large ethnic diversity deserve special attention. These regions include the Uzbek part of the Fergana Valley, which has formed a single historical and cultural region since ancient times, and it is appropriate to consider this region as a whole.

The purpose of the work is to point out the most necessary patterns of change in the ethnostructure of the Uzbek population of the Fergana Valley in temporal and territorial aspects. Since the dynamics of the ethnostructure in the city and the countryside should differ significantly, because of which we tried to explore the changes in the ethnic composition of the population in villages separately.

Censuses conducted in Tsarist Russia both before and after the revolution were the main sources of the research. The initial general census on the territory of Russia was done in 1897. In spite of some shortcomings, the information obtained during the census was, in most cases, quite reliable [1].

During the Soviet period, eight population censuses were conducted: in 1920, 1926, 1937, 1939, 1959, 1970, 1979 and 1989.

The first general population census compiled during the Soviet period was the census of December 17, 1926. The first results of the census were published in 1927-1933, the complete results were published in 56 volumes. [3]. Adding to this, archival materials contain information about the national composition of the population by districts, cities, regional centers and large rural settlements [4].

Complete data on the 1970 population census are provided from the statistics departments of Fergana, Andijan and Namangan regions, as well as from the grouping list compiled by the Central Statistical Office of the USSR. There, the national composition of the population is determined for all cities, urban-type settlements (rural areas), as well as individual villages and village councils.

So, the totality of the listed census materials makes it possible to develop sufficiently detailed ideas about the dynamics of the ethnostructure of both the urban and rural population of the valley over an 80-year period. It should be borne in mind that the starting point for determining changes in the ethnic composition of the population in the period 1897-1926 should be the use of data on the population's linguistic rather than ethnic composition, which, of course, are not the same thing. But, considering that the ethnic and linguistic composition of the population of the Fergana Valley is close to each other, the use of language data instead of nationality data is acceptable with certain conditions.

This makes it very difficult to compare data from 1887 and 1926. During this period, the borders between the administrative divisions of the Fergana Valley underwent strong changes, and the census data on individual rural settlements in the archives, as mentioned above, was not preserved.

In addition to census materials, we also used other statistical data published by the Fergana Regional Statistics Committee in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. [5].

Interviews with informants were an important source in many cases, which made it possible to clarify the data of the last census, as well as to explain the reasons for the sharp changes in the number of certain ethnic groups. These conversations were especially helpful in studying the population dynamics of Crimean Tatars, Turks, Azerbaijanis, Koreans, Germans, and others.

In the end, another group of sources was the information available in the regional registry offices on the registration of interethnic marriages. Mixed marriages, which reflect ongoing assimilation processes, were necessary because they made it possible to determine the reasons for the change in the number of certain ethnic groups living in the Fergana Valley. Records on the registration of interethnic marriages in the cities of Fergana, Margilan, Kokand and Kuvasai of the Fergana region, Andijan, Leninsk, Shakhrikhan and Sovetabad of the Andijan region, Namangan, Uchkurgan, Kasansay, Chust and Pap of the Namangan region, as well as in a number of rural settlements of the Fergana region of the Fergana region, the Jalalkuduk region of the Andijan region and the across the river region of the Namangan region.

As mentioned above, there are still no monographic studies of the dynamics of the ethnostructure of the population of the Fergana Valley. Although there are a number of books and articles in which, in one way or another, issues related to the ethnic composition of the population of the Fergana region were considered. We will dwell in detail on the works from them, which pay great attention to the topics of interest to us.

Hence, Ya.R. Vinnikov's work [6] published in 1959 is devoted to the ethnography of the Fergana Valley. In addition to this monograph, Ya.R. Vinnikov gave several more lectures, in which the main focus was on changes in ethnogeography. In these works, no attention is paid to the dynamics of the ethnostructure of the population of the Fergana Valley [7].

In another news, at the All-Union inter-university scientific conference dedicated to the problems of the population of Central Asia, Ya.R. Vinnikova particularly emphasized the changes in the number and location of the population of Central Asia in 1926-1970. [8].

Crucial generalizations about Central Asia based on the 1926 census materials are presented in the map of the people of Central Asia and Kazakhstan compiled by B.V. Andrianov and in the accompanying text. [9].

Ethnostructure and ethnic geography of the population of the Uzbek part of the Fergana valley were the subject of Sh.I. Inagamov's Ph.D. The main focus of the work is on the dynamics of the ethnostructure, and the trends

of change in the ethnic composition of the population of the Fergana Valley over the 80-year period have been observed.

What are the most important findings of this study? Studying all the sources - statistical information and literature - about the dynamics of the ethnostructure of the rural population of the Fergana Valley, the following main conclusions can be reached.:

1. The ethnostructure of the villagers of the valley, like the ethnostructure of the population of most other rural areas of the country, converted primarily under the influence of endogenous aspects (local ethnic and demographic processes). At the same time, exogenous factors (migrations from other sites) in certain periods also played a crucial role in the dynamics of the ethnic composition.

2. Throughout the period under review (from 1897 to 1979), Uzbeks constituted the large number of the rural population of the study region, and in most periods their share in this population gradually rised. If in 1897 the proportion of Uzbeks in rural areas, according to rough estimates, slightly exceeded 70%, then in 1926 it increased to 83.5%, in 1939 it amounted to 80.0%, in 1959 – 83.4%, in 1970 – 90.0%. The increase in the number of Uzbeks in the composition of the rural population is mainly related to the processes of ethnic unification taking place here: the merging of some small Turkic-speaking groups with the Uzbeks and the assimilation of some representatives of the peoples close to the Uzbeks by the Uzbeks. Uzbeks by culture or language: Tajiks, Kyrgyz, Uighurs, Karakalpaks, Kazakhs, to a lesser extent - Tatars (Volgaboyi).

3. In the first quarter of the 20th century, the share of Tajiks in the rural areas of the region decreased significantly, apparently due to the assimilation of a part of the Tajik population with Uzbeks (in part, this decrease is also explained by the fact that the administrative boundaries of 1897 and 1926 were not fully written). Afterwards, with the strengthening of the ethnic self-consciousness of the Tajiks, due, in particular, to the creation of their own republic as a result of the national demarcation (at first, autonomous as part of the Uzbek SSR, and then a union), the assimilation of Tajiks by Uzbeks slowed down. So, in 1897 Tajiks made up 8.4% of the rural population of the region, in 1926 – 4.7%, in 1939 – 5.4%, in 1959 – 4.4%, in 1970 – 4.4%, in 1979 – 4.2%.

4. During the research, the share of Kyrgyz in the rural population of the region is decreasing. Unfortunately, the Kyrgyz population census data of 1897 cannot be taken to monitor dynamics, as they cannot be compared with subsequent censuses and materials (administrative boundaries of the former Fergana Ush district, especially in the north and east, up to the present borders of the Uzbek part of the Fergana valley). Consequently, we have to confine ourselves to comparing data starting from the 1926 census. In 1926, the proportion of the Kyrgyz in the rural population of the Uzbek part of the Fergana Valley was 5.2%, in 1939 – 4.9%, in 1959 – 4.6 %, in 1970 – 3.6% and in 1979 – 3.3%. The steady decline in the share of the Kirghiz was mainly due to the assimilation of some of them with the Uzbeks.

5. The number of Tatars was very small (only a few hundred people according to the census data of 1897 and 1926) and by 1939 it had increased greatly (there were already 18 thousand people and they were 1 of the entire population of the village .1 percent). In 1944, the Crimean Tatars were moved to the valley. In the 1959 census, they were combined with the Tatars, and the total number of both peoples reached 39 thousand (2.3% of the total rural population of the region). In future, Tatars (Volga and Crimean) in the county became less and less, primarily due to their resettlement in cities and departure from Uzbekistan (in 1970 they already accounted for only 1.3% of all rural residents and in 1979 0, 7%).

6. In the 1897 census, a special collective group of “Turk-Tatars” was distinguished, which united several small Turkic-speaking ethnic communities, mostly close to Uzbeks. In the area roughly corresponding to the Uzbek part of the Fergana Valley, this group is very important, and according to the first population census, it made up 8.4 percent of the entire village population. After the 20s of the 20th century, the ethnic communities united under the name “Turk-Tatars” gradually merged with the Uzbek ethnos.

7. The dynamics of the absolute and relative number of Uyghurs had its own characteristics. If the share of Uyghurs in the rural population of the region increased significantly (from 1.2% to 2.8%) between the censuses of 1897-1926, this was due to the unification of the Uyghur people and the strengthening of their ethnic identity. The share of this ethnic group began to decline very slowly at first, and then very quickly (2.7% in 1939, 0.7% in 1959, 0.4% in 1970 and 0.3% in 1979), which was due to the intensive assimilation of its closely related Uzbek nation.

8. In recent decades, the Karakalpaks assimilated very quickly with the Uzbeks. The trend of their ethnic development was similar to that of the Uyghurs. In the first years after 1917, due to the growth of the ethnic identity of the Karakalpaks, their share in the rural population of the Fergana Valley increased slightly (from 1.0% in 1897 to 1.7% in 1926). Then, as a result of assimilation with the Uzbeks, the Karakalpaks became less and less. In 1939 they already made up only 1.1% of the rural population, in 1959 0.3%, in 1970 0.03%, and in 1979, judging by the census, they almost disappeared.

9. Fully (or almost completely) assimilated with Uzbeks and Kazakhs, first recorded in 1959 census, but not recorded in 1979.
10. A group of Turks (0.3 percent of the village population in 1970) was moved from the South Caucasus to the Uzbek part of the Fergana Valley in 1944.
11. In the 60s, in the Uzbek part of the Fergana Valley, another Turkic people appeared - the Azerbaijanis, who came to this area due to the rapid development of oil production. Nevertheless, the number of this ethnic group is very small (in 1979 – 0.1% of the rural population). Because of the confusion in the entries in the passport column about nationality, it is now impossible to accurately determine the number of Azerbaijanis and Turks.
12. At the end of the 19th century, the number of Russians in rural areas was very small (a few hundred people). In the first decades of the twentieth century, they began to grow gradually, but by 1926 it reached only 4 thousand people. The migrations of the pre-war period led to the fact that during the 1939 census there were already 48 thousand Russians in the villages of the Uzbek part of the Ferghana Valley (3.0% of the population). The return of Russians to their native places, as well as resettlement in the cities of the valley, led to the fact that their share in the rural population subsequently dropped sharply (to 1.9% in 1959, 0.8% in 1970 and 0.3% in 1979).
13. Approximately the same character was observed in the dynamics of the number of Ukrainians who immigrated with the Russians, the only difference was that this number was always several times less than the number of Russians (in 1979, Ukrainians made up only 0.03% of the total rural population).
14. Another more or less prominent group of rural residents of the Fergana Valley are Koreans who came here from the Far East in the 1920s and 1930s. In 1939, their number was 7 thousand people (0.4 percent of the population). But, in the 1960s and 1970s, the absolute and relative number of Koreans began to decrease rapidly (if in 1959 they made up 0.4% of the total number) due to their relocation to the cities of Central Asia, partly to the Far East. rural population of the Uzbek part of the Fergana Valley, then in 1970 - 0.1% and in 1979 - 0.05%.
15. The remaining ethnic groups in the villages of the Fergana Valley were very few in number (these are Greeks, Armenians, Jews, Mordovians, Germans, etc.).

2. Sources and literature/ References

1. Pervaya Vseobshchaya perepis naseleniya Rossiyskoy Imperii. T. 1-91. SPb., 1899-1905.
2. Vsesoyuznaya perepis naseleniya December 17, 1926. Kratkie svodki. Vyp. I-X. M., 1927-1929.
3. Vsesoyuznaya perepis naseleniya 1926 g. t. I-LVI. M., 1928-1933.
4. Central Archive of the State Committee of the USSR. F. 1562. Op. 336. Ed. xr. 385.
5. "Obzor Ferganskoy Oblast" for the years 1887-1888, 1890-1893, 1895-1897, 1899-1900. Novyy Margilan, 1889-1901; "Statisticheskiy obzor Ferganskoy oblasti" za gody 1904, 1906, 1910, 1911, 1913. Novyy Margilan, 1905; Skobelev, 1908-1916.
6. Vinnikov Ya.R. Sovremennoe rasselenie narodov i etnograficheskikh grupp v Ferganskoy doline//Sredneaziatskiy etnograficheskiy sbornik. T. II. M., 1959. P.382-408.
7. Vinnikov Ya.R. Changes in the ethnic geography of Central Asia (1913-1959)// VII International Congress of Anthropological and Ethnographic Sciences. M., 1964.
8. Vinnikov Ya.R. Changes in population and ethnic geography of Central Asia (1926-1970)// Vsesoyuznaya mejvuzovskaya nauchnaya konferentsia po problemam narodonaseleniya Sredney Asia. Tashkent, 1971.
9. Andrianov B.V. Karta narodov Sredney Asia i Kazakhstan (po dannym perepisi 1926 g.)//Materialy k istoriko-etnograficheskomu atlasu Sredney Asia i Kazakhstan. Vyp.I. M.-L., 1961.
10. Inagamov Sh.I. Etnicheskiy sostav naseleniya i etnograficheskaya karta Ferganskoy doliny v granitsakh Uzbekskoy SSR: Autoref. Dissertatsii Cand. ist. science Tashkent. 1955.