

## Brief information about the project

Title	Encounter with Empire: the history of Stepnoi Krai, 1822-1917
Relevance	In most existing work on colonial period of Kazakhstan history's conclusions are drawn that Kazakhs being under direct control of Tsarist Government submitted entirely to the Russian bodies of administration, but not tribal structures. And besides the scholars rely mainly on Russian sources: Russian ethnographers, officials and Orientalist academics expertizes. The idea of the project is to determine, on the basis of texts from Kazakhs, what did the Russian Empire achieve during the colonial period in Kazakhstan. Having established control over the territory of the Kazakhs, was Empire able to establish control over everyone's behavior, family, life. Linguistic analysis of Kazakh texts will make it possible to investigate the problem to what extent the deep structures of Kazakh tribal organization, forms of social consciousness and relations with the environment were affected by the major alteration. In this sense, the project is devoted to the study of social practices, social institutions, and social ethics of the Kazakhs in the discursive and practical regime of the Russian Empire.
Goal	The purpose of the project is to determine to what extent were effective the actions of the Tsarist Government to change Kazakhs practices of animal husbandry, homogenize the social space through alteration of Kazakh society design and its internal mechanisms for maintaining stability and social order, as well as implementation of supra tribal authorities and conversion of communal conscience of the nomads.
Tasks	<p>Task 1. To study contemporary Western historiography in the field of new imperial history, to become familiar with new theories in the social sciences, anthropology, environmental history, economic history of empires, ethnographic photography, and the organization of the Hajj from the Russian Empire.</p> <p>Task 2. To analyze official documents, expedition's statistical data, nonfictions of veterinary officers in the Kazakh Steppe.</p> <p>Task 3. To display the limitations of Russian expert knowledge (writings of ethnographers, officials, military officers, orientalists) about the tribal organization, social institutions and social practices, as well as social life of Kazakhs.</p> <p>Task 4. Study of the implementation of imperial veterinary practices in Kazakh animal husbandry as an intervention of imperial structures in the practices of Kazakh animal husbandry, namely: the relationship of nomads with the environment.</p> <p>Task 5. On the base of hermeneutical approach will be studied the Kazakh texts of M. Otemisuly, M. Munkeuly, D. Babataiuly, A. Kunanbaev, M. Zh. Kopeev, Sh. Kudaiberdiuly, created at that period of time. After the close reading of them we will come to an understanding of the meaning of Kazakh existence. Kazakh shezhire, both of that time and modern ones, will also be analyzed.</p> <p>Task 6. To analyze S. Dudin's 1899 photographic collection on the Semipalatinsk region in the context of the development of Russian ethnography in Russia and at the strategies for representing otherness in the World Exhibition in Paris 1900.</p> <p>Task 7. To determine peculiarities of pilgrimage from Stepnoi Krai on the basis of geographical disposition (may be it is the farthest way to Mecca from Russian Empire) and societal situation</p>

	<p>here.</p> <p>Task 8. Explore the internal institutions of tribal organization, which were aimed for the preservation of clan integrity. Also transfer the basic terms of Kazakh taxonomic groups into the analytical language of anthropological science.</p>
Expected and Achieved Results	<p>A theoretical framework was established, and methodological approaches to the research were defined. A study of contemporary Western historiography in the field of new imperial history was conducted, along with familiarization with new theories in the social sciences, anthropology, environmental history, economic history, ethnographic photography, and the organization of hajj from the Russian Empire. The methods of analysis are also distinguished by their novelty. For the first time, the discourse analysis method will be applied to distinguish between the internal Kazakh and external Russian perspectives on the social organization of Kazakhs.</p> <p>To disseminate the research project results among potential users, scholars, and the general public, a dedicated project webpage was created at <a href="http://historyofstepnoikrai.tilda.ws">http://historyofstepnoikrai.tilda.ws</a>, and project information and team details were posted on the official al-Farabi KazNU website at <a href="https://farabi.university/department/58?lang=kz">https://farabi.university/department/58?lang=kz</a></p> <p>Scientific research trips were conducted to Orenburg, St. Petersburg, and Kazan, where the source base for the study was collected. Research work in Orenburg (Russia) was carried out at the State Archive of Orenburg Oblast (GAOO); research in St. Petersburg (Russia) was conducted at the Russian State Historical Archive (RGIA), and additional research was performed at the Russian National Library (RNB) in St. Petersburg; research work in Kazan was undertaken at the N.I. Lobachevsky Scientific Library of Kazan Federal University.</p> <p>The limitations of Russian expert knowledge from the 19th-early 20th centuries (works by ethnographers, officials, military personnel, and orientalist scholars) regarding the clan-tribal organization, social institutions and practices, and social life of Kazakhs were investigated. A manuscript for a scientific article was prepared.</p> <p>Data from Kazakh texts (M. Ötemisuly, M. Mönkeuly, D. Babataiuly, A. Kunanbaeva, M. Zh. Köpeev) on clan consciousness and its role as a regulator of social relations were researched and synthesized. Results were published as scientific articles.</p> <p>The strategies, possibilities, and limitations of ethnographic photography (S. Dudin's 1899 collection from his trip to Semipalatinsk Oblast) were examined, and the theoretical framework for representing Kazakhs at the 1900 Paris World Exhibition was defined as imperial hybridity. A manuscript for a scientific article was prepared.</p> <p>The features of the organization of the Hajj from the Stepnoi Krai were studied and the study of the development of pilgrim routes from the Stepnoi Krai to Mecca and its organizational aspects continues. The first results were published as a scientific article.</p>

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Publications list with links to them	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Kabdoldina K.K. Resei imperiiasynda kazhylyk zholdardyn kalypstasuy men manyzy: Dala olkesinen Mekkege sapar // KazUU Khabarshysy. Tarikh Seriiasy. – 2024. – №3(114). – B. 101-110. <a href="https://doi.org/10.26577/JH.2024.v114i3-010">https://doi.org/10.26577/JH.2024.v114i3-010</a></li> <li>2. Teleuova E., Iskakova G. «Zar zaman» shygarmalaryndagy otarlangan kazak oiy men kuiinin arlenui. // KazUU Khabarshysy. Tarikh Seriiasy. – 2025. – №1(116). – B. 109-122. <a href="https://doi.org/10.26577/JH2025116109">https://doi.org/10.26577/JH2025116109</a></li> <li>3. Iskakova G.Z., Teleuova E.T. Kazak kogamy Mashhur Zhusip Kopeev shygarmalary prizmasy arkyly // «KR UGA khabarshysy» gylmy zhurnaly. – 2025. – №3(415). – B. 118-132. <a href="https://doi.org/10.32014/2025.2518-1467.955">https://doi.org/10.32014/2025.2518-1467.955</a></li> </ol>
Patent information	No

