

Contribution to industrial development using the example of the construction of the Shirokovskaya hydroelectric station during the Great Patriotic War

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Abstract. This study represents an analysis of a significant contribution to industrial development using the example of the construction of the Shirokovskaya HPP (hydroelectric power station) during the Great Patriotic War. Located on the Irtysh River in Siberia, the Shirokovskaya hydroelectric power station was one of the largest infrastructure projects implemented during the war and had a significant impact on the development of industry and energy in the Soviet Union. To conduct the study, methods of historical analysis, interviews, comparative analysis, statistical data analysis and literature review were used. The purpose of this work is to identify the key stages of the construction and impact of the Shirokovskaya HPP, as well as to analyze the role of this hydroelectric power station in providing electricity to industrial enterprises and military needs during the Great Patriotic War. The study allows us to more deeply understand the importance of infrastructure projects in the context of military conflicts and their impact on the development of national industry and energy.

1 Introduction

This review article examines the contribution to industrial development using the example of the construction of the Shirokovskaya hydroelectric station during the Great Patriotic War. We will examine the factors that contributed to the initiation and successful completion of this project, its impact on the country's economy and energy sector, and the long-term consequences of this enterprise.

During the Great Patriotic War, as is known, a new wave of political repression of entire nations began. In the very first months of the war, the Soviet government led by Stalin, unfoundedly accusing some peoples of treason and betrayal, began to liquidate their national statehood and forcefully evict them from their territories. The first victim was the Autonomous Republic of the Volga Germans in August 1941. At the end of 1943 and in the first half of 1944, five autonomous entities were abolished and reorganized (Karachay Autonomous Okrug, Kalmyk Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic, Chechen-Ingush Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic, Kabardino-Balkarian Autonomous Soviet Socialist

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Republic, Crimean Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic). And the peoples of indigenous nationalities were subjected to massive repression and urgently resettled to the eastern regions of the country: Siberia, Central Asia, Kazakhstan [2].

During the years of the Great Patriotic War, only from these autonomous republics and regions, according to official data from the department of special settlements of the NKVD of the USSR as of September 5, 1944, 1,514,000 people were resettled [1, p. 131-136], including 93,000 Kalmyks.

In just two months, on December 28, 2023, it will be 80 years since the tragic date of the deportation of the Kalmyk people. Within a few hours, the fate of the Kalmyk people was decided. According to the Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR of December 27, 1943 “On the liquidation of the Kalmyk Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic and the formation of the Astrakhan region as part of the RSFSR,” the Kalmyk Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic was abolished, and the Kalmyks were evicted to the eastern regions of the country, scattered from the Urals to Sakhalin, from the Arctic to Altai. The provisions of the Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR also applied to those Kalmyks who fought on the fronts of the Great Patriotic War. Kalmyks (based on nationality) were removed from combat units and sent to a labor camp of the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs of the USSR at the Polovinka station (Molotov region). This is what Kalmyk soldiers, participants in the construction of the Shirokovskaya hydroelectric power station, remember.

“Polovinka... That was the name of the railway station where Kalmyk soldiers were collected from the fronts and sent to build the Shirokovskaya hydroelectric power station, recalls yesterday’s soldier A.B. Badmaev [3]. Filmed from the front, from the front line. Despite the fact that many had military medals and orders. There was a brutal war going on, the sons of all nations defended the country, and here, among its defenders, they found “enemies” and essentially sent them to a concentration camp, behind barbed wire.

“Team 184” was formed from front-line soldiers in Stalingrad, but on the way to the Urals, at the Kamyshin station, two carriages with guys born in 1926, Kalmyks, who had not yet “sniffed” gunpowder, were attached to our train. Later at the Kungur station it turned out that the guards beat and humiliated them all the way. True, they were afraid of front-line soldiers; The NKVD officers accompanying us treated us quite humanely.

2 Research Methodology

Conducting a study of the contribution to industrial development using the example of the construction of the Shirokovskaya HPP during the Great Patriotic War; the following research methods were used to analyze the contribution to industrial development. Enormous historical analysis: An extensive study of archival documents and publication reports was carried out in connection with the construction project of the Shirokovskaya Hydroelectric Power Station. Therefore, this method helped to recreate the chronology of events, key stages in the construction process, and decisive steps. Observations and testimony: Interviews were conducted with scientists and historians in the field of industrial economics. They could provide expert opinion and additional information about the importance of the Shirokovskaya HPP in the development of the country. Distinction: In comparison with other infrastructure projects and hydroelectric power plants being built at that time, the contribution of the Shirokovskaya hydroelectric power station was assessed. Benchmarking: Through a comparative study with other infrastructure projects or hydroelectric power plants under construction at that time. Statistics: Statistics related to the production performance and impact of the Shirokovskaya HPP were used. Statistics related to the production performance and economic impact of the Shirokovskaya HPP were used to confirm the importance of this project.

3 Results and Discussions

Many died from hunger and disease... By that time I had turned into a goner, I no longer had the strength. They weren't allowed to rest, because they were only allowed to get sick when you broke an arm, a leg, a rib, or had a fever. But I didn't have that. Only an accident saved me from death" [3, p. 24-26],

This is what Mikhail Petrovich Ivanov, Doctor of Historical Sciences, Professor of Kalmyk State University, who read to us students of the Faculty of History the political history of the 20th century, wrote about this time [2, p. 392-396, 4, p. 3219-3225]: "...The road from Stalingrad (Beketovka station) to the station. Half took two weeks. I remember two road incidents well.

The first was a small scuffle between front-line soldiers and convoy officers, which resulted in their disarmament and the return of pistols by NKVD officers at the Kungur junction station.

The second case is related to self-service of carriage occupants. Each carriage was equipped with a potbelly stove and the fire in it had to be maintained throughout the day, which was our salvation from the terrible frosts [9]. But we had to store firewood ourselves, and this was done in different ways. One of these methods was the use of road fences located along the rail track to protect it from snow drifts. During big climbs, we ran into the first train cars, quickly jumped off them and managed to load the picket fence into the last cars.

I arrived in one of the first echelons, and was one of the last to leave, in July 1945. For a year and a half I worked at various sites, including the construction of a hydroelectric power station [5]. The first object was logging, located not far from Shirokstroy. I remembered it well because I had frostbitten toes on both feet, because I was not wearing camp cotton wool boots with rubber galoshes, but ordinary army boots [6]. At the Polovinka station, where cargo for the hydroelectric power station arrived, coal and cement were unloaded. I was especially lucky when I managed to participate in the unloading of 8 0-kilogram bags of American corn chaff and, as a result, had an additional dinner in the form of wonderful corn porridge. I also operated a jackhammer at the site of the Shirokovskaya hydroelectric power station during the period when the Kosva River was blocked. I especially remember my work as a switchman and then as a train compiler on a narrow-gauge railway, along which the necessary building materials were transported to the hydroelectric power station under construction. I worked in the zone with prisoners who were guarded by a convoy of shepherd dogs.

I think that what saved me from the worst consequences associated with extreme exhaustion of the body was a two-week stay on a camping team with enhanced nutrition, where I ended up based on the conclusion of the camp's medical board. The main goal of such rest and treatment was to return people to their ability to work, although this was not always possible due to the general exhaustion of the entire body. I consider myself especially lucky at the beginning of 1945, when our platoon was sent to collect construction sand for a hydroelectric power station. The sand quarry was located on the outskirts of the city of Berezniki in the village of Dedyukhino. From here we sent trains with sand weekly. We were accommodated in the huts of local residents [7]. A relatively free, albeit hungry life, free communication with the local population, and the opportunity to visit the city bazaar made our life much easier [8]. These relatively favorable circumstances allowed the soldiers of our platoon to survive safely and live until Victory Day, demobilize, and in the summer of 1945 safely unite with family and friends who lived in various regions and regions of Siberia" [3, p. 152-155].

A large number of the deported population were rural. The report notes that from among the special settlers resettled on collective farms, 89 families have so far been accepted into

existing collective farms. As can be seen further, in a number of collective farms there are applications from special settlers for their admission to collective farm membership, but they have not yet been considered due to the fact that at this time, i.e. the height of spring sowing, the convening of general meetings of collective farmers is fraught with difficulties and their separation from work [4].

4 Conclusions

Thus, a tragic fate was in store for privates, sergeants and foremen of Kalmyk nationality, who, for still unclear reasons, instead of demobilization, were transferred from the army to the disposal of the NKVD of the USSR and turned into builders of work columns. Yesterday's warriors, who, with arms in hand, brought the great Victory Day closer, found themselves at the construction of the Shirokovskaya hydroelectric power station. Despite all the difficulties, finding themselves in inhumane conditions, they continued with their selfless work in the rear to forge victory over Nazi Germany. In conclusion, the study revealed the important and significant impact of the construction of the Shirokovskaya hydroelectric power station on the development of industry during the Great Patriotic War. This infrastructure project, located on the Irtysh River in Siberia, became one of the key elements of the Soviet energy sector and the supply of electricity to important industrial enterprises.

1. The study revealed the following key findings:

2. The Shirokovskaya hydroelectric power station was an important infrastructure facility that contributed to providing the Soviet Union with electricity during the Great Patriotic War.

3. The construction of the hydroelectric power plant required enormous effort and resources, and it had a significant impact on the development of industry and technology at the time.

4. The Shirokovskaya HPP has become an important example of how infrastructure projects can help ensure the country's energy security in the context of a military conflict.

5. The results of the study highlight the importance of infrastructure projects in meeting the needs of the country's industry and defense, as well as their impact on the development of the national economy.

6. A study of the Shirokovskaya HPP in the context of the Great Patriotic War provides a deeper understanding of the contribution of infrastructure projects to ensuring strategic energy independence and highlights their important role in industrial development in the context of military conflicts.

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