

Strategies for survival and adaptation of the population in new climatic and environmental conditions in the context of forced migration

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Abstract. This research delves into the intricate dynamics of survival and adaptation strategies employed by the Chechen population amidst the backdrop of forced migration to new climatic and ecological settings. Through a comprehensive examination of historical archives and contemporary studies, the study navigates through the nuanced shifts in climate patterns and environmental conditions in regions where Chechens have been resettled, shedding light on the multifaceted impact of these transformations on their daily lives and adaptive mechanisms. Moreover, it scrutinizes the myriad strategies adopted by the Chechen community to navigate and surmount the myriad challenges posed by their altered surroundings. By unraveling the complexities of adaptation in the face of forced migration, this study not only enriches our understanding of the resilience of migrant populations but also offers invaluable insights for the development of robust support frameworks tailored to the unique needs of displaced communities.

1 Introduction

The environment encompasses everything around an individual and its impact on their development. According to the broadest definition, the environment encompasses our entire planet and the cosmos. However, in practical terms, it refers mainly to the biosphere, the earthly shell where all living organisms reside. Individuals, throughout their lives, alter their surroundings, shaping a new habitat. At birth, a person becomes the creator of their environment, which influences their physical, moral, intellectual, social, and spiritual development. Over time, humanity has evolved the ability to significantly modify the environment through various means, thanks to advancements in science and technology. This includes both natural and human-made aspects, which are crucial for human health and fundamental rights, including the right to life.

The human habitat comprises a mix of industrial, economic, recreational, and cultural elements, including urban and industrial areas as well as agricultural or rural spaces. Human life and the environment mutually influence each other, impacting the overall development of society. Notably, the environment affects human life, living conditions, and societal development.

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The influence of nature on deported Chechens in new areas was profound and varied. Forced to relocate to unfamiliar territories for access to natural resources, they encountered significant changes in climate, landscape, vegetation, and resource availability. Such transitions can pose challenges in adapting to new environmental conditions, particularly when moving between different climatic zones.

The presence of vegetation, soil fertility, and pasture in new environments differed from their existing surroundings, affecting traditional Chechen occupations such as agriculture and animal husbandry.

Development, growth, and people are intricately linked with the environment. This interconnection underscores the importance of considering environmental impacts in global activities throughout history. Neglecting these impacts can lead to irreversible damage to the environment, upon which human life depends. Therefore, it's imperative to safeguard and enhance the environment for present and future generations.

Protecting the human environment involves various efforts, including landscape improvement, creating favorable living conditions, and enhancing recreational opportunities. For deported Chechens, these principles hold significance in improving their living conditions and overall well-being.

This review provides insight into the evolving historiography surrounding the Soviet home front during the Great Patriotic War, focusing on the phenomenon of limit state mobilization. The authors aim to identify new aspects that contribute to understanding the complex dynamics of resource utilization and societal adaptation during wartime mobilization efforts. Through a meticulous examination of archival sources and personal accounts, they highlight the integral role of various adjustments and adaptations in enhancing the effectiveness of the mobilization system [1].

2 Research methodology

Traditionally, studies on the Soviet home front have explored topics such as evacuation, economic development, labor regulation, propaganda, and mass sentiments. However, recent historiography has expanded the scope of inquiry and deepened the analysis of each topic, thanks to the availability of new archival materials [2]. The authors, W.Z. Goldman and D. Filtzer, draw on a wealth of archival sources to shift the focus from institutional structures to the specifics of directive preparation and implementation, as well as the outcomes of mobilization mechanisms.

The review underscores the significance of mass evacuation as a crucial component of the Soviet mobilization system, emphasizing its scale and impact on future victory. Evacuation, once examined primarily through policy documents and reporting data, has now become the subject of in-depth investigation into its economic, social, and cultural dimensions [3]. This shift reflects broader trends in humanitarian research, which prioritize understanding the lived experiences and interactions of evacuees with host communities.

Overall, the review highlights the evolving nature of historiography surrounding the Soviet home front, particularly in the exploration of mobilization practices and their socio-economic implications [4].

3 Results and Discussions

Kazakhstan boasts a continental climate characterized by hot summers and cold, harsh winters. In regions like Pavlodar and Akmola, the climate leans towards temperate-continental, offering warm summers and consistently cold winters.

Moving towards the country's borders with Russia and some areas in South Kazakhstan bordering Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and the Krasnodar Territory, the climate becomes more subtropical and arid. Here, summers are warm, and winters are cold.

Across Asia, the continent's vastness gives rise to a diverse range of climates. East Asian regions exhibit subtropical conditions with high humidity, featuring unstable weather patterns with low summer precipitation and frequent monsoon seasons.

Central Asia, located in the continent's middle, experiences a continental climate, characterized by hot summers and cold winters. Similarly, the Middle East shares this climate pattern, with scorching summers and chilly winters.

Moving northwards, Northern Asia encounters subarctic and polar climates, with long, frigid winters and relatively warmer summers. Siberia, in particular, exhibits subarctic conditions, with sharply cold winters and cooler summer months.

Understanding the environmental factors impacting human health involves considering changes in temperature, weather conditions, and other environmental variables. As environments rapidly change worldwide, individuals must adapt accordingly. In regions like the North Caucasus, where extreme climatic conditions prevail, genetic diversity has decreased, impacting reproductive capabilities. Studies indicate a significant decline, up to 50%, in reproductive capacity among inhabitants, reflecting the profound effects of environmental adaptation on human biology.

The research focuses on the Kazakhstan region, specifically examining documents related to Chechen special settlers who were secondarily repressed under Articles 58-10 for anti-Soviet propaganda. These documents, introduced into scholarly discourse for the first time, offer valuable insights into the everyday life, economic activities, and domestic occupations of Chechen special settlers. They provide informative cases that enable the reconstruction of resettlement geography, demographic compositions, and highlight issues concerning material and economic accommodations for Chechen special settlers.

The wagon lists of Chechen special settlers provide crucial data on their eviction locations, demographic profiles, and information regarding losses incurred during transit. Additionally, select sources from the State Archives of the East Kazakhstan Region (SAEKR) are introduced into scholarly discourse for the first time, enriching our understanding of this historical period.

In composing this article, existing scholarly publications on the research topic were consulted. The research methodology adopts a complex interdisciplinary approach, drawing on foundational works by Russian historians such as L. Repina and I. Savelieva. Furthermore, the study engages with contemporary concepts in historical research, including theories of collective memory by M. Halbwachs, cultural memory by Ya. Assman, and generation memory by K. Mannheim.

The authors define and elaborate on key concepts such as "collective memory," "cultural memory," and "historical memory," recognizing the multifaceted nature of memory discourse. By employing a diverse range of research methods including analysis, synthesis, deduction, induction, statistical analysis, and oral questioning, the study unveils the intricacies of the research topic and sheds light on the implementation of deportation policies through oral memoirs. The results of the research are thoroughly discussed in subsequent sections, providing a comprehensive analysis of the findings. In the regions where they resettled, the Chechen people encountered numerous challenges stemming from the negligence and indifference of local authorities, compounded by their overwhelming workload. Consequently, Chechens often found themselves inadequately accommodated in collective farms, with household plots misallocated or rations distributed erroneously. This resulted in instances where, instead of receiving provisions for five days, they were given rations intended for 25 days, leading to swift consumption and subsequent scarcity of supplies by month-end.

Despite the intricate and inconsistent process of integrating the Chechen people, efforts were made within the resettlement frontier to enhance their social standing. Attempts were made to actively engage in social and economic activities and explore avenues for preserving ethnic identity. The fluid boundaries of the Chechen community were a product of their dispersed state, stemming from forced displacement. Noteworthy adaptive strategies included the construction of makeshift shelters and efforts to establish rapport with the local population, albeit amidst wartime challenges, while participating in labor collectives.

Special commandant's office personnel convened meetings with Chechens to emphasize the importance of housing repairs, prompting many to embark on construction projects independently, using locally available materials. Those who diligently contributed to labor efforts earned varying wages, ranging from 30 to 55 rubles. In agricultural settings, such as livestock farms, workers were provided with food, as documented in case materials. Despite adverse working conditions in forest areas, some Chechens toiled without adequate sustenance or attire, yet demonstrated exceptional productivity, surpassing assigned quotas.

4 Conclusions

The issue of territorial rehabilitation for individuals subjected to deportations presents complex challenges, exacerbated by unresolved legal issues that contribute to interethnic conflicts. Historical Russian borders, which have remained unchanged for centuries, were altered arbitrarily without considering the interests and desires of the affected populations. This unilateral decision has created an unusual situation for those impacted by the deportations, particularly the Chechen and Ingush people whose ancestors were repressed and resettled within the Russian Federation.

These communities are now striving to revitalize Russia's economic potential while preserving their cultural heritage. However, progress in social, economic, and cultural activities relies heavily on the accumulation and dissemination of information. As populations interact with their environment and develop within social structures, their active participation becomes crucial in driving economic activities forward.

Therefore, understanding the biological nature of populations and their relationship with the environment is essential for addressing key population issues and fostering sustainable development. This includes recognizing the importance of human interactions with their surroundings and their role in shaping economic and social dynamics.

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