

**RETURN OF KAZAKH DIASPORA FROM WORLD COUNTRIES  
TO THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN (1992-2018)  
(HISTORICAL RESEARCH ASPECT)**

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**Abstract:** *This article considers the return of the Kazakh Diaspora in the World to the Republic of Kazakhstan in the years of independence, the history of their relations with them and does a scientific analysis. The importance of the solution of this case on a systematic and planned basis for our state is determined. Offers on implementation of state and public organizations in the Republic of Kazakhstan are made. The scientific work reflects the progress of the work with the Kazakh diaspora abroad, as well as those returned to Kazakhstan, the results of the research and the work of foreign and domestic researchers. The analysis of the positive work of the World Kazakhs Association, which organizes this activity, has been analyzed. The study notes that the Kazakh diaspora lives in 45 countries of the world and the results of regular activities with them. The review of the positive aspects of the individual countries in the solution of the diaspora problem is reflected in the need for the country. Scientific evaluation was given to the initiative of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan N.A. Nazarbayev in the field of communication with historical compatriots, the management of the work with the countries where the Kazakh diaspora resides, and the real results of those who wish to return to Kazakhstan voluntarily.*

**Keywords:** interethnic relations, independence, demography, migration, ethnos, repatriate, irredentist.

Nowadays the Kazakh diaspora is a large ethnic group living in 45 countries around the world. Their total number is about 5 million. The main part of these people resides in the regions bordering with Kazakhstan. For example: 1.8 million Kazakh people live in China, 1.5 million live in Uzbekistan, and about 1 million Kazakhs live in the Russian Federation. Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan have many Kazakh families. The number of Kazakhs in Turkey, Iran and Afghanistan also exceeds several thousands. Some Kazakh families live in European countries currently. Specifically, “Kazakhs in Europe comprise of representatives of the Kazakhs, who came to Turkey from India and Pakistan due to various forms of violence

in the past century, and who are trying to provide future prosperity for future generations. The number of them is approximately five thousand. The majority of Kazakhs living in Western Europe, Germany, France, the Netherlands, Austria, Switzerland, Britain, Norway, and Denmark are the citizens of these countries, while the rest has kept the citizenship of Turkey"<sup>1</sup>. Kazakhs are also found in America (countries of the USA, Canada) and on the continent of Australia. If we consider further, Kazakhs are met most of the countries of the world.

If we overview the migration history of our nation, some of our nation's migrating to other countries has never been achieved voluntarily. It was caused by unsolved difficult situations which had dramatically changed their lives and destinies. If we dwell on some main points from the 70s of the XIX century up to the beginning of the next century, the Kazakhs of the Russian Empire were forced to move to neighboring Mongolia and China as a result of massive industrial development and settlement with Russian peasants. Stolypin's agrarian reform at the beginning of the XX century made the Kazakhs stay in these countries due to deadlock. The results of the national liberation revolt of 1916, the forced collectivization of the Kazakh villages through the confiscation of their cattle from 1928 to 1929, the consequences of the famine in 1931-1933 and political repressions in 1937-1938 forced thousands and millions of Kazakhs to reside the places that had not known before. It is well-known that many of them children and older people suffered from famine and diseases or died during the escape on their way, and nobody welcomed warmly those who survived.

This was the case of solving the destiny of the whole nation, and a clear demonstration of the planned policy of the Russian Empire and the ruling Soviet system. N.A. Nazarbayev writes. "Today, we often talk about heartbreak of the migrant people; it is true, that it is great harm and cruelty which have no match in the history of the world. However, the tragedy of the Kazakh steppes not only killed the people, but also the extreme part of them moved to a foreign land and country, and this threat demands its real historical evaluation"<sup>2</sup>. As a result of the violence that has been inflicted on people, they have spread all over the world. Since the first days of independence, state-oriented measures have been taken to establish comprehensive contacts with the repatriates living outside the Republic of Kazakhstan and, if possible, to return them to their historical sites. These days, these events are conducted prospectively and show positive results. A considerable part of the Kazakh diaspora abroad has moved to Kazakhstan on a regular basis. These actions have been continuing.

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<sup>1</sup> Archives of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan (AP RK), Fund 5-N, Series-6, File-1108, p. 1-2, 20-21, 27-28, 29-30.

<sup>2</sup> N.A. Nazarbayev, *In the stream of history*, Atamura, Almaty, 2003.

At the same time, the Republic of Kazakhstan is a country where multinational representatives live. At present, more than 100 nationalities live in equal conditions in all spheres in our country. And this phenomenon has become known to the world level, exceeding the limits of the republic as a result of the realized national policy in our country. Currently, interethnic relations in the Republic of Kazakhstan for more than a quarter of a century have become a topic of interest for foreign scholars, besides domestic historians. For example, a well-known British public figure and writer Jonathan Aitken, based on his own specific examples, in the book “Kazakhstan. Surprises and Stereotypes” states that representatives of 138 ethnos groups, 40 religions representatives and people who is able to speak 30 languages live in the Republic of Kazakhstan, “all ethnos groups representatives live in harmony and tolerance”<sup>3</sup>. Indeed, 18 million residents living in the Republic of Kazakhstan consist of 140 ethnos groups, and more than 1 million of them are Kazakh repatriates from abroad. It is clear that the study of the demographic situation of such a multiethnic state and the problem of migration and repatriation are the most important themes<sup>4</sup>.

### **Materials and methods**

To write this research article data from the archives of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan (AP RK), the National Archive of the Republic of Kazakhstan (NA RK) have been used. Also, the analysis of repatriation and migration records of foreign and domestic research has been carried out and references to them have been made. Statistical reports and definitions in this direction have been collected. An analysis of the activities of public organizations and associations of Kazakhs living abroad was conducted and used for the preparation of scientific article. Objective historical comparative analysis and historical sequence methods have been mainly used on the theory and methodology of the scientific research. Each topic has its own research methodology. The problem of historical diaspora and repatriates has not been properly studied in the Soviet era, and it is clear that this direction has been started since gaining independence.

In general, the issue of determining the total number of Kazakh diaspora living abroad and their voluntary return to the Republic of Kazakhstan as repatriates is one of the most important themes. Therefore, it is well-known that this subject should be considered relatively to the experience of the developed countries of the world. For example, it is very important to study

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<sup>3</sup> J. Aitken, *Kazakhstan. Surprises and stereotypes*, Fiction book, Moscow, 2011.

<sup>4</sup> S. Kudaeva, “The Circassia (Adyge) scattering in the countries of the middle east: theoretical and methodological approaches to diasporality studies (based on the example of the classic Jewish diaspora)”, in *Astra Salvensis*, 2018, no. 2, p. 51-66.

the problem of repatriates using archival data, scientific literature and statistical information to consider it from the theoretical and methodological point of view on historical research. After all, returning to Kazakhstan, the repatriate comes back to his/her historical homeland and gets citizenship. This means that this makes it possible to increase the number of people in the country. Therefore, this topic is a matter of strategic importance and needs research.

Many Kazakhstan scientists have been studying this crucial issue systematically and prospectively for many years. For example, historian-demographer M.B. Tatimov in his book "Head of State and Number of Population" researched actual problems of domestic historical demography and analyzed the population number, migration issues and location of repatriates, provided concrete facts about the population's growth, development stages. The author stated in his research related to the repatriates' issue that "Although we call our compatriots living in the far and near abroad diaspora, however 90% of them are "irredentists" who have lived in their homeland, but their national state is separated from Kazakhstan through the border. Why do not we say 'oralmen' ("repatriates") if they come back? At proper time we have incorporated this concept to the scientific circles"<sup>5</sup>.

The Kazakhstan scholar and researcher of the history of the Kazakh diaspora abroad G.M. Mendikulova in her works "The historical destiny of the Kazakh diaspora. Origin and Development" concluded that: "Apart from the Republic of Kazakhstan, 4 mln. 500 Kazakh diaspora live in foreign countries, they live in 14 countries of the former Soviet Union and 25 other countries of the world. 800 thousand of them are Kazakh diaspora and the rest 3 mln. 700 thousand are Kazakh irredentists. These are neighboring countries to Kazakhstan such as Russia, China, and Uzbekistan whose land and population are combined during different time periods"<sup>6</sup>.

The prominent demographer Zh. Toybaeva says: "If we dwell on a question of the term "repatriate ", which is currently used by the world's population, repatriate (Lat. Repatriate give back) is a return to his or her national land, who is residing in another country in connection with a variety of circumstances. Return of repatriates is conducted on the base of international treaties. This issue was enacted for the first time during Geneva Conventions in 1949. The legal status of the repatriates is regulated by international treaties"<sup>7</sup>. If we compare the experience on the issue of repatriation with one of the world states Israel, then in 1950 a special law called the "Law on Return" was adopted. According to this law, "every Jewish

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<sup>5</sup> M.B. Tatimov, *President and number of population*, Atamura, Almaty, 2009.

<sup>6</sup> G.M. Mendikulova, *History of the Kazakh diaspora. Origin and development*, Nauka, Almaty, 1997.

<sup>7</sup> Zh.N. Toybaeva, *Migration processes in Kazakhstan. The people of Kazakhstan. Encyclopedia*, The Kazakh Encyclopedia, Almaty, 2016.

resident who lives abroad is able to return to his historical homeland as a repatriate”<sup>8</sup>.

And in Kazakhstan the solving of this problem has become distinctive. It was connected with the Kazakh diaspora resided countries, the number of Kazakhs, the social structure, and other factors. In this case, the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan adopted the Law “On Population Migration” on December 13, 1997. Firstly, the law provides the constitutional and legal status of migrant workers. Difference between refugees and repatriates, and the legal status of repatriates wishing to return to their historical homeland was determined and the procedure for obtaining citizenship was defined<sup>9</sup>. Thus, the way is opened for the Kazakh repatriates wanting to return to Kazakhstan as far as possible.

### **Results and discussion**

The problem of Kazakhs abroad that was important for our country, has been one of the questions forbidden in the Soviet Union until the end of the twentieth century, especially in Kazakhstan. Western scientists earlier since the 1950s began to study this question more closely. One can talk about Linda Benson and Ingvar Swanberg’s work “Kazakhs of China” and Ingvar Swanberg's work “Kazakh refugees in Turkey”<sup>10</sup> written on the migration of Kazakhs from Xinjiang to India and Pakistan in the 1930s and 1980s, later move to other countries of the world.

Khalifa Altay, a national figure who returned from Turkey to Kazakhstan, in his work called “My Memories” conveyed the hardest history of the Kazakh diaspora, which had to leave their homeland and move from country to country forcedly in the first half of the XX century. According to his writing, “More than 5 thousand out of 18 thousand Kazakhs who were leaving Barkol district of East Turkestan Kумы region of China in 1934-1938 and passing Hansu, Shinhai provinces, directing to India through Tibet in 1940 died due to the war with the enemy and difficult conditions of move. In 1941, about 3,000 people went to India, and the rest of people who died from plague because of the non-climate factor lived in India, Pakistan, and finally in 1950 about 1500 people reached Kashmir from Pakistan in 1951 and then 1850 people resided in Turkey. The Government of Turkey has assisted to them”<sup>11</sup>.

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<sup>8</sup> Who has the right to repatriate in Israel? Available at: <https://open-israel.com/pravo-na-repatriaciyu/>.

<sup>9</sup> National Archives of the Republic of Kazakhstan (NA RK), F-53, Series-1, File-6, p. 84.

<sup>10</sup> L. Benson, I. Svanberg, “History of Kazakhstan in western sources. Volume III. Kazakhs of China part I”, in *The Kazakh refugees in Turkey Research of the cultural outcome in the case of social changes. Part II*, Sanat, Almaty, 2005.

<sup>11</sup> A. Khalipha, *My memories*, Capital, Nur-Sultan, 2000.

Therefore, it is clear that the citizens who have come from Turkey as repatriates are descendants of them.

Later Hasen Oraltay in his book "The epoch of Life" wrote giving many examples about the move of Kazakhs in China to Turkey through Tibet, India, and Pakistan. According to his reporting: "Due to Soviet Union invaded uprising Kazakhs escaped to the direction of East Turkestan Altay mountains of China in 1947, in the end of 1949 saving themselves from the pressure called a Russian-Chinese communism led by I. Stalin and Mao Zedong moved to different countries from their homeland east Turkestan. They passed the Taklaman Desert and crossed Himalayas and on the way they had been attacked by the Chinese army seven times and they did not have any food, clothes or place to sleep, and in the end of 1951 poor people had to live in Kashmir – India, whose language they did not know. Then they reached Turkey in the summer of 1954"<sup>12</sup>. From the above mentioned story of the man who witnessed such tragic events in the history of the people lived in the East Turkestan region of China we can observe they had hard destiny suffered under the pressure of China and the Soviet Union, died from hunger, disease and war during their long way and those who survived reached Turkey hardly.

Kazakhstan researchers K.I. Koblandin and G.M. Mendikulova's joint work "History and modern development of Kazakhs in Uzbekistan" provides an analysis of the history and modern development of Kazakhs in Uzbekistan. Authors of this work informed: "Uzbekistan Kazakhs are one of the largest ethnic groups among CIS countries, their number reaches from 800 thousand to 1.5 million people<sup>13</sup>. The majority of research studies on demographic phenomena in the early stages of independence of Kazakhstan the problems of repatriation are well-considered. For example, M.Kh. Asylbekov and A.B. Galiev made historical analysis on the demographic situation of the Soviet era in Kazakhstan and described issues of migration and repatriation with concrete facts in their monographs<sup>14</sup>.

Historian and researcher who returned from Mongolia Zardykhan Kynaiatuly wrote in his essay "Nomads life": "Kazakh returning to the homeland was a risky step and the renaissance phenomenon in the rebuilding of nation in 1991-1992. The move was a significant event that changed the fate of the people. The first parliamentary elections in Mongolia began in 1991, along with the Kazakh move to homeland. On the one hand, I supported the democratic movement in Mongolia, and on the other hand, supporting the Kazakhs, I became a deputy from the Ulan-Bator's 14th district". Thus, Z.

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<sup>12</sup> H. Oraltay, *The life passed missing the country*, Education, Almaty, 2005.

<sup>13</sup> K.I. Koblandin, *History and modern development of Kazakhs in Uzbekistan*, Institute of Oriental Studies, Almaty, 2008.

<sup>14</sup> M.H. Asilbekov, A. B. Galiev, *Social-demographic process in Kazakhstan (1917-1980)*, Nauka, Alma-Ata, 1991.

Kynaiatuly was the first organizer of returning of Kazakh diaspora from Mongolia to Kazakhstan. From 1991 to 1994, he worked as an adviser and vice-chairman of the Government and Parliament of the Republic of Mongolia<sup>15</sup>. Later he also moved to his historical homeland Republic of Kazakhstan in 1996.

The issue of population, national composition, internal, external migration and repatriates are considered in M.H. Asylbekov and V.V. Kozina's scientific joint work "Population of Kazakhstan in terms of sovereignty" about the demographic situation of the people of Kazakhstan and repatriates<sup>16</sup>. According to the authors, "since the independence of the Republic of Kazakhstan 1 million repatriates returned to Kazakhstan from China, Russia, Mongolia, Uzbekistan, Iran, and the European countries".

Kazakhstan sinologist K.L. Siroyezhkin's article titled "Kazakhs of China: Problems and Repatriation" describes the course of this difficult problem and summarized the first results of the interstate agreements concluded between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the People's Republic of China. In the article, the author states that the Kazakhs living in China in the 90s of XX century after the independence of the Republic of Kazakhstan were reluctant to return to their historical homeland. Our country has acknowledged the interest of Kazakh repatriates to their home country and provided moral support and financial assistance to their location and adaptation. The author points out that "overall 2 million Kazakhs live in China"<sup>17</sup>.

In the Republic of Kazakhstan, the conceptual relations with the Kazakhs abroad have been started and implemented since the early days of independence. A reference book of compatriots moved to other countries and for the first time their numbers were defined by the state. The World Kazakhs Congress, which later became the center of communication with them, was initiated. In 1992 preparation for the first World Congress of Kazakhs started and at the beginning of the preparation there were cases when it was impossible to find a solution to invite representatives from abroad.

It was known from the report of Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan Sailau Batyrshauly to the Vice Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Kazakhstan M. Zholdasbekov: "You are aware that in accordance with Resolution № 709 dated 27 August of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Kazakhstan from September 28 to October 3 the World Congress of Kazakhs will take place in Almaty. In this regard, the Organizing Committee has sent an invitation letter to our

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<sup>15</sup> Z. Kynaiatuly, *Nomads Life. Essay*, History Studies, Almaty, 2010.

<sup>16</sup> M.H. Asilbekov, B.B. Kozina, *Population of Kazakhstan in terms of sovereignty*, Sh. Ualikhanov Institute of History and Ethnology, Almaty, 2010.

<sup>17</sup> K.L. Siroyezhkin, "Kazakhs of China: problems and repatriation", in *Continent*, 2000, vol. 16, no. 29, p. 30-33.

compatriots living in more than 40 countries around the world to gather our brothers abroad and aims to introduce them to the present and future life of our sovereign country, including their sincere internal and external policies.

On this point, we have met twice the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China in Almaty and sent official notes to the Embassy on the participation of a group out of over one million representatives of this country living in the People's Republic of China. The Ambassador welcomed the suggestion we made at the meeting and said that he would take part in the solution of this problem himself. Unfortunately, on August 27 of the same year, a Chinese Embassy diplomat visited the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and said that representatives of China would not be able to come to the Congress in accordance with the decision of the Chinese Government. According to the diplomat, such gatherings have not become traditional in Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Tatarstan and China. Furthermore, according to the Chinese diplomat, one representative of the Embassy in Almaty may take part in this Congress. We are informing you about the situation around this issue<sup>18</sup>.

This first Congress of World Kazakhs was held in Almaty from 28 September to 3 October 1992. The main purpose of the Congress was to determine the future of the Kazakh community around the world, establishing permanent contacts with the Kazakh diaspora of the Republic of Kazakhstan, as well as determining the possibility of their voluntary return to their historical homeland. During the work of this foundation was created a community of Kazakhs. The most important thing is that the first Congress gave the move to return to the country of the distant brother.

As historical data say: “On September 29, 1992, the golden cradle of our freedom the first World Congress was opened in Almaty. More than 800 people from Turkey, Germany, France, Sweden, Norway, Mongolia, Russia, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and other countries took part in the Congress. Representatives from 33 countries and regions of Kazakhstan took part in the congress. By the decision of the first World Congress the World Association of Kazakhs was founded in Almaty<sup>19</sup>. Thus, since its founding, this organization has become a center for communication with Kazakhs abroad. At its meetings, the issues of language, secondary, higher education and inter cultural ties among the compatriots in the world are systematically reviewed and solved.

For example, in Almaty on April 22, 1995 an extended meeting on the issues of cultural, spiritual and educational assistance to the Kazakh Diaspora living in the near and far abroad of the World Association of Kazakhs was held. On the extended meeting representatives of Kazakh diaspora in 12

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<sup>18</sup> Archives of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan (AP RK), Fund-5, Series 1, File-1207, p. 50-51.

<sup>19</sup> Zh. N. Toybaeva, *Repatriate. People of Kazakhstan*, The Kazakh Encyclopedia, Almaty, 2016.



countries Germany, Sweden, England, France, Iran, Mongolia, Denmark, Czech Republic, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, President of the Republic of Kazakhstan N.A. Nazarbayev and heads of ministries and departments of the Republic of Kazakhstan attended this meeting. N.A. Nazarbayev participated on this meeting and gave a speech. Referring to the three-year activities of the World Association of Kazakhs, he stated: "In recent years, more than 100,000 Kazakhs from Mongolia, Iran and Turkey have moved to Kazakhstan. There are many people coming from Russia, Tadjikistan and Turkmenistan. The issues of finding a home and providing loans for building houses are being solved". Malik Malabakhan (Germany), Mohammad Eskeldy (Iran), Kabylash Abikeiuly (Mongolia), Nikita Iskakov (Russia), Kerim Yelemes (China) have addressed a number of serious issues and reported on the state of the Kazakh Diaspora abroad<sup>20</sup>.

In the second half of the 1990 of the XX century measures were taken in the Republic of Kazakhstan to implement the real life expectations and requirements of foreign compatriots. This is because the issues that should be solved by our state were put forward in the suggestions and applications of Kazakhs abroad that were written to the President of Kazakhstan and in several Congresses of World Kazakhs and meetings. There were many issues related to the intervention of our state in the social, living conditions, education in the mother tongue, the preservation of traditions and many other aspects of our historical compatriots abroad, when their ancestors were forced to move to other countries<sup>21</sup>.

Meanwhile, the number of foreigners who want to move to Kazakhstan in this period has also increased. For the same reasons, it has become necessary to make the important task as a regular functioning of our state. For example, Kazakhs in Europe, for example, are Kazakhs who have settled in Turkey through India and Pakistan due to various forms of violence in the past century and who have settled in Turkey and subsequently pursued a worthy future for generations. The number is about five thousand. Especially the majority of Kazakhs living in Western Europe, Germany, France, Holland, Austria, Switzerland, Sweden, Britain, Norway and Denmark, have been granted citizenship of these countries, while the rest come from the Turkish citizenship<sup>22</sup>.

But their requests and applications are to receive assistance from the Kazakh diaspora youth in their native languages and traditions, and the Kazakh diaspora in the near abroad has been a favorable and simplistic solution to

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<sup>20</sup> Archives of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan (AP RK), Fund-5-H, Series-1, File-5608, p. 5-9.

<sup>21</sup> A.V. Kostruba, V.A. Vasylyeva, "International regulation of termination of rights in the field of civil and intersubjective state relations", in *Astra Salvensis*, 2020, no. 1, p. 131-153.

<sup>22</sup> Archives of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan (AP RK), Fund-210(b), Series-1, File-63, p. 1.

migration issues with migrants to Kazakhstan. It is well known that the Government of Kazakhstan has been implementing effective agreements in this direction from the majority of Kazakhstan's diaspora communities in implementing these goals.

It is known that this issue cannot be solved immediately. It is not just a matter of putting the Kazakh diaspora around the world to their homeland. By the end of the 20th century, the Kazakh diaspora in the near and far abroad has made up about one third of the Kazakh nationality, or \$ 4.3 million. Many of them were forced to flee from their historical homelands due to revolutionary and civil wars in the Soviet era, aggression, collectivization and famine. After the collapse of the USSR, the Kazakhs became the diaspora in the near abroad (CIS)<sup>23</sup>.

As it became clear from that period, there were various situations in the economic and social development of Kazakh diasporas abroad. For example, official archive documents say, “Currently, Mongolia is home to some 100,000 people, most of whom are in the Bayan-Ulgi district. There are about 10,000 Kazakhs in Ulan-Bator, its neighborhoods, as well as in Erdenet, Darhan, Baich, Sharyngol. There are no Kazakh schools in the regions other than Bayan-Olgiya, where our children do not know how to read or write Kazakh. Everyone speaks Mongolian. The national tradition has been sold exclusively to adults.

According to Uzbekistan's official data, there are more than 1 million 200 thousand Kazakh people in the country. According to our demographers, more than 2 million Kazakhs live in Uzbekistan. There were 105 Kazakh schools in Uzbekistan. We cannot say that there are all those things now. Later on, the border was closed, and migrations did not make you sad to travel to Kazakhstan. According to official data in Uzbekistan, the number of Kazakhs is around 1.3 million. And, according to our demographers, more than two million Kazakhs live in Uzbekistan.

Major problems in the life of Kazakhs in Uzbekistan are as follows: (a) Textbooks are not available. It is difficult to send a payment to Kazakhstan; b) other literature doesn't reach. In general, Kazakh books are not available. Because – the problems are above mentioned; c) It is difficult for pupils who have graduated from Kazakh schools to enter universities. It is necessary to write a dictation or a work in the Uzbek language on the entrance exams. How can children graduated from Kazakh schools write it? d) There is much unemployment among Kazakhs. The number of Kazakhs in Turkey does not

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<sup>23</sup> Archives of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan (AP RK), Fund 5-N, Series-6, File-1108, p. 1-2, 20-21, 27-28, 29-30.

exceed 20 thousand”<sup>24</sup>. Thus the actual cases of the Kazakh diaspora abroad were described.

In addition, more than one million Kazakhs have settled in the border areas of the Russian Federation with Kazakhstan. There are more than 1 million Kazakhs in the People's Republic of China. Some Kazakh diaspora immigrated to Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan. Separate Kazakh families also come from other continents and countries of the world. Thus, today representatives of the Kazakh nationality live in almost all regions of the globe and bring up their generations. In some of the countries where the Kazakh diaspora has settled, it has created a favorable environment for their free development, modernization and further development of national traditions. For example, Kazakhs in Russia, Turkey and Russia maintain their national identity and communicate with their historical homeland in the focus of attention of the state and public organizations of these countries. “The Association of World Kazakhs is engaged in cultural and spiritual ties with about 20 Kazakh national cultural societies established in regions and autonomous republics of the Russian Federation”<sup>20</sup>.

It is well known that the Kazakh diaspora, which is permanently located in far-abroad countries (Europe, America, etc.), but whose numbers are insignificant and cannot influence the socio-cultural development of these countries, needs communication with our country in every direction. For example, the information of the headquarters of the Kazakh cultural center in Germany states: “Every year since the beginning of 1990's, a football tournament has been held, so that the Kazakh youth, who grow up and live in Europe, whose language is mixed with the language of the country they are living, not to forget their language and to be lost among other ethnic groups”<sup>25</sup>. It is known that this is happening in other distant countries.

That's why from the first years of independence the Republic of Kazakhstan has begun to implement the first concrete measures to support the Kazakh diaspora abroad. For example, on December 31, 1996 by the Decree of President of Republic of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev No. 3308 the “Program of Support to Compatriots Living Abroad” was approved. It states: “The above mentioned diaspora's cultural, social and economic prosperity in these countries is different from each other. The complex study and solution of the Kazakh Diaspora, unity of scientific research studies and practical measures are also not paid attention.

Comprehensive upgrading of the work with compatriots abroad will only be possible in case of constant and targeted state support. It is necessary to

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<sup>24</sup> Archives of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan (AP RK), Fund-210(a), Series-1, File-23, p. 1-2, 3, 5, 6, 23, 29.

<sup>25</sup> Archives of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan (AP RK), Fund-210(c), Series-1, File-63, p. 2.

create a system of measures designed to maximize satisfaction of socio-economic, cultural, educational needs of the Kazakh diaspora and to allow those who want to return to their historical homeland”<sup>21</sup>. With the adoption of the State Program, the work was carried out to implement it. For example, the following government official report has been drawn up: The Draft Agreement on Citizenship of Mongolia between the Republic of Kazakhstan and Mongolia, jointly with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Population and other relevant agencies. The Russian side has been drafting and presenting a draft convention on the taxation of immigrants from Mongolia to Kazakhstan through the territory of Russia.

By decree of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 3432 from March 27, 1997 “Resettlement Quota for 1997”, and Government Resolution No. 622 from April 22, 1997 “On Implementation of the Resettlement Quota for 1997” of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 3432 from March 27, 1997 were adopted. The number of migration quota for 1998 was 2180 families. Almaty, South Kazakhstan, Mangystau and Almaty cities implemented the defined quota from the number of those who come from CIS countries. For example, there were 365 families instead of planned 45 in Almaty region, 435 families instead of planned 200 in South Kazakhstan.

During 1997, the following works were carried out to implement the above-mentioned State Program: a number of scientific and practical conferences devoted to discussion of the problems of Kazakh diaspora abroad were held in Kazakhstan, Russia, Uzbekistan, Turkey and Mongolia. For example, the republican scientific-practical conference “Kazakhstan and the Kazakh Diaspora: problems and prospects of interaction” was held in Pavlodar with participation of representatives of the Kazakh cultural centers of Mongolia, Germany, Uzbekistan, prominent scientists of Kazakhstan studying ethno psychological trends in the formation and development of national cognition and issues of further development of living services in the places of the Kazakh Diaspora, capital in their historical homeland, possibilities of setting their investments and recommendations for determining the prospects were discussed. In Almaty, the Kazakh diaspora participated in the conference devoted to the 100th anniversary of Mukhtar Auezov, the conference dedicated to the 80th anniversary of prominent scientist Khalifa Altai, the conference “Mustafa Shokai and the Kazakh Intelligence Abroad”.

The Rules on the Procedure and Conditions for Selection of Students of the Kazakh Diaspora in Educational Institutions of the Republic of Kazakhstan have been revised. In accordance with the Order of the Ministry of Education and Culture №346, quotas for the Kazakh diaspora have been established annual 250 people quota (Abai Almaty MU-15, KazNTU-10) exactly 25 for graduate departments and 25 for preparation departments. In accordance with the quota, in 1997, 75 people from Karakalpakya, 15 people from Mongolia, 134 from far abroad for higher educational institutions and 7

for graduate studies were enrolled<sup>21</sup>. This determines the scope and significance of the measures taken to secure the requirements of the Program. And since the beginning of the XXI century the volume of communication with Kazakhs abroad has increased, and the content of the activities has expanded. The worldwide work of the Congress of the Kazakhs in this area has increased, and specific attention is paid to the implementation of this task. That is why the Congress became a key part of the solution of the problem of foreign compatriots. For example, in October 2002, the Second Congress of the World Kazakh Association was held in Saint Turkestan city. More than 400 Kazakhs from all over the world gathered at this Congress, many suggestions were made, and the work done was assessed.

If we analyze the actual situation, the work of foreign Kazakh organizations has started in the early 2000s, and they have started to raise serious issues. In particular, they are asking for financial assistance to address issues related to improving diverse relationships among other nations, bringing education into line with modern requirements, and involving Diaspora representatives in this process. For example, Russia's Saratov Regional Community on behalf of 80,000 Kazakh Diaspora living there wrote a letter to the President N.A. Nazarbayev. In the letter 2 people from the community made proposals for the opening of the Center for Trade and economic cooperation in Saratov and cooperation between Saratov University and L.N. Gumilyov Eurasian National University<sup>26</sup>. During these efforts, many foreign Kazakhs returned to their historical homeland. For example, if you look at the 2004 migration data, 18,955 families (67587) people have moved to our country this year. They are distributed in quota areas<sup>27</sup>.

According to the data from January 1, 2005, 13362 repatriates' families were registered in the Almaty region with 49970 people. They are from Uzbekistan (24934), from Mongolia (12660), from China (8185), from Turkey (1104), from Russia (649) and from Turkmenistan (1.380)<sup>28</sup>. One of the prominent events in the social and political life of the republic was the Fourth World Kazakhs Congress held in May 2011 in Nur-Sultan. The republican mass media reports about it: "On May 25, 2011 the Fourth World Congress of Kazakhs started with the participation of the Head of the State, President of the World Association of Kazakhs Nursultan Nazarbayev in the Palace of Independence in Nur-Sultan. The five-year work of the World Trade Organization has been summed up and further directions were determined.

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<sup>26</sup> National Archives of the Republic of Kazakhstan (NA RK), Fund-54(a), Series-1, File-252, p. 3-4.

<sup>27</sup> National Archives of the Republic of Kazakhstan (NA RK), Fund-53, Series-1, File-249, p. 1-2.

<sup>28</sup> National Archives of the Republic of Kazakhstan (NA RK), Fund-54(b), Series-1, File-328, p. 15-1

Over 380 delegates from 35 countries, as well as more than 300 representatives from Almaty and Nur-Sultan and regions participated in the Congress<sup>29</sup>.

The Fifth World Congress of Kazakhs was held in Nur-Sultan on June 22-24, 2017, 800 delegates and guests took part in it. 350 of them came from 39 countries of the world. Among the delegates were representatives of scientific, creative and pedagogical intelligence, specialists in the sphere of business, sports, mass media, and employees of state and public organizations. President N.A. Nazarbayev in his report emphasized the importance of communication with Kazakhs abroad and said that there is a saying in Kazakh language “If you do not go or do not come you become strange”. So always come, not just the congress. Our door is always open. Each Kazakh abroad is a part of Kazakhstan. You will become a facilitator between the two countries. Foreign Kazakhs should often come to the country and take root in their native land. Let's take part in Kazakhstan's Eternal Land!”<sup>30</sup>.

The Republic of Kazakhstan considers the interconnection with the Kazakh diaspora abroad as an ongoing basis, not a temporary act. At the beginning of this activity it is known that the Head of State N.A. Nazarbayev was the first. Through his direct initiative a wide range of contacts with Kazakhs abroad is conducted every year. N. Nazarbayev wrote “In November 2015 amendments to the legislative acts on migration and employment were introduced. And this, in turn, has helped many ethnic Kazakhs to come back to Kazakhstan, meet families and attract professionals.” The number of Kazakhs who have come to their historical homeland and who have received the status of oralmen has exceeded 1 million in the years of independence. A unique bank that registers visitors and immigrants has been set up to regulate migration. At the same time, in the light of preferences, ethnic Kazakhs studying in Kazakhstan educational institutions have the right to acquire citizenship of the Republic of Kazakhstan in a simplified manner in order to stay at their place of residence<sup>31</sup>. These words can be found on the first results and perspectives of our country's historical compatriots. This is a historic place for the President Serpin program, which has been founded for a number of years.

That is to say, based on the concrete examples in the article, from the first years of independence, planned work has been done to establish relations with the descendants of the Kazakhs abroad, who have lost their homeland for many reasons at different stages of history. Over time, its volume has increased. From the very beginning of the XXI century, this business has

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<sup>29</sup> K. Andas, *Congress that winged Kazakhs*, 2016. Available at: <http://zhety-su-gazeti.kz/news/cat-6/426/>.

<sup>30</sup> N.A. Nazarbayev, *Era of Sovereignty*, Foliant, Nur-Sultan, 2017.

<sup>31</sup> N.A. Nazarbayev, “Wherever you are, Kazakhs have one historical homeland, it is Kazakhstan!”, in *Mother Tongue* (pp. 6-7), Capital, Nur-Sultan, 2017.

gained momentum and is continuing. This is how the Kazakh people, who live freely on their own territory, were captured and abandoned during the reign of the Soviet Union, with their historical compatriots, who were called "the enemy of the people", "the Soviet-era people", and returned to their homeland. And this can be seen as a striking example of the sovereignty of Kazakhstan.

## **Conclusions**

The article covers the history of the Kazakh Diaspora living in many countries of the world, with a significant number of them coming to the Republic of Kazakhstan, their quantitative indicators, based on archive data and statistical data. As it is stated in the article, the fact that the World Congress of the Kazakhs has passed five times in the Republic of Kazakhstan means that our independent state pays special attention to this. It is very important for us return to the homeland of our compatriots abroad and the growth of their present generation in our country. Therefore, one of the sacred tasks of our state, which has become a Motherland, is to establish closer relations with the present generation of our compatriots, who are separated from their historical homeland, and, if possible, return them to Kazakhstan.

The article describes the work done in the early years of independence in this country and has been trying to make scientific evaluations. By examining this issue, the author offers the following suggestions to increase the effectiveness of this important matter: First of all, the Kazakhs living in many countries of the world should be able to preserve their own language, culture and traditions as a diaspora. For this purpose, it is desirable to provide living assistance to the work of Ethnic and Cultural Centers in these countries, language learning centers. Secondly, the representatives of the Kazakh diaspora abroad should be able to return to the Republic of Kazakhstan as a repatriate. We should make real contacts with them in this regard. One should consider the possibility of applying simplified forms of acceptance of applications and wishes at the place of residence.

Thirdly, it is necessary to create conditions for repatriates to move to the Republic of Kazakhstan on the basis of the rules and regularities, including unobserved access to preschools, state kindergartens, school admission, providing jobs for adult according to their professions, free language courses, vocational training courses, and giving quota based flats, and other demands. They consider they deserve such benefits. Fourthly, it is necessary to promote and propaganda the works of world-class writers, scientists and art figures from the Kazakh diaspora abroad, in many languages, in Kazakh, Russian and English. Fifthly, one should provide publication of scientific works describing the comprehensive history of the Kazakh diaspora abroad in the Kazakh, Russian and English languages at the expense of the state program. It is well

known that the measures taken in this direction will be a real step towards the state solution of the problem of Kazakh diaspora in the world.