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Four Bloody Incidents in the History of Kazakh History

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Abstract

This article studies the bloody incidents in the history of Kazakh nation. Although we did know about those cases, they were fully not uncovered because of the pressure and censorship of Soviet system. However, it has been 22 years that Kazakhstan gained its independence these sorrowful hot points in the history of Kazakhstan. It is historically recorded that Kazakh people were opposed so many hardships and survived the bloody battles until they reached their independence. From the period of mass movement of Kazakh people because of Kalmyks' foray (1723-25) to repression times (1937-39) and December uprising (1986) there was a very probable risk of disappearance of our nation at all in this world. Ordinary people are not fully aware of the real view and facts about the mentioned cases, which are now possible to be researched from state archives. This work reviews some facts about the mentioned happenings relying on trustworthy sources, also taking into account some materials among the local people.

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1. Background

A national idea – a continuous struggle for freedom can be seen in the historical timeline of Kazakh literature, when it is thoroughly observed. That is an idea of unity, independence, building of own state without being dependent to anyone. Kazakh people defended their freedom and honour under this perception. These kinds of struggles undoubtedly date back to long Turkic heritage. The lines on the epos of “Kultegin”: “I never slept at nights, never sat during daytimes, for the sake of Turkic people and the nation that were built by our father, grandfather.” show the mood of people who were ready indeed to devote their life, sacrifice themselves for their nation. They battled against the enemies and protected the integrity and unity of homeland.

This idea always continued to develop, especially during the birth of Kazakh literature and at the time of khanate. Bukhar zhyrau (people who deliver the message in poetic songs and epics), a popular Kazakh zhyrau, an advisor of Abylaikhan, asks the God in his verse “Tilek” (wish), he wishes:

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“Not being afraid of powerful enemies,
Protecting from fluttering stranger’s flag,
And from being booty of the whole honourable Akorda for others, in one day”.

These are also the words of unprotected nomad people in Sahara, those were wishing their independence and unity, worried about enemies and their attack.

During the colonial period of Kazakh people under Russia, this idea was mostly implied, and sometimes was said openly. Openly is meant here, the voice of people warning about the politics, which was gradually occupying the ancient lands of Kazakhs and separating them from their native lands. Murat akhyn (poet) sings about it as following:

“Occupancy of Edil (Volga river) – stealing our pocket,
Occupancy of Zhaiyk (Ural river) – grabbing from our neck,
Occupying the Oiyl (local river) – accomplishing their intentions.”

Moreover, Makhambet’s battle against Zhangir khan also defines the people’s opposition attitude to colonialism. He mentions, “We fought for Edil, united for Zhaiykh, battled for Kigash (river), opposed for Tepter (land)”.

However, there were no successes in such battles. All uprisings, led by Syrym, Shagay, Makhambet, Eset, Beket, Kenesary and Nawryzbai, suffered bloody repulses. As a result, nation had to obey them.

The history verifies that Kazakh people were opposed so many hardships and survived the bloody battles until they reached their independence. From the period of mass movement of Kazakh people because of Kalmyks’ foray (1723-25) to repression times (1937-39) and December uprising (1986) there was a very probable risk of disappearance of our nation at all in this world.

In the history of Kazakh literature many akyn-writers’ works were mainly based on four big bloody cases in Kazakh history. First of them is a Mongolian assault, which took a name of “Aktaban shubirindy, Alkakol sulama” in the history. The second one is “the famine of 1932”. Third case is a “Stalin repression” and the fourth one is a “December uprising of 1982”.

2. Mongolian Assault

Indeed, the Mongolian assault was one of the very difficult periods in the history of Kazakh people. The evil enemies, interested in taking away the rich resources of our vast land, destructed the peaceful people, using the chance of disintegrated divisions of Kazakhs into roos (kins) and zhuz (Kazakhs consist of three different “zhuz”s). This incident is a sorrowful heartbreak in Kazakh history that was named as “Aktaban shubirindy, Alkakol sulama”. That was a mournful occurrence of 1723-1725, when our homeland was down on its luck. After the death of Tawke khan, the personification and divergence of three zhuzs had affected on weakening of military and political power of Kazakh khanate.

At the beginning of 18th century, fair-haired Kalmyks were able to put their internal issues in order and build their army. They bought lots of arms and ammunitions from neighbouring Russia, improving their relationships with them at the same. In 1715, Kalmyks could acquire the technology of making the cannon by detaining the Swedish master – Renat, who was under arrest in Russia.

They attacked Kazakh lands in the spring of 1723, with their 7 detachment forces consisting 10 thousands soldiers. Kazakhs had lost about 100 thousands warriors during the shattering Mongolian plunders, and the losses of defenceless population were quite a lot. According to Abylaikhan, four of every ten people died at that time. For the first time in its history that Kazakh people came across with such a huge mournful and suffering tragedy, which even could put the nation under the threat of disappearance. The chaos and disturbances caused by this disaster – “Aktaban shubirindy, Alkakol sulama” really raised the spirit of freedom and courage of local people. Some national representatives tried to unite the local people realizing the more possible difficulties without collaborations. For instance, mass of ordinary people

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