

# Development of Trade in the Early 18<sup>th</sup> and 20th Centuries in the Atyrau Region of Kazakhstan and its Impact on Local Communities

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## Abstract

Since the 18th century, the trade system has played a pivotal role in shaping the socio-political, socio-economic, and economic landscape of the western part of the Kazakh lands, which became part of the Russian Empire. This integration brought about significant transformations in various facets of life within the region. During the 18th and 19th centuries, the primary means of sustenance for the Kazakh people revolved around cattle breeding and agriculture, establishing a foundation deeply intertwined with trade relations and economic activities.

This research examines the trade dynamics of the Atyrau region, particularly examining the interactions of Kazakh communities with neighboring people and the settlers of the area. It also investigates how the expansion of cities within the region have contributed to the growth and diversification of trade, thereby fostering positive socio-economic changes. Utilizing historical records and analyses of trade patterns, the research focuses on the pivotal role played by Guryev, formerly known as Atyrau, in facilitating the trade activities throughout the 18th, 19th, and the early 20th centuries.

The findings show the significant influence of trade on the development of the Atyrau region, indicating both benefits and drawbacks. While trade expansion brought economic advantages, such as access to new markets and financial gains, it also resulted in exploitation and impoverishment of the local people.

**Key words:** empire, colonial exploitation, trade, production, profession, economy.

## Introduction

In the 18th century, the Kazakh lands within the Russian Empire underwent a gradual process of incorporation into the imperial structure. This integration marked the beginning of a transformation in the economic and trade systems of the region. The establishment of fortresses such as Uskemen, Petropavlovsk, Semipalatinsk, and Orynbor, initially intended as military outposts, evolved into hubs of economic activities and trade. As the Russian Empire sought to expand its markets for manufactured goods, it inadvertently facilitated the development of internal and external trade within the Kazakh territories. This period witnessed the emergence of complex economic interactions between the Kazakh people, Russian settlers, and other inhabitants of the region, reshaping the trade dynamics and fostering connections with the neighboring entities such as the Central Asian khanates and the Qing Empire.

This study explores the historical context and implications of the incorporation of Kazakh lands into the economic and trade systems of the Russian Empire during the 18th century. By analyzing the establishment of military fortresses and their subsequent transformations into centers of economic activity, the research elucidates the evolving trade relations between the Kazakh people and the various actors within the region. Furthermore, it assesses the impact of these developments on both the internal and external trade networks, through a comprehensive examination of historical records and economic data shedding light on the broader economic integration of the Kazakh territories into the imperial framework. Indeed, its aim is to contribute to a nuanced understanding of the complex interplay between empire-building, trade dynamics, and regional economies in 18th-century Kazakh lands within the Russian Empire.

Its objectives are as follows.

1. To delineate the factors driving trade expansion,
2. To elucidate the role of key settlements in facilitating trade,
3. To ascertain the socio-economic consequences of these processes for the indigenous people.

## Review of Literature

The first works on socio-economic relations, economy, everyday life, traditions, trade relations of the Kazakhs of the Atyrau region and other people inhabiting the region are the results of special research expeditions sent to the Kazakh land in the XVIII century, the notes of travelers and local historians, the Kazakh field. They consist of information of diplomats and individual merchants who visited for diplomatic and trade purposes. Among the works that gave the first descriptions of the development of trade in the country, I.G. Georgi (Georgy, 1779), I.P. Falk (Falk, 1824). The works of Pallas (Pallas, 1773) stand out. In the XIX century, Russian researchers such as Levshin (1832), Grigoriev (1854), Teterevnikov (1884), have studied the Kazakh region and its people's trade sphere. They describe the trade in the cities of Kazakhstan, and offer descriptions of the exchange yards and shops, the descriptions of local and imported goods, their prices in each year and the total amount of turnover.

Academic research into these activities is almost non-existent.

## Research Methodology

This research examines previously unpublished archival documents, in particular, funds 4, 700, 803 of the State Archive of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and the funds 1284, 1291, 1276 of the Russian State Historical Archive of the Russian Federation. The Archive documents were analyzed in accordance with data science requirements and were used. Economic-statistical and informational documents and individual research works were the basis of the research work. In the article, the methods of objectivity, historicity, and systematicity, which are the main core of historical research, were used.

## Findings

In the XVIII-XIX centuries, the cities of Troitsk and Orinbor have played a major role in the development of trade between the Kazakhs living in the western region of Kazakhstan and the neighboring Russian people. About this, Captain Nikolay Rychkov "In 1771 Kazakh field" In his work "diaries of the wedge campaign" says;

*"The road from the Karakol fortress goes up through the steep terrain, and the ridges of this ridge continue from this fortress to the Troitsk fortress, which is 53 kilometers away. Troitsk Castle was built near the mouth of the Uvelki River, which flows into the House River. It is all over the Orinbor province the most famous among all localities"*

Rychkov, 2022:212.

As the largest economic center of the southern Urals in the XVIII century, the importance of the city of Orinbor had increased. Appearing as a fortified city, initially designed to support the interests of the empire in the region, it had soon begun to live up to the expectations of the government. The fortress of Orsk, located near the current border of Kazakhstan has also been dedicated to trade due to political conditions. From the time of its foundation, the fortress had developed as a promising trading point that had ensured the delivery of goods from the inner provinces of Russia to the Central Asian countries. The caravans of the Central Asian countries have delivered their goods further to the neighboring Orinbor. The security and preservation of the property and goods of Central Asian merchants has been ensured by the caravanserai consisting of two houses, a stone and the wooden fortress in Orinbor. Tatars mainly served as mediators and messengers between the Russian and Asian merchants. Duties collected for imported goods have been a significant help in increasing the revenue part of the state budget. For example, in 1738-1742, 3872 soms 39 coins have been received by the Russian treasury (Vitevsky, 1897). Although this amount was not much, in the following years, it had increased several times.

Livestock and grain have been the main form of barter trade in the Orinbor region. In the period 1745-1759, Kazakhs had brought 49,697 horses and colts, 238 oxen, 195,447 sheep, and 774 goats to Orynbor. According to Rychkov (1887), Kazakhs had driven 30,000 to 50,000 sheep and 10,000 to 15,000 horses every year for exchange. Kazakhs had exchanged their cattle, their skins and furs for velvet, silk, silk fabrics, shawls, jewelry, canvas and grain.

Due to the unique features of each region of Kazakhstan, the features of trade are also noteworthy. The city of Guryev, which had arisen in the Western Kazakhstan had used the natural wealth of the Atyrau region of the Russian Empire and livestock and livestock products owned by the local Kazakhs for its own purposes. They had begun to play a major role in the use and establishment of trade relations with foreign countries adjacent to this region.

In the XVIII century, due to the unique development features of the region, the widely developed type of economy and trade in the Atyrau region has been trade-in fish products. At that time, as a result of the conquest of the Kazakh lands, those engaged in fish farming along Zhayik have mainly been Cossacks who had moved there from Russia.

As a result of the colonization of the Russian Empire, the settlers who had come to the lower reaches of the Zhayik River had bought sheep, horses, camels and cattle from the local Kazakhs. Those who had bought livestock and livestock products from the local Kazakhs have had mainly Cossacks who had settled in the Guryev (Atyrau) region. Of course, the barter trade had brought some income to the Cossacks. By the 40s of the XIX century, there have been 105 Cossack farms with 80,000 sheep in the Guryev region. According to Levshin, one Cossack in the Sarayshik fortress had 10,000 sheep, 700 cattle, and 500 horses (Levshin, 1823). Merchants from other regions of Russia living in Guryev has had a lot of livestock. In this case, we should say that the Russian Empire's policy of development along Zhayik has been carried out in a manner that, instead of benefiting the vital interests of local Kazakhs, it had seriously harmed them.

Merchants from all regions of Russia were constantly coming to the city of Guryev for trade. In the 30s of the XVIII century, Moscow merchant I. Loginov had brought various goods worth 468 rubles (Mukhametov, 1985).

Due to the expansion of trade along the lower part of the plain, Orynbor Governor I.I. In 1744, Nepluyev proposed to the government to expand and rebuild the Guryev customs house. Russian government I.I.

In support of Nepluyev's proposal, the construction of a new customs house has begun. The opening of an exchange trade yard in the city of Guryev on the left bank of the Zhaiyk, according to the resolution of the senate has had an impact on the development of trade relations between the Kazakhs of the Guryev region with the Kazakhs and Kalmyks. Exchange trade was held twice a year in autumn and winter. At this time of the year, Kazakhs had driven their cattle here. Raw animal skins, wool and other animal products have been brought. The Russian merchants had brought bread, tea, plates and various cloths to the steppe Kazakhs. In the autumn of 1743, Astrakhan governor V.I. Tatishchev wrote to Khan Abilkhair of the younger hundred as follows

"... if Kazakh merchants want to visit, send them to Guryev town, there is a place to trade there, and all the merchants who visited there are very happy" (Vitevsky, 1897).

On January 5, 1748, 3,000 families of the Little Hundred Kazakhs owned by Eset Batyr have come to Guryev and have submitted a request to the city authorities for permission to trade with the Russians and the Kalmyks. In January of the same year, about a thousand more Kazakh families have moved to the Guryev town with their livestock and have asked the city commandant for permission to trade. On January 30, 1748, Captain F. Bobarikin, commandant of Guryev town, in his report to the Astrakhan gubernatorial office, has stated that about a hundred Kazakh families came to the city for the purpose of trade, and that the Kazakhs exchanged horses, sheep, wool and felt for Russian goods: "They do not exchange for money. The Kazakhs did not harm us, the Russians, the Kalmyks in any way," he reported (Falk, 1824).

In the following report of the commandant of Guryev town: "Kazakhs traded on the Bukhara side on the left side of the city between January 27 and February 5, 1748. Kyrgyz-Kaysaks did not do any harm to the Russians and the Kalmyks. Trade was done peacefully and no one was offended. The representatives of the provincial authorities always insist on maintaining a strong garrison in Guryev. According to the representatives of the authorities, Kazakhs think that they will harm us. Until now We do not see such a danger," (Vitevsky, 1897).

However, the rapprochement of the people of the region as a result of mutual trade "threatened" the Russian authorities. Therefore, they acted to hinder the trade relations by imposing certain restrictions. For example, they made a list of goods prohibited for sale to Kazakhs.

At the end of 1748, the commandant of the city, D. Sabanin, had told the Astrakhan provincial chancellery that on December 14, 1748, a messenger from the Kazakhs came to the city of Guryev. In his letter, he informs that the messenger had brought a letter from Nuraly Khan, the son of Abilkhair Khan. In his letter, Nuraly Khan asks the officials of the city of Guryev to conduct unhindered trade with the Kazakhs.

On December 18, 1748, Kazakhs consisting of about a thousand families had settled 15 kilometers from the city of Guryev and came to trade. They had traded with the Kazakhs, Russians and the Kalmyks near the city of Guryev. According to the testimony of the Astrakhan merchant, A. Kulpin, trade between Kazakhs and Kalmyks was carried out with flour, millet, wooden utensils, wool, sheep, horse and leather products.

## Other Trade Developments

Since the beginning of the XIX century, trade relations in the Atyrau region have begun to develop steadily. This development of trade relations between the Kazakh steppe and the Russian Empire shows its economic effectiveness. The president of the commercial board, Vorontsev A.R. In 1806, wrote that trade with the Kazakhs was "profitable, sheep meat and fat were collected and sent to the ports of St. Petersburg, and the Russian people used cheap products." In that period, the price of one sheep did not exceed 30 coins. Sometimes its value dropped to 7 coins (Vitevsky & Nepluyev, 1897).

Due to the growth of trade and the resulting increase in the profits, the military governor of Orinbor, Volkovskiy, has placed before the Ministry of Trade, the strengthening of customs control. The Guriev customs station was paying regular taxes to the Russian treasury. There were stalls of Russian merchants in the exchange-trade yard in the city of Guryev. At the beginning of the XIX century, there have been trade stalls of Astrakhan merchant V. Maslennikov, Saratov merchant S. Husaynov, and Syzran merchant M. Sablinder. A tax of one percent of the value of the goods was imposed on the goods imported and exported to the exchange trading places at the fixed price.

In 1810, the Russian government has given a special permission to barter with the Kazakhs. Due to the fact that the lower reaches of Emby and Zhaiyk are in a distant region, he allowed barter trade with them throughout the year. In a special document on this matter, it was stated: "Due to the remoteness of the town of Guryev, barter trading should be allowed only there throughout the year" (Vitevsky&Neplyuev,1897).

In 1834, there has been a fire in the Guryev trading yard and it has burned down. However, the Russian government has quickly begun to rebuild the barter yard, which was bringing benefits to the state treasury, and it was soon restored. In the middle of the XIX century, when trade relations flourished in the western part of Kazakhstan, and trade routes connecting Russia with the Central Asian countries began to develop, the Russian government has begun to consider the Atyrau region as a politically and economically important region.

The city of Guryev, which has become the center of the district, thus has increased in importance as a large trade center. From the middle of the XIX century, along with the barter trade, money trade was also used. In 1841-1842, Kazakhs along the Zhaiyk River took out gold and silver coins worth 17,587 Russian rubles from the trading places in the exchange trading places of the city (Vitevsky&Neplyuev,1897).

Exchange trade in the city of Guryev has been carried out from mid-August to mid-March, before the period when the Kazakhs moved to pastures. During these periods, Kazakhs have brought cattle, untanned skins, wool and other livestock products to the barter yard. Salt was among the goods brought by the Kazakhs. One idol of it was sold for 10 Russian coins. Kazakhs have come from all over to buy bread, clothes, and household goods in the city of Guryev. The Guryev merchants E. Khokhlachaev, brothers Vasiliy and Alexey Vanyushinder, Cossacks E. Gudakov, D. Khokhlachev, Tatar merchants S. Akhmetov, I. Kushaev and the Kazakh T. Edilbaev and others have conducted business there.

Indeed, Guryev merchants have brought a large variety of goods to the Kazakh steppe. Kazakh merchants in the city of Guryev and the lower reaches of Zhaiyk have also brought trade goods to the Kazakh villages. On October 4, 1865, Kazakh merchant T. Yedilbaev has reported that he sold 120 camels at the customs station at 10 rubles per head. In the fall of 1867, at the customs station, it is reported that Kazakhs had sold camels valued at 3085 rubles. In 1859, a fair trade was opened in the city of Guryev from October 25 to November 10. Since 1875, this type of trade has been carried out in the city on Assumption Square, and another in the exchange trading yard (Vitevsky&Neplyuev,1897).

Russian merchants from Astrakhan, Kamyshin, Ural and other cities have come to the Guryev fair. Types of goods sold include bread, tea, tobacco, manufactured goods, iron, copper, etc. Cossacks and other urban Guryev merchants have also traded at the fair. On the eve of the fair, Kazakhs have driven a large herd of various animals. In addition to the Kazakhs, Guryev Cossacks and other townspeople have been engaged in the cattle trade. The average annual turnover of the Guryev's fair trade has been 430,000 rubles, not counting the trade turnover (Nebolsin,1855).

Retail trade in Guryev thus has been carried out by other urban merchants and their shopkeepers.

In the 60s of the XIX century, there have been 58 trade establishments in Guryev, including 6 red goods shops, 14 colonial goods (food, small items, etc.), 9 tobacco shops and 16 drinking establishments (2 taverns, 8 drinking houses) (Pallas,1773).



In 1870, 72 out of 170 trading points in Guryev have been made of stone, and the rest, of wood. About 15 trade establishments of this size have been located on the main streets of the city, on the coast (Pallas, 1773).

The territory of trade relations has been extensive. In fact, a lot of goods of city merchants have been accumulated in Astrakhan, Ural, Nizhny Novgorod and the other Russian cities. According to eyewitnesses, with the opening of water transport in the spring, merchants have gone to Astrakhan, and Nizhny Novgorod with their ships, and have brought fish, caviar, glue, seals, lard, raw skins there. In the fall, they have returned to the city population with other goods such as flour, cereals, oats, sugar for exchange and sale to Kazakhs. They have brought back tea, sweets, wine and cigarettes. These goods have been delivered to Rakush and Strelets wharves, and from there, they have been transported overland to Guryev in their own carts or hired for this purpose by the impoverished Cossacks. Among the imported goods, flour has been exchanged for livestock and lumber for construction.

In 1887, 80,000 bushels of wool, hides, sheepskin and other goods, excluding fish, have been transported by the sea from Guryev to Astrakhan by 117 ships, and 500,000 bushels of flour from Astrakhan. If we take into account that fishing was the main occupation for the people of Guryev, then the cargo turnover at the time of the beginning of waterway relations have increased several times from the specified volume, counting the fish and its products transported from Astrakhan, Samara and other Russian cities of the city. In winter, Guryev merchants have delivered goods from the Urals. They have brought 200,000 bags of flour and oats to Guryev during the winter.

The trade route from Guryev to the Urals has been served by the cardboard tract passing along the lower Ural line (Nebolsin, 1855).

Trade relations with fish and its products have been carried out not only in the city, but also in the nearby ports - Rakush, Sukhoi Podotevka, Strelets. Trade in fish and its products have been carried out by all types of fishing tradesmen of Guryev Cossacks.

In order to control the trade affairs of the Lower Urals and the townspeople, the military council has appointed two deputies from among the wealthy Cossacks, one of whom has been proficient in civil affairs.

During the spring campaign, the Rakush wharf has become a trading point for fish and its products. In the 50s of the XIX century, fish has been usually sold by the dozen. In the spring campaign of 1856, the price of fish: 100 pieces of sevryuga has ranged from 23 to 40 rubles. In the 60s, fish has been sold by weight. Caviar has been sold from 14 rubles per bushel, sturgeon from 4 rubles, sevryuga from 2 rubles, from 30 coins to 3 rubles.

The prices of fish and its products in autumn fishing have been significantly higher than in the spring. During the fish trade at the Rakush wharf, temporary exhibitions for the sale of bread and wine have been opened in taverns and trade cellars.

Fish trade had continued even in the winter in Guryev Cossacks. During the Akhan fishing season, if the Akhan came to Guryev to catch fish, the merchants of Samara, Saratov, as well as other urban and local merchants of the Cossack estates had bought them at a much higher price than in the spring and the autumn. At the end of the 80s of the XIX century, prices for fish and fishing products have risen. This can be seen from the prices of fish in 1889.

The situation of the city of Guryev, as a large trade center near the Urals, have significantly strengthened during the reform period, which, in turn, have contributed to the active penetration of commodity-money relations in Kazakhstan.

Guryev played a significant role in the formation and development of the local and all-Russian market. The development of the economy has shaped trade. The expansion of trade relations, especially the mobile trade of Guryev merchants and other townspeople, have strengthened the formation of a large merchant bourgeoisie from the Cossack class, others and the local people. The involvement of Kazakhstan in the all-Russian market has contributed to the expansion of the territory of trade relations between the city of Guryev and the seaside settlements of the district with the commercial and industrial cities of Russia. Russian merchants have transported wool, skins, and fish from Western Kazakhstan through Guryev and Zhyloikosy.

The development of the oil industry in the uyezd has led to an increase in the volume of trade between Guryev and Astrakhan along the Caspian Sea. Two joint-stock company steamships have regularly traveled between the cities.

Towards the end of the XIX century, trade relations between the Kazakhs of the lower reaches of Zhaiyk with the neighboring people have become more active than before. Livestock was the main wealth of Kazakhs throughout the region. Livestock, its strength, meat, fur and skin were not only used for the people's daily needs, but also sold in the market. They sold it and bought grain, clothes and other consumer goods from the market.

Consumer goods for such markets have been imported mostly from Russia. In addition to animal products, Kazakhs have also brought out fur skins, goat's bottoms, various wool products, felts and other products to the barter markets. In addition, animal skins, wolf, fox, and rabbit skins were sold in the market (Foss, 1868). The availability of wool and felt have contributed to the development of handicrafts. Many Kazakhs have deliberately pressed felts, weaved cobwebs, kneaded skins, spun wool and bottoms for sale. Various clothes have also been sewn and woven from them, and the Kazakhs have brought and sold the surplus of their own clothes to the market. Along with barter, the second type of trade has been the fair.

In fact, at seasonal fairs, factory products have been exchanged for raw materials and livestock products. The fair, which had started working in Guryev since 1854, has been of great importance for local Kazakhs in the Guryev district. Year by year, the turnover of the Guryev fair has increased, and its effectiveness for local Kazakhs has increased. In 1882, goods worth 430 thousand rubles have been brought to the Guryev Fair. The trade turnover of grain products alone exceeded 400 thousand rubles. In 1855, Kazakhs from the Atyrau region have brought and sold 1039 camels, 876 horses, and 87 cows to the Guryev fair.

In the city of Guryev, permanent trading places have been formed, and the nature of trade relations have begun to change. In 1886, 50 shops were operating in the city of Guryev, and the residents of the city sold goods worth 281,314 rubles through these shops. In this year, the total trade turnover of the trading places in the city has amounted to 804,994 rubles, and in the following year, 1887, the total trade turnover has reached 1,149,850 rubles. The main turnover of the Guryev fair has consisted of the sale of livestock and livestock products.

In 1899, a total of 133,500 rubles worth of goods have been sold at the Guryev Fair, of which 86,665 rubles came from the sale of livestock and livestock products. Similarly, out of 90,855 rubles of goods sold at the fair in 1900, 77,355 rubles have been cattle and livestock products brought to the fair by Kazakhs. The trade turnover of the 1901 fair has been 69,535 rubles. At this fair, manufactured products have been sold for 2,200 rubles, grain products for 1,300 rubles, wood and other small things. The remaining 60,035 rubles of the trade turnover has been from livestock and livestock products sold at the fair collected (AOA, 1899).

The share of sheep and goats in the livestock of Guryev region was 80.2%, and cattle - 6.1%. 28.6% of livestock in the Ural region has been concentrated in Guryev uyezd (Foss, 1868). In 1900, the trade turnover in Guryev uyezd was 3.2 million rubles, at that time it has been 1 million rubles, and at that time 33 autumn and winter fairs have been operating in the uyezd. Kazakhs have bought mainly the industrial products from these barter markets. For example, they have bought cloth and metal objects (household utensils, in particular, a pot, various ornaments, a lot of small things: needles, awls, truncheons), grain and other things.

Well-known Russian scientist Dal has done the years of his service in Orynbol. Dal has visited the Kazakh villages, have got acquainted with the conditions and lifestyle of the ordinary people, and has written a story about the life of the Kazakhs called "Bekey and Maulen" (1837). In this story, the scientist beautifully describes the trade between the Kazakhs as follows:

*"Alaschubar group is crammed into this wide field, shoulder to shoulder. Among this group, there are people with formal and official positions, nobles and families, long-skirted merchants who sell things like soap and ice cream, as well as hawkers who have run away from their thoughts, escaped from the edge, and found themselves in the meantime, these are often break the exchange of those merchants and make a profit!"*

*Opa takes a whole sheep from generous Kazakhs, giving him tobacco powder that he has deposited in a tin, or a measure of flour mixed with ash, lime, and sand. Here are the Tatar pussies, who sell collared furs, stuffed animals, bats, and skins and are always over the top. Apart from all these, there is another kind of people who are called candy makers; these are in their private houses keeping a floating shop and it professional shopkeepers of an ordinary city, who call it "shop" in general"*

Foss, 1868

The regional trade relations of the city of Guryev with other cities of Russia have been carried out widely. Merchants from Astrakhan, Saratov, Kazan, Samara, Syzran and many other cities had come to Guryev for commercial purposes. Russian merchants have brought various types of flour, tea, tobacco products, various fabrics, dishes, and jewelry. The local Russian administration was interested in the development of trade with the Kazakhs. In turn, the Kazakhs also expressed their interest in the development of trade relations. According to the information in the registration book of the Guryev customs station, during eight months in 1841-1842, Kazakhs had brought cattle valued at 85,382 rubles to the barter yard for sale.

During this period, Russian merchants have bought goods worth 66,685 rubles. In the 40s of the XIX century, the city of Guryev became one of the main centers of trade with Central Asian khanates. In December, 1848, a trade caravan of 63 camels arrived in Guryev from the cities of Bukhara and Khiva. The location of the city of Guryev on the lower reaches of the Zhaiyk River is important for trade in this region; we must say that the products played a big role. In general, the socio-economic development of the region was developing along with other regions of the country. The city of Guryev and its region was a part of the trade zone of the Russian Empire. The initial stage of capitalist relations was formed in the region, trade, recruitment of labor force, robbery and exploitation of the local population took place. In addition to hiring labor, a semi-serf form of exploitation, the purchase of labor, was also used.

At the beginning of the XX century, trade relations in the region increased further. In 1900, 2,562 cattle, 6,047 sheep and goats, 1,259 horses, and 2,427 camels were sold in Guryev district. The annual income from cattle trade amounted to 234.6 thousand rubles. By 1915, the price of livestock and livestock products had increased. In 1916, the annual turnover of Guryev equaled 2.3 million rubles (Foss, 1868).

At the beginning of the XX century, fishing remained one of the main livelihoods of the people of the Atyrau region. Accordingly, fish trade was one of the main branches of trade in the region. For example, the transportation of fish and its products was carried out through the Guryev fish establishment. In 1916, 11,526 bushels of fresh fish and 542,437 bushels of fish products were shipped from this office. Cash and other fees were collected for the vast majority of freshly caught and salted fish. The specified types of fees amounted to 100,656 rubles 82 coins (Foss, 1868).

Caviar, which was in great demand in Guryev, was bought by representatives of a rich St. Petersburg firm that supplies Germany, Austria, and Poland. Buyers from Guryev Zhyloykosy settlement exported to Astrakhan half fish roe (carp-cake fish, pike). Greeks, Romanians, and Persians bought it in large quantities. The purchase of fish and caviar for export trade led to a significant increase in the price of fish products. In the spring of 1901, Zinoviev, a fish producer, bought 15 million carp-torta fish from the fishermen of the district for 4 rubles 50 coins - 5 rubles per thousand. In addition, 10 million fish were caught by hired workers. In Astrakhan, Zinoviev sold a thousand carp-torta fish for 8 rubles and made a net profit of less than 75 thousand rubles (Georgy, 1779).

## Conclusion

This paper demonstrates that the policy of the Russian Empire in the region has been based on the military-feudal method and was carried out according to the principle of "divide and conquer". The policy of imperial exploitation of the Russian Empire against the Kazakh people in the region is evident in the fact that the Kazakh people were forbidden to fish from



the Zhaiyk River, to graze near the Zhaiyk River, and to cross the right bank of the Zhaiyk River. Already in the 30s of the XVIII century, the Russian Empire has given the Zhaiyk river to the Zhaiyk Cossack army for use and fishing.

It is known that since the 30s of the XVIII century, Kazakhstan's incorporation into the Russian Empire has ended in the 60s of the XIX century. As a result of the colonization of the Kazakh land by the Russian Empire, it must be said that in addition to large-scale changes in the life of the people of the region, these changes have brought great pain to the direct life of the Kazakh people. After all, the colonial policy of the Russian Empire is evident in the fact that it took away the fertile lands of the Kazakhs and pushed them to the barren lands. In addition, it is known that the field of trade has been conducted with great inequality. This, in turn, it has worsened the everyday life of the Kazakh people.

This historical research provides a brief overview of Kazakhstan's incorporation into the Russian Empire and the resulting consequences. It highlights the negative impacts of the colonial policies on Kazakh livelihoods and trade. However, it does not present detailed analysis and diverse perspectives, which would enhance the depth and comprehensiveness, if probed into in the future.

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