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Urban issues in Kazakhstan and foreign historiography (historiographical overview)

Modern Kazakh historiography is in the paradigm of mastering the results of foreign urban history. The article presents a historiographical review of urban issues. The study of the city as a complex organism has become one of the most relevant areas recently. Since the middle of the twentieth century, American and European historical urban studies have considered the city in its entirety, the interaction of the city and citizens, as an environment and subjects that create urban space. To date, Kazakh historiography is represented by separate studies on the history of the city, in the context of local lore, the history of urban architecture. There are few works considering the population of Kazakhstan and the city as a single complex organism in permanent interaction and mutual influence, focusing on the history of everyday life. The historical and genetic methods allow us to consider the problems in its development and identify patterns. The application of the historical-comparative method reveals differences in the development of Kazakh historiography. A comprehensive study of the urban environment in the historical context allows us to understand the nature of the changes in which society and the state were, as well as the motives and aspirations of social groups. As a result, it is identified that there are common patterns in Soviet and Kazakh historiography, as the city and society, being objects of research, were not considered in close connection and mutual influence. The indicated problems have not received proper attention from the researchers of both the Soviet and modern periods.

Keywords: historiography, city, urban environment; urban space, public activity, urban history.

Introduction

The city and the urban environment, being multifunctional spaces, play an important role in the development of social processes. A comprehensive study of the urban environment in the historical context results in understanding the nature of social changes. It enables the determination of possible interaction scenarios between the government and society and development prospects. Transformation and formation of new social categories and professional orientations are caused by the high energy of the city. It became the necessary environment where the activation of the social and economic life of society took place, or new activities were created. The cities of Kazakhstan are unique formations with distinct functionality. This applies to cities with a thousand-year history (the southern part of Kazakhstan) and cities that arose as a result of the Russian advance into the Steppe. The breadth of geographical coverage and time range allows us to identify common patterns and fundamental differences due primarily to landscape and civilizational features.

Experimental

The study of the factors of the influence of urban space on the development of social groups and institutions and the processes of adaptation to the urban environment is a significant task of modern humanities.

Historical urbanism helps to determine the motives of human activity, which, interacting with the urban environment, leads to qualitative changes, both in the city itself and in society.

A modern city is not just an active economic unit, but above all, a space with the potential to provide conditions for a qualitative breakthrough in various spheres of social and economic life. It is worth noting that at the turn of the XIX-XX centuries, general imperial changes – from constructive to destructive – stood out in the urban spaces of Kazakhstan. A superficial look at the cities of Kazakhstan at the beginning of the twentieth century speaks of the formation of an environment ready, first of all, for the evolutionary development of events.

The city as an object of scientific research was studied from various positions. First, historical problems appeared: the history of the origin of the city, the mechanisms of development and functions of the city in political, economic and cultural systems were investigated.

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During the study using historical and genetic methods made it possible to consider the problems in its development and identify patterns. The application of the historical-comparative method revealed differences in the development of Kazakh historiography.

Results and Discussion

The study of the external environment, in the context of which there is mutual influence and interaction of various subjects, is important. In our case, the external environment is a city with its inherent complex system of relationships, a complex of institutions that have an impact on the qualitative characteristics of society.

Urban history as a scientific direction is in the process of formation in the post-Soviet space, including Kazakhstan. Nevertheless, Russian researchers of cities and urban history have so far been able to lay the foundations for the development of historical urbanism. In addition to the Moscow and St. Petersburg schools, Krasnodar, Dagestan, and Siberian schools are successful in this direction. Today, historical urban studies as a scientific direction are developed in Western historiography: the USA, Great Britain, and other countries. Western researchers have formed a problem field and discourse, primarily considering the city as a complex multi-level organism, where conditions for equally complex communication and interaction are created. The city is simultaneously studied as a space of architecture, a place of location of authorities and their interaction and influence on a person with the designation of the importance of the individual in the urban environment. Among the landmark works that define the main concepts of urban studies, the works of Jane Jacobs "The Death and Life of Large American Cities", M. Weber, K. Lynch, and others are distinguished [1].

Modern Kazakh historiography is represented by studies on the history of the city, urban architecture, and urban population. However, there are not enough works that would consider the population of Kazakhstan and the city as a single complex organism that is in permanent interaction and mutual influence. Many works focus on the political processes that took place in the urban environment, undeservedly bypassing the social factor. Nevertheless, the key events unfolded mainly in the urban environment. The city is a catalyst for ideas and activities and sets aspirations and directions for the development of society and the state. Currently, many scientific papers reflect not only the economic but also the political role of urban centers. The rise of urban culture in the XVIII–XIX centuries is associated with the processes of colonization, the active construction of fortresses and on their basis the formation of urban centers. The study of the specifics of fortress cities has become intense in recent decades, but they do not go beyond the local history format. The authors mainly used a descriptive method that does not reveal the deep processes of the city's existence. The local history of the majority of the works has become a deterrent to the formation of not only a full-fledged direction, but also an understanding of the meaning and function of the city in the historical and cultural context. However, this fact should not detract from the significance of the above-mentioned historiographical layer. Because the focus of scientists' attention is on large megacities rather than provincial small towns. Whereas the study of small towns gives more chances to study history, processes in a more complete way (it is possible to use census data to cover or sample the entire population). In the works of Kazakhstani scientists, the city is considered from the standpoint of the city as a center of culture or in the context of the history of architecture.

Modern urban history in Kazakhstan is in the paradigm of mastering the volume of Western literature, methods and approaches of study on the one hand and overcoming certain stereotypes by the historical community that hinder the development of this direction.

Firstly, the widespread opinion that the steppe and the city are mutually exclusive concepts has made this topic unattractive for researchers for a long time. Secondly, the Kazakh cities of the turn of the XIX–XX centuries were cities of a non-classical type and were rather centers for the placement of administrative units. Thirdly, the unevenness of cities and urban settlements did not allow to identify the universal principles of their development. In our opinion, the study of the external environment in the context of which there is mutual influence and interaction of various subjects is important. In our case, the external environment is a city with a complex system of interrelations inherent in it, a complex of institutions that influence the qualitative characteristics of intellectuals. However, it is worth noting that the process of influence will be joint.

Methodological approaches of the turn of the XX–XXI centuries in the coverage of urban topics based on fundamental developments of the Soviet period do not lose their relevance today. In this direction, the works of E. Sayko, L. Repina, etc., are valuable. In the post-Soviet period, the publication "The City as a socio-cultural phenomenon of the historical process" was published, where publications of leading scientists

whose works appeared at the junction of political transformation, inevitably led to qualitative changes in scientific life [2; 20]. Thus, E. Saiko believes that the city ensures the growth of creative opportunities of subjects through active interpenetration and suggests considering “the process of urbanization as a permanent component of the formation and development of a historically defined sociality (divided society)” [2; 23]. Another prominent cultural scientist A. Akhiezer supporting the thesis of E. Saiko, he believes that urbanization transforms/transforms “a person from a subject of a microareal covering one village, one community, into a subject of a continuously expanding macroareal” [2; 23].

The urban historiography of the Soviet period remains relevant, which is justified by the works of L.A. Anokhina, N. P. Antsiferova, M.G. Rabinovich, M.N. Mezhevich, and others [3]. Today, the problematic of the issue is of interest to scientists due to the interdisciplinarity and diversity of approaches [4]. A unique difference between the latest works is the focus on the study of provincial cities in the context of the history of everyday life. Today, several schools can already be noted, and they are mainly localized in Moscow and St. Petersburg, Siberia, Kuban, and Transcaucasia [5]. The textbook “Historical Urbanism: Theory and Practice”, prepared by a team of authors from the Southern Federal University, deserves special attention [6]. The authors attempt to give a systematic picture of urbanization. The urban environment is revealed through the description of the multidimensional activity of a city capable of self-organization. The main theses are, firstly, the city, the urban environment and the evolutionary processes are both the cause and the result of the institutional and functional changes in which the city resides. Secondly, the city is considered as a social urban organization and a cultural environment formed by its multifunctional purpose. The undoubted advantage of labor is its consistency. The paper identifies the main problems of the Ukrainian direction: the historical development of cities, the urban environment as a center for the implementation of Russian modernization practices, management problems, and cultural development. The influence of historical factors on the development of modern cities is the subject of research by Russian scientist I. Ageev [7; 79–84]. He considers “urban space as a set of historically determined fields and scenarios of interaction between social and economic actors”. According to I. Ageev, the construction of the image and structure of the city occur under the influence of economic and social processes, and are not the result only of the activities of historical figures. For example, the idea and practice of social equality has led to architectural uniformity and, in general, to standardization. The political factor has its own power to influence the development of the urban environment, for example, a Russian city of the late twentieth and XXI centuries developed under the influence of two changing political regimes. According to E. Samoilov, the local intelligentsia played an important role in urban processes, in particular, in provincial cities [8; 149]. They formed an “initiative group with a system of spiritual needs and interests”. The activity of the intelligentsia determined the appearance of the city. However, the resources of the intelligentsia were limited. Thus the lag between provincial cities from the central ones was significant.

The development of new territories and the development of cities on the national outskirts of the Russian Empire became the subject of research by V.I. Dyatlov and K.V. Grigorichev [9; 573]. Irkutsk scientists have put forward a thesis about the “ethnization of urban spaces”. However, the term ethnization requires clarification. According to the authors, during the development of new territories, there was “the ability of a migrant to the economic development of “new”, “empty lands”. The authors explain ethnicity as follows: “often the ethnic definition is understood, first of all, in an extended sense as a designation of citizenship/citizenship, general culture and, secondly, origin”. The work of Irkutsk scientists is interesting because the algorithm for creating Kazakhstani cities at the turn of the XIX–XX centuries is similar to the South Siberian ones. We deal with the same class categories and ethnic groups united by colonial measures. It should be noted that historical urbanism as a scientific direction was developed in the regions: Siberia, Kuban, Caucasus, etc. which is no coincidence, cities in the imperial regions were the centers of cultural transformations and set guidelines for the development of the entire region.

Thus, Buryat scientists published a monograph “City and Village in post-Soviet Buryatia”, where the authors studied the processes of transformation of Buryat ethnicity in rural and urban environments [10]. In the context of our research, the authors’ conclusions on this issue are interesting. Kazakhs, being a nomadic ethnic group, adapted to the urban environment for a long time, the exception was the national intelligentsia. In the context of our research, it is important to study the city as a complex system of cultural communications that affect the functional changes of various social categories. Western historiography considers the city in this format.

Nevertheless, urban themes were the subject of research both in the Soviet and the present periods. The problem of the development of the Kazakh city in the system of the Russian Empire is attractive in the

emerging historical urbanism of Kazakhstan. Here, the works of J.K. Kasymbaev, N.V. Alekseenko, K.M. Tumanin, G.A. Alpyspaeva, and others should be mentioned [11]. The research of these scientists played a significant role in the foundation of the urban history of Kazakhstan. One of the few successful exceptions was the international conference “Urbanization and Nomadism in Central Asia: History and Problems”, held in Almaty in 2004 [12]. At the same time, most scientific works on the history of Kazakh cities of the era of the Russian Empire focus on the topic of socio-economic development, while the research fields of urban demography, environmental space, urban planning, culture, and semantic relations have not been fully developed [13].

A new direction for Kazakh historiography is the study of the city in the context of everyday life. Through the application of this approach, the role and significance of large segments of the population are actualized, without which the existence of the city and the movement of historical processes is impossible. Early works written in this vein are the works of Karaganda scientists, where an attempt is made to analyze the complex interaction and mutual influence of the city and citizens. In this vein, the works of scientists Abdrakhmanova K., Saktaganova Z., Kozybayeva M. are written, where an attempt is made to analyze the complex interaction and mutual influence of the city and citizens [14]. A new understanding of the city and the urban environment was introduced by the results of the project “Actual memory practices: conceptualization of the past and the construction of identity in the modern culture of Kazakhstan” under the leadership of K. Medeuova, where urban space is considered from the standpoint of postmodernism and urban anthropology [15]. Thus, Kazakhstan’s urban historiography has a certain established basis, but at the same time, it needs to form a problem field, considering the established discourse in urban studies.

Conclusions

The availability of sources and historiography of the present period allows us to take a broader and deeper look at the problem of the existence of Kazakh liberalism in specific historical conditions. However, the results of historiography do not give a complete holistic picture, and, accordingly, it seems that we are still in the so-called “paradigm of mastering raw archival materials”.

A comprehensive study of the urban environment in the historical context allows us to understand the nature of the changes in which society and the state were, as well as the motives and aspirations of Kazakh intellectuals.

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Қазақстандық және шетелдік тарихнамадағы қалалық мәселелер (тарихнамалық шолу)

Қазіргі заманғы қазақстандық тарихнама шетелдік тарих урбанының нәтижелерін игеру парадигмасында тұр. Мақалада қалалық мәселелер бойынша тарихнамалық шолу жасалған. Қаланы күрделі организм ретінде зерттеу соңғы уақытта өзекті бағыттардың біріне айналды. XX ғасырдың ортасынан бастап американдық және еуропалық тарихи урбанистика қаланы өзінің тұтастығымен, қала мен қала тұрғындарының өзара әрекеттесуімен, қала кеңістігін құратын орта мен субъектілер ретінде қарастырады. Бүгінгі таңда қазақстандық тарихнама қала тарихы, өлкетану контекстінде, қалалық сәулет тарихы бойынша жеке зерттеулермен ұсынылған. Қазақстан халқы мен қаланы күнделікті өмір тарихына бағытталған тұрақты өзара іс-қимыл мен өзара ықпалдастықтағы біртұтас күрделі организм ретінде қарастыратын еңбектер жеткіліксіз. Бұл зерттеу әдістерінің бірі тарихи-генетикалық болды, бұл оның дамуындағы проблемаларды қарастыруға және заңдылықтарды анықтауға мүмкіндік береді. Тарихи-салыстырмалы әдісті қолдану қазақстандық тарихнаманың дамуындағы айырмашылықтарды көрсетті. Тарихи тұрғыдан қалалық ортаны жан-жақты зерттеу қоғам мен мемлекет болған өзгерістердің табиғатын, сондай-ақ әлеуметтік топтардың мотивтері мен ұмтылыстарын түсінуге мүмкіндік береді. Кеңестік және қазақстандық тарихнаманың ортақ заңдылықтарын анықтау нәтижелерінің бірі болды, өйткені оларда қала мен қоғам зерттеу объектісі бола отырып, тығыз байланыста және өзара ықпал етуде қаралмаған. Көрсетілген мәселелерге кеңестік және қазіргі кезеңдегі зерттеушілер тарапынан тиісті назар аударылмады.

Кілт сөздер: тарихнама, қала, қала ортасы; қала кеңістігі, қоғамдық қызмет, қала — тарих.

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Городская проблематика в казахстанской и зарубежной историографии (историографический обзор)

Современная казахстанская историография находится в парадигме освоения результатов зарубежной урбан-истории. В статье предпринята попытка историографического обзора по городской проблематике. Исследование города как сложного организма стало одним из актуальных направлений в последнее время. Начиная с середины XX века, американская и европейская историческая урбанистика рассматривает город во всей его целостности, взаимодействия города и горожан, как среды и субъектов, создающих городское пространство. На сегодняшний день казахстанская историография представлена отдельными исследованиями по истории города, в контексте краеведения, истории городской архитектуры. Недостаточно трудов, которые рассматривали бы население Казахстана и город как единый сложный организм, находящийся в перманентном взаимодействии и взаимовлиянии, фокусируемые на истории повседневности. Одним из методов настоящего исследования выступил историко-генетический, позволяющий рассмотреть проблематику в ее развитии и выявить закономерности. Применение историко-сравнительного метода обнаружило отличия в развитии казахстанской историографии. Комплексное изучение городской среды в историческом разрезе позволяет понять природу изменений, в которых находилось общество и государство, а также мотивы и устремления социальных групп. Одним из результатов стало выявление общих закономерностей советской и казахстанской историографии, так в них город и общество, являясь объектами исследования, не рассматривались в тесной связи и взаимовлиянии. Обозначенная проблематика не получила должного внимания со стороны исследователей как советского, так и современного периодов.

Ключевые слова: историография, город, городская среда, городское пространство, общественная деятельность, урбан-история.

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