

Merchantry as a social institution of Kazakh society: Russian and Kazakhstani historiography

Gulzhan K. Yermenbayeva^{1*}, Lepuda K. Mukatayeva², Zhanna S. Mazhitova³, Zhazira O. Khassenova⁴

^{1,4}L.N. Gumilyov Eurasian National University, Astana, Kazakhstan

²M.S. Narikbayev KAZGUU University, Astana, Kazakhstan

³Astana Medical University, Astana, Kazakhstan

E-mail address: Corresponding author gulshan23@bk.ru*,
_mukatayeva@kazguu.kz, mazhitova_69@mail.ru, khasenovaz@mail.ru

¹ <https://orcid.org/0009-0002-1462-073X>

² <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2249-0819>

³ <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3712-2127>

⁴ <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8334-5036>

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Abstract. *This article provides a historiographical review of scientific works devoted to the history of the merchants of Kazakhstan, their role in the socio-economic and cultural development of the country in the second half of the XIX – early XX century. Scientific interest in the figure of a merchant-entrepreneur, a bay, the creator of a trading network, industrial enterprises, a philanthropist and a benefactor is justified, as it makes it possible to more clearly represent his social function, and through this to outline the corresponding qualities of merchants. Up until the late 1980s. in the Russian historical science, merchants were given obviously insufficient attention, the history of merchants was ignored as an object and subject of research.*

Merchants in Kazakhstan in different historical periods played an important role in the economy and culture of the region. Studying the history of merchants can reveal many aspects of the life of this class group, as well as its interaction with other social groups.

Historiographical analysis of the history of the merchants of Kazakhstan in the second half of the XIX – early XX centuries. contributes to the objective reflection of studies published in various periods: pre-revolutionary (pre-Soviet), Soviet, post-Soviet (modern) periods of the history of Kazakhstan. The historiographical analysis is relevant from the point of view of modern discussions about the contribution of merchants to the socio-economic development of cities, charity, culture of Kazakhstan. The revival of entrepreneurship, modern socio-economic processes encourage scientists to study this problem in depth.

Keywords: *Historiography; trade; fairs; estate; merchants; bay; entrepreneur; bourgeoisie; charity; patronage.*

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Introduction

Merchantry was one of the important elements in the structure of the Kazakh society, without which the development of economic and cultural life was impossible. Despite the small number of members, the merchants were the most influential strata of the Kazakh society. The history of the merchant class, as the main business class, as a subject of research has not always attracted the close attention of scholars. The question of the nature of capitalist relations development was addressed mainly within the study of general socio-economic phenomena, the characteristics of individual commercial and industrial enterprises and sectors of the economy. It should be noted that the issue of the bourgeoisie formation, the entrepreneurial and socio-political activities of the merchants on the territory of Kazakhstan was addressed both in pre-revolutionary and modern historiography.

Research interest in the history of merchants, in different aspects of their life and activities, the role of merchants in the socio-cultural dynamics of the urban community is currently quite high, due to changes in the cultural and historical paradigm of social development.

Materials and methods

Historiographical analysis of the role of merchants in the socio-economic development of Kazakhstan allowed to study the accumulated experience in the scientific study of this topic, to determine the degree of study, as well as to identify less researched aspects. Based on the principle of historicism, the evolution of researchers' views was studied in concrete historical conditions, in connection with political, ideological, economic, and social processes.

In order to neutralize bias as much as possible when interpreting and evaluating the activities of merchants in historiographical research, objectivity is necessary. Based on the principles of objectivism and historicism, the authors tried to reveal the facts that influence the position, views, and concept of researchers.

A systematic approach has been widely used, which made it possible to present the object of research as a complex system of

interacting structural elements and at the same time ensure its integrity.

The methods of historiographical analysis are similar to the methods of historical research; therefore, the authors used such research methods as problem-chronological, synchronistic, comparative-historical, historical-genetic and typological.

Based on the problem-chronological and typological methods, it was possible to consider the patterns and regional features of the study of the history of merchants in Russian historiography and to identify the synchronicity of the studied phenomena with the global one.

The principle of interdisciplinarity as a synthesizing approach in the process of studying the issues of the merchant class is well represented in the new direction of historical research as historical professionalism. This direction allowed us to consider the problems of social mobility of the studied class, its corporate structure, administrative and political activity, economic activity and other aspects.

Results and discussions

The history of studying the diverse activities of the merchants of Kazakhstan in the second half of the 19th – early 20th centuries can be divided into three chronological periods in accordance with the periodization of the history of Kazakhstan: pre-revolutionary (pre-Soviet), Soviet and modern (post-Soviet). At the same time, it should be noted that the main body of research both in the pre-revolutionary and Soviet periods was carried out within the framework of economic history and was devoted to merchant capital, its role in the transition period.

The study of the role of merchants in the socio-economic and cultural development of Kazakhstan was started in the pre-revolutionary period. The historical literature of that period is dominated mainly by information about the activities of Russian entrepreneurs in Kazakhstan. At various times, Russian researchers and travelers, members of economic-statistical and other expeditions who studied geography, history, economy, mineral resources of the region visited Kazakhstan. Among them were G.N.

Potantin, N.M. Yadrintsev, A.K. Gaines, P.P. Rummyantsev, A.N. Sedelnikov, F. Shcherbina and others.

G.N. Potantin, studying trade in the Steppe Region and in Siberia, gave quite detailed characteristics to the merchants of Semipalatinsk and other cities of the Semipalatinsk region (Potantin, 1867, 1884). A great contribution to the study of the merchants of Siberia and the Irtysh region was made by the publicist N.M. Yadrintsev. He wrote about unequal trade in the Kazakh steppe: «Only rare merchants penetrated into Siberia, but when they came here, they became the only monopolists, in the absence of people and competition, the goods brought by the monopolist were sold at an unusually high price, and the buyer was at his full disposal» (Yadrintsev, 1892: 353). M. Krasovsky pointed out about the involvement of Kazakhs in the trading business: «the number of people who devoted their time and capital to the production of trade operations increased, even merchants appeared among the Kyrgyz...» (Krasovsky, 1868: 293). These works of pre-revolutionary researchers are of great source value for the study of fair trade. The rich factual material contained in the works of pre-revolutionary researchers of Pre-Irtysh Kazakhstan should be acknowledged and represents a valuable source when studying the history of the market and entrepreneurship in Kazakhstan, the composition of entrepreneurs, the specifics of initial capital accumulation, and the role of Russian capital in the economy of Kazakhstan.

The issues of trade relations between the Kazakh and Russian peoples were reflected in the works of pre-revolutionary researchers P.N. Nebolsin and A.N. Teterevnikov (Nebolsin, 1855; Teterevnikov, 1867). Their works contain significant factual material about the trade of Kazakhs in the first half of the 19th century. It should be noted that during this period, non-equivalent exchange between Russian and local merchants flourished. Merchants «exchanged their rubbish and low-value manufactured goods for cattle very profitably... But between the villages of different parts of the steppe, states A.N. Teterevnikov, there was a mutual exchange of works: between farmers and nomads» (Teterevnikov, 1867: 2-3).

Changes in the economic, political, and cultural life of the Kazakh people, as well as many problems of its history, were reflected in the works of the leading enlighteners of the Kazakh public thought of the 19th century. Kazakh scholar orientalist, ethnographer, geographer, folklorist, traveler Ch.Ch. Valikhanov noted: «All the so-called Central Asian trade of Russia is no more, no less than our trade: Bukhara, Kokand and other Central Asian countries account for a very small proportion in the total trade balance» (Valikhanov(a), 1985: 81). Ch. Valikhanov's articles *On trade in Kuldzha and Chuguchak*, *On the course of trade in Kuldzha* are devoted to trade between Russia and China in the first half of the 19th century, they contain interesting information about trade in the Kazakh steppe and the Kazakhs' import trade (Valikhanov(b), 1985: 416).

In general, the works of researchers of the 19th century, based on personal observation, analysis of archival documents and official statistics, are characterized by the accumulation and comprehension of a large layer of historical material. The merchants were perceived by the authors as a special social group that possessed a set of certain socio-cultural characteristics within a provincial society.

Despite the fact that the history of the merchant class was not among the topical topics of Soviet historiography, the theme of the merchant class was considered mainly in the context of socio-economic history. Some factual material on the history of the merchant class can be found in the works of E.B. Bekmakhanov, T.Zh. Shoinbayev, S.A. Sundetov, N.G. Apollova (Bekmakhanov, 1957; Shoinbayev, 1982; Sundetov, 1970; Apollova, 1948). The authors of this period mainly considered the issues of establishing trade relations between Kazakhstan and Russia, China, and Central Asia in the context of the study of the main processes of Kazakhstan's inclusion in the socio-cultural space of Russia.

In the Soviet domestic historiography, the research of E.B. Bekmakhanov made a great contribution to the study of the socio-economic, political history of the Kazakh society of the XVIII – early XX century. Recognizing the colonial nature of trade relations, the author notes that due to the growth of trade

between Russia and Kazakhstan and the gradual introduction of commodity-money relations into the economy of the latter, domestic trade and usury operations began to develop. Bekmakhanov E.B. notes about the strengthening of the role of baism in the economic life of Kazakhstan: «Among the Kazakhs there are many buys leading large trade and usury operations» (Bekmakhanov, 1957: 44).

The destruction of a closed subsistence economy, the development of commodity-money relations, the growth of usury has become the object of research by the Russian historian T.Zh. Shoinbayev. The author provides statistical data on the turnover of trade between Russia and Kazakhstan and Central Asia in the XIX century, pays special attention to the development of fair trade, the role of barter yards in the regions bordering Russia and other issues. Based on the materials of the statistical survey of Kazakh farms in Pavlodar region, T.J. Shoinbayev gives a description of traveling agents: «Saudagers – traders, alypsatars – resellers buy or take goods on credit in the city, carry them across the steppe, selling for money, exchanging for raw materials, buying and collecting raw materials in the steppe for money. Among the Kyrgyz there are traders who conduct independent business, who attend large fairs in Koyandy, in Semipalatinsk district». The researcher concludes that all the activities of these merchants were aimed at enslaving and fleecing the population of the steppe (Shoinbayev, 1982: 89).

In the XIX century, one of the most common occupations among the Kazakh population was the export trade, which contributed to the formation of trade, industry and economic development of certain regions of Kazakhstan. The history of the import trade in the context of the genesis of market relations and the origin of the Kazakh it was touched upon in S.A. Sundetov's scientific research (Sundetov, 1970).

In the research of N.G. Apollova, when analyzing Kazakh-Russian economic and political relations in the XVIII–XIX centuries, much attention is paid to the problems of trade development. In the monograph «Economic and political relations of Kazakhstan with

Russia in the XVIII – early XIX century» an entire chapter is devoted to the development of trade relations between Kazakhstan and Russia in the second half of the XVIII – early XIX century. The author confirms the participation of Kazakh bays in commodity-money transactions in the early XIX century as independent traders: «Buying goods from Russian merchants, they exchanged them with great profit for cattle in their villages» (Apollova, 1960: 261).

According to N.G. Apollova, the entire Kazakh steppe in one way or another represented a wide field of trade activity of Russian, Central Asian merchants, Siberian Tatars, Bukharans, as well as their hired clerks and workers (Apollova, 1976).

The socio-economic shifts that took place in Kazakhstan after its entry into Russia and demographic processes were studied by N.V. Alekseyenko (Alekseyenko, 1981). The author, based on archival materials and published statistical data, shows the dynamics of the number and territorial distribution of the population, as well as their occupation. Considering the dynamics of the urban population, N.V. Alekseyenko draws attention to a number of government acts aimed at attracting the commercial and industrial population to Kazakhstan cities: «Merchants and burghers assigned to the cities of Temir, Turgay, Irgiz, Aktobe, were exempt from paying for land for outbuildings and duty-free trade for 15 years» (Alekseyenko, 1981: 73).

In the Kazakh historiography in the 50-60s of the twentieth century, the urban studies direction began to develop intensively. Zh.K. Kassymbayev made a significant contribution to the development of this very complex direction. In 1990, the monograph *Cities of East Kazakhstan in 1861–1917 (Socio-Economic Aspect)* was published, in which primary attention is paid to the intermediary functions of cities in the development of trade relations in the region. The author notes that the main factor in the growth of the economic importance of cities was the development of trade, the role of which was an order of magnitude higher than the industrial production available in urban settlements. The revival of economic life in the cities of East Kazakhstan had, according to Zh.K. Kassymbayev, its

influence on the change in the composition of the urban population, in particular, contributed to an increase in the stratum of merchants and philistines (Kassymbayev, 1990: 112). In another monograph authored by Zh.K. Kassymbayev, N. Agubayev *The history of Akmola (XIX – Early XX Century): Research, Sources, Comments*, the phenomenon of socio-economic growth of Akmolinsk due to the merchant class is studied, and also shows the process of development of the city and improvement of the standard of living of the population (Kassymbayev, 1998).

Under the influence of the penetration of capitalist relations into the Kazakh steppe in the second half of the 19th – early 20th centuries, the national bourgeoisie began to take shape, reflecting the specifics and originality of this process. The main backbone of the Kazakh national bourgeoisie was the Bay class. In assessing the phenomenon of the Bay class as a social group, researchers differ in their views. Some researchers (Zimanov, 1958; Tolybekov, 1971) were of the opinion that the appearance of the Bay class was not related to capitalist relations. Others (Vyatkin, 1974; Shakhmatov, 1951) believed that the Bay class was a new social stratum that arose only in the middle of the 19th century on the basis of commodity-money relations (Shakhmatov, 1951; Vyatkin, 1974). E. Bekmakhanov considered the main disadvantage of the points of view expressed to be the assessment of the Bay economy as a frozen phenomenon, whereas it should be viewed through the prism of evolutionary development. In his opinion, the Bay class, in contrast to the rest of the feudal lords, was represented by the nascent national bourgeoisie (Bekmakhanov, 1961).

In Soviet historiography, along with the analysis of the genesis of capitalist relations, an attempt was made to determine the role of merchant capital in the process of Russia's penetration into Asia, in consolidating Asian territories as a sphere of influence, and then a territorial component The Russian Empire. These issues were reflected in the works of N.A. Khalfin and G.A. Mikhaleva (Khalfin, 1960; Mikhaleva, 1982).

The monograph by M.K. Rozhkova contains information about the problems faced by merchants traveling with caravans to

Central Asia. The work contains information about the cost of transported goods, the number of draft cattle, the number of people accompanying the caravans and the owners of the cargo (Rozhkova, 1963).

Thus, Soviet historiography, like the historiography of the previous era, turned to the history of merchants exclusively in connection with the analysis of general economic and political issues. The key problem of the Soviet period of merchant historiography was its role in the genesis of the bourgeois economy.

The scientific works of the pre-revolutionary and Soviet periods on the history of merchants laid the foundation for the discourse in the post-Soviet period. Since the 1990s, the history of merchants has received an urgent sound in connection with the formation and strengthening of the market economy and has become the object of interdisciplinary research.

In 2013, well-known Siberian historians prepared a collective work *Encyclopedic Dictionary on the history of Merchants and Commerce of Siberia* in 2 volumes. This was an expanded and revised edition of *A Short Encyclopedia on the History of Merchants and Commerce of Siberia* published in the 1990s. The dictionary contains more than 10 thousand biographical articles about people who were ever part of the Siberian merchant class, including merchants of the north-eastern region of Kazakhstan (Encyclopedic Dictionary, 2012; Encyclopedic Dictionary, 2013).

Russian historians, having defined the merchant class as a special social group of the pre-revolutionary period, publish as reference materials, articles, monographs, dissertation research data on the life and activities, on the commercial, industrial, cultural and patronage activities of individual entrepreneurs and merchant dynasties. It is possible to note such authors as A.V. Bykov, E.V. Komleva, K.A. Abdrakhmanov, O.A. Zadorozhnaya, M.Y. Gaiduk and E.V. Sitnikova (Bykov, 2005; Abdrakhmanov, 2019; Komleva, 2020; Gaiduk, 2020; Zadorozhnaya, 2021).

A number of interesting works on the formation of the large bourgeoisie in Siberia, the composition and number of Siberian merchants, the socio-psychological appearance of the bourgeoisie were written by V.P. Boyko.

The author analyzes the factors undermining the socio-economic stability of the merchant class, the continuity of merchant dynasties (Boyko, 1996; Boyko, 2008).

Researchers from Barnaul and Omsk have made a significant contribution to the development of the problem at the present stage of historiography. Thus, the monograph of Barnaul researcher T.K. Shcheglova deals with the problem of the formation and development of the fair network of the second half of the 19th century on the territory of modern Western Siberia, Southern Trans-Urals, northern and north-eastern Kazakhstan. A significant place in the monograph is given to the influence of fair trade on the economic development of the county towns of the Steppe Region during the period of capitalism (Shcheglova, 2002).

Various aspects of the economic and cultural interaction of Orenburg merchants with Kazakh and Central Asian merchants at the end of the 18th – first half of the 19th centuries became the object of S.V. Lyubichankovsky's research (Lyubichankovsky, 2018).

It must be admitted that the bulk of the merchants of Kazakhstan were immigrants from Russia and Central Asia, i.e., Russians, Tatars and Sarts. The ethnic proximity of the Tatar and Kazakh peoples, as well as the internal economic policy of the Russian state, contributed to the large-scale penetration of Tatar entrepreneurship into the Kazakh steppe. The largest cities in the Kazakh steppe with the highest concentration of the Tatar population were Petropavlovsk, Semipalatinsk and Kostanai. Various forms and directions of trade activity of Tatar merchants on the territory of Kazakhstan have been studied by Kazan researchers Z.A. Makhmutov, E.M. Gibadullina, F.G. Kalimullina, F.G. Minikhanov, A.B. Nasibullina (Makhmutov, 2011; Makhmutov, 2015; Makhmutov, 2017; Makhmutov, 2019; Gibadullina, 2013; Kalimullina et al, 2016). Researcher P. Shabley writes about the Tatar merchants of Kostanai. Based on the principle of network analysis, he studies the history of the Muslim Yaushev family, who played an important role in the socio-economic, socio-political and religious life of the Muslims of the Russian Empire (Shabley, 2017).

Dynasties of Tatar merchants were formed in the Semipalatinsk region. Among them, the Salikhovs, Iskakovs, Rafikovs, Usmanovs, Gabitovs and Ishterekovs were the most commercially active merchants. The history of the Tatar community of the city of Semipalatinsk, the role of Tatar merchants in the construction of Tatar mosques, educational institutions, the development of Muslim charity drew the attention of domestic researchers P. Shabley, B.Zh. Atantayeva, R.D. Akhmetova (Shabley, 2012; Shabley, 2020; Atantayeva, Akhmetova, 2018).

Tatar merchants, along with being influential trade figures, held important positions in local administrative structures, were key religious authorities in their communities, and were intermediaries between the state and individual social groups.

In 2022, the book by Hisamutdinova-Gatiyatulina A.I. *Significant People of the Tatar Diaspora Who Stood At The Origins Of Culture, Economy, Social Life Of The City Of Verny (Biography, Events, Results)* was published. The author writes about representatives of several generations of his kind who have made a great contribution to the development of education, culture, and economy of the city of Verny. At the same time, the book reflects the activities of the Tatar merchant of the 2nd guild, the trade deputy of the City Duma of Verny Abdul Gani Guzairov (Khisamutdinova-Gatiyatulina, 2022).

The research works of the pre-revolutionary and Soviet periods on the history of merchants laid the foundation for the discourse in the post-Soviet period. A feature of modern Kazakh historiography is a regional approach to the study of the history of the formation and development of the merchant class within the framework of local history and dissertation research. As part of the dissertation research, articles devoted to the patronage and charitable activities of individual representatives of the merchant class have been published. They reflect many interesting problems concerning certain regions of Kazakhstan.

Kazakh researchers G.A. Alpyspaeva and A. Kereybayeva address the issues of the formation of the merchants of the Steppe region in the second half of the 19th – early 20th

centuries both in regional and county cities, the dynamics of the number of merchants by guilds (Alpyspaeva, 2008; Alpyspaeva, Saiakhimova, 2018; Kereybayeva, Shcheglova, Turganbaeva, 2018; Kereybayeva et al, 2019; Kereybayeva, 2019). G. Alpyspaeva has been studying the problems of socio-cultural development of the city of Akmolinsk for more than twenty years. The researcher shows the role of trade and its influence on the socio-cultural dynamics of the city at all stages of its development. Relying on written, cartographic, statistical sources, reference publications extracted from the funds of Kazakh and Russian archives, periodical press materials, as well as field research materials on the example of the socio-economic development of Akmolinsk in the late 19th – early 20th centuries, the scholar shows how the development and expansion of various forms of trade contributed to population growth, changes in its national, social structure, as well as the impact of trade on the development of various spheres of urban life, i.e., urban planning, landscaping, healthcare. According to the researcher, the trade and economic development of the Asian outskirts of the Russian Empire took place through Akmola fairs and the tasks of promoting the goods of Asian regions to the All-Russian market were solved (Alpyspaeva et al, 2016).

A.Zh. Gabdulina describes the history of merchants and entrepreneurship in the eastern region of the country in her publications (Gabdulina, 2019; Gabdulina, 2020). The quantitative and qualitative composition of the merchants of Kazakhstan is presented in the study of G.M. Akhmetova (Akhmetova, 2016).

The leading researcher of R.B. Suleimenov Institute of Oriental Studies E. Baydarov writes about the mission of Kazakh merchants in the foreign trade of Russia with China, who often performed an intermediary role, about the role of Semipalatinsk as the main trade and customs point in the trade of Kazakh lands with China. The researcher believes that the development of Kazakh-Chinese trade was favoured: firstly, the knowledge of Chinese and Mongolian languages by border Kazakhs. Secondly, excellent orientation in the area. And, thirdly, Kazakh traders, as a rule, had

at their disposal a lot of pack animals, which played an important role in the caravan trade (Baydarov(a), 2021: URL; Baydarov(b), 2021: URL).

Various aspects of the history of commercial entrepreneurship have become the subject of research dissertations. Thus, S.N. Mamytova examines the peculiarities of entrepreneurial practice in the Irtysh region, analyzes the process of formation of the national bourgeoisie in this region, draws attention to the large merchants who dominated the domestic market (Mamytova, 2004).

The participation of Akmola merchants in the public life of the city, their social activity, charitable and philanthropic activities became the object of research of a young researcher E.N. Myrzykhanov, who came to the conclusion that charity and philanthropic activity of a merchant is a form of public association, voluntarily united people to help the poor and low-income segments of the population (Myrzykhanov, 2018).

Another topic in modern research is merchant class and its role in urban architecture. Researchers of this direction believe that the merchants, as one of their wealthy estates, played an important role in the construction and improvement of cities. The peculiarity of the everyday life of merchants was that the development of merchant architecture can be traced in its history (Chekaev et al, 2004; Chekaeva, Revtova, 2018).

The theme of the formation of trade, economic, social and cultural activities of the merchant class has been reflected in local history publications. Works of local historian, journalist, writer, member of the Union of Journalists of the USSR V.N. Kashlyak *Semipalatinsk merchants and industrialists – late 18th – 19th centuries, Temples of Semipalatinsk: past and present, Semipalatinsk. Three centuries of history, Semipalatinsk: named after them, Semipalatinsk merchants. Pleshcheyevs, Who occupied the ancestral home of merchant Medvedev for a century?* are the most interesting. In 2018, V.N. Kashlyak's book *People, Events, Facts in Documents* was published, which was the result of many years of research work of a local historian (Kashlyak, 2004; Kashlyak, 2006; Kashlyak, 2010; Kashlyak, 2013).

Local historian M.I. Situda collected material about more than 70 merchants who lived and traded in Semipalatinsk. The work *Merchant Heritage of Semipalatinsk* presents modern and ancient photographs of merchant buildings that have become historical monuments of the city (Situda, 2018: URL). The Pleshcheyevs, the Musins, the Rafikovs, the Moskvins, the Zenkovs and many others – these surnames are associated not only with the development of the economy of Semipalatinsk and the province, but also culture, education, and enlightenment of the region. In addition to local merchants, merchants from different regions of Siberia and even from central Russia placed their enterprises in Semipalatinsk.

Famous local historian, honorary citizen of the Karkaralinsky district Yuri Popov in several issues of the newspaper *Industrial Karaganda* published articles with rare photos and archival materials about the famous buy entrepreneur X.Akayev. The author has been collecting material for a long time, talking with the descendants of the Akayev dynasty, systematized the memories of local residents of eyewitnesses of those years (Popov, 2007).

Conclusions

Thus, it can be stated that the merchants of Kazakhstan have not yet become the object of independent monographic research, and published works show only part of their appearance and activities. At the same time,

the study of the historical experience of entrepreneurship has not only educational, but also practical significance.

The study of the merchant history opens up new prospects for research in the field of national identity, cultural history and everyday life, to study the mechanisms of preserving historical memory. Merchants created the foundations for stable and sustainable development of the region, contributed to the increment of not only the economic potential, but also the cultural level of its development. Merchants not only contributed to trade and economic development, but, increasing their wealth and developing the economy, many of them engaged in book publishing and educational activities, built schools, libraries, hospitals, houses of mercy. The merchant class was active in the public sphere, i.e., participated in the work of local self-government bodies – zemstvo and municipal institutions, in the activities of political parties.

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**Гульжан К. Ерменбаева¹, Лепуда К. Мукатаева², Жанна С. Мажитова³,
Жазира О. Хасенова⁴**

¹ Л.Н. Гумилев атындағы Еуразия ұлттық университеті, Астана, Қазақстан

² М.С. Нарықбаев атындағы KAZGUU университеті, Астана, Қазақстан

³ «Астана медицина университеті», Астана, Қазақстан

**Көпестер қазақ қоғамының әлеуметтік институты ретінде: ресейлік және
қазақстандық тарихнамасы**

Аңдатпа. Бұл мақалада Қазақстан көпестерінің тарихына, олардың XIX ғасырдың екінші жартысы мен XX ғасырдың басындағы елдің әлеуметтік-экономикалық және мәдени дамуындағы рөліне арналған ғылыми жұмыстарға тарихнамалық шолу жасалды. Көпес-кәсіпкер, бай, сауда желісін, өнеркәсіптік кәсіпорындарды жасаушы, меценат және қайырымдылық жасаушының фигурасына деген ғылыми қызығушылық негізделген, өйткені бұл оның әлеуметтік функциясын нақты көрсетуге және сол арқылы саудагерлердің тиісті қасиеттерін анықтауға мүмкіндік береді. 1980-ші жылдардың аяғына дейін отандық тарих ғылымында саудагерлерге жеткіліксіз көңіл бөлінді, саудагерлердің тарихы зерттеу нысаны мен пәні ретінде ескерілмеді.

Қазақстандағы көпестер түрлі тарихи кезеңдерде аймақтың экономикасы мен мәдениетінде маңызды рөл атқарды. Саудагерлердің тарихын зерттеу осы сословиелік топтың өмірінің көптеген аспектілерін, сондай-ақ оның басқа әлеуметтік топтармен қарым-қатынасын аша алады.

XIX ғасырдың екінші жартысы – XX ғасырдың басындағы Қазақстан көпестерінің тарихын тарихнамалық талдау әртүрлі кезеңдерде: революцияға дейінгі (кеңеске дейінгі), кеңестік, посткеңестік (қазіргі) Қазақстан тарихының кезеңдерінде шыққан зерттеулердің объективті көрінісіне ықпал етеді. Тарихнамалық талдау көпестердің қалалардың әлеуметтік-экономикалық дамуына, қайырымдылыққа, Қазақстанның мәдениетіне қосқан үлесі туралы заманауи пікірталастар тұрғысынан өзекті. Кәсіпкерліктің жандануы, қазіргі әлеуметтік-экономикалық үрдістер ғалымдарды осы мәселені терең зерттеуге әсер етеді.

Түйін сөздер: Тарихнама; сауда; жәрмеңкелер; сословие; көпестер; бай; кәсіпкер; буржуазия; қайырымдылық; меценаттық.

**Гульжан К. Ерменбаева¹, Лепуда К. Мукатаева², Жанна С. Мажитова³,
Жазира О. Хасенова⁴**

¹ Евразийский национальный университет имени Л.Н. Гумилева, Астана, Казахстан

² КазГЮУ имени М.С. Нарықбаева, Астана, Казахстан

³ НАО «Медицинский университет Астана», Астана, Казахстан

**Купечество как социальный институт казахского общества: российская и
казахстанская историография**

Аннотация. В данной статье сделан историографический обзор научных работ, посвященных истории купечества Казахстана, его роли в социально-экономическом и культурном развитии страны во второй половине XIX – начале XX в. Научный интерес к фигуре купца-предпринимателя,

бая, создателя торговой сети, промышленных предприятий, мецената и благотворителя обоснован, так как дает возможность яснее представить его социальную функцию, а через это очертить соответствующие качества купечества. Вплоть до конца 1980-х гг. в отечественной исторической науке купцам уделялось явно недостаточное внимание, история купечества игнорировалась как объект и предмет исследования.

Купечество в Казахстане в разные исторические периоды играло важную роль в экономике и культуре региона. Изучение истории купечества может раскрыть многие аспекты жизни этой сословной группы, а также ее взаимодействия с другими социальными группами.

Историографический анализ истории купечества Казахстана второй половины XIX – начала XX вв. способствует объективному отражению исследований, вышедших в различные периоды: дореволюционный (досоветский), советский, постсоветский (современный) периоды истории Казахстана. Историографический анализ актуален с точки зрения современных дискуссий о вкладе купечества в социально-экономическое развитие городов, благотворительности, культуры Казахстана. Возрождение предпринимательства, современные социально-экономические процессы побуждают ученых к углубленному изучению данной проблематики.

Ключевые слова: историография; торговля; ярмарки; сословие; купечество; бай; предприниматель; буржуазия; благотворительность; меценатство.

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Information about the authors

Yermenbayeva Gulzhan Kakimbekovna – Candidate of Historical Sciences, Associate Professor, Department of History of Kazakhstan, L.N. Gumilyov Eurasian National University, Astana, Kazakhstan.

Mukataeva Lepuda Karimovna – Candidate of Historical Sciences, Professor, Department of General Education Disciplines, M.S. Narikbayev KAZGUU University, Astana, Kazakhstan.

Mazhitova Zhanna Sabitbekovna – Doctor of Historical Sciences, Professor, Department of Social and Humanitarian Sciences, Astana Medical University, Astana, Kazakhstan.

Khassenova Zhazira Oralbekovna – Senior Lecturer, Department of History of Kazakhstan, L.N. Gumilyov Eurasian National University, Astana, Kazakhstan.

Ерменбаева Гүлжан Кәкімбекқызы – т.ғ.к., Л.Н. Гумилев атындағы Еуразия ұлттық университеті Қазақстан тарихы кафедрасының доценті, Астана, Қазақстан.

Мұқатаева Лепуда Кәрімқызы – т.ғ.к., М.С. Нарықбаев атындағы KAZGUU Университетінің Жалпы білім беру пәндері департаментінің профессоры, Астана, Қазақстан.

Мажитова Жанна Сабитбековна – т.ғ.д., профессор, «Астана медицина университеті» әлеуметтік-гуманитарлық пәндер кафедрасының профессоры, Астана, Қазақстан.

Хасенова Жазира Оралбековна – Л.Н. Гумилев атындағы Еуразия ұлттық университеті Қазақстан тарихы кафедрасының аға оқытушысы, Астана, Қазақстан.