



## **REGARDING CATEGORIES OF REFUGEES IN TURKESTAN (LATE 19TH CENTURY, EARLY 20TH CENTURY)**

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<b>Article history:</b>	<b>Abstract:</b>
<b>Received:</b> 8 <sup>th</sup> November 2022 <b>Accepted:</b> 10 <sup>th</sup> December 2022 <b>Published:</b> 10 <sup>th</sup> January 2023	This article analyzes the national-ethnic composition of refugees in Turkestan at the end of the 19th - the beginning of the 20th century and the reasons for the migration through primary sources.
<b>Keywords:</b> Fugitive, fugitives, Turkish, Persian, Armenian, refuge, Caspian region, farming, horticulture, captive, emir, koshbegi, foreign fugitive	

**INTRODUCTION.** In the history of mankind, the processes related to the change of the place of residence and migration of the population have occurred in all eras. Migration is the movement of people from their permanent place of residence, and there are forms of migration such as voluntary, voluntary-forced, planned forced migration. Today, labor migration is manifested as seasonal migration and temporary migration[1]. The term "refugee" is different from the concept of "migration", when there is a real danger to people's life, family, property, etc., when the situation of facing death due to persecution by the government and administrative bodies arises, a refugee and a group of refugees are created. In other regions, house arrest, a special regime, and the use of escape measures as a way for those kept under strict control also fill the dictionary meaning of the term "refugee"[16]. During the years when the Russian Empire colonized Turkestan, the problem of refugees became one of the constant processes in the life of the society. Although the number of refugees has increased and decreased, this process has not completely stopped. Among the refugees were ordinary peasants, workers and artisans from the upper classes[2]. Among the refugees there were those who did not have any official documents, those whose nationality was unknown, those who kept their nationality secret, those with and without family, those with and without citizenship, the young, the middle-aged, the elderly, the military, former prisoners of war, officials, teachers, and intellectuals. At the end of the 19th century, a large number of Armenian refugees flowed into Turkestan due to the Muslim-Armenian conflicts in the Caucasus region[3].

**ANALYSIS AND RESULTS.** According to sources, these refugee Armenians opened kitchens, shops, wine and beer shops and hotels in the region. There were also investors among them, and they were quite friendly with the fugitive Persians and Jews. The fact that the refugees are mainly merchants, in the city of

Ashgabat beyond the Caspian, 40 out of 99 large merchants belonged to the Armenian nationality[4]. Also, after the Muslim-Armenian conflict in 1894, 3,000 Armenians fled from Turkestan. In 1894-1897, they settled in the Kaspiyorti region of the Turkestan Governorate. In Kaspiyorti region, there was a need for labor force, and the population was a minority. In addition to the local population, in 1897, 11,000 Russians and 4,803 Armenians lived in this region. Persians make up 21% of the population, Armenians make up 13.3%. In addition, 24,000 Turkmens migrated across the territories of Russia and Iran, and 15-20 percent of them were refugees. These Turkmens are engaged in various jobs, and a significant part of them pay taxes to Russia and Turkey. There are vacant lands in the Caspian Sea, where the government has taken measures to develop cotton and other branches of agriculture. For this reason, the immigrants and refugees from Afghanistan, Iran[5], China were also given land for farming. In 1899, they received land from the "experimental field" established 4 km away from the city of Ashgabat[17]. The annual budget of the experimental fields, where the activities of former refugee farmers were controlled, was 4800-5000 rubles, and there were 6 teachers and 42 Russian and Turkmen students. The children of the refugee Turkmens also studied at the school and learned the science of growing fruits and vegetables, growing flowers and raising silkworms. The archival sources contain the petitions of some "former refugees" who fled from Turkey and the Caucasus for 5-10 years or more to the military governors of the region, asking them to accept Russian citizenship. On October 29, 1908, one of the fugitive[6] Armenians, Tigran Kuyunyan, wrote an application to the military governor of[18] Fergana region and asked for Russian citizenship because he had been living in the city of Kokan for 5 years and fulfilled the government's obligations. In his petition (written on November 27, 1908), the representative of the Turkish nation,



Yusufjan Husenov, asked that Skobelev (who had been living in New Margilon for 18 years) be accepted as a Russian citizen. It did not exceed 1,500-2,000 people until July 1915. More than 70,000 refugees flowed into the Caspian region alone until July 1915. Among them were Romanians, Hungarians, Germans, Austrians, and 8-10 Polish-Jews fled from Poland alone, even 1,500-2,000 people were also relocated from the Baltic region. The large wave of refugees aggravated the social problems in Turkestan. In April 1916, the people who voluntarily moved to Turkestan or fled were evacuated from the interior regions of Russia to Samara and Saratov[8].

After this evacuation, 7-8 thousand European refugees, 3500-4500 Poles, Jews, 600 Latvians, Lithuanians, and 200 Estonians remained in Turkestan. Even so, the imperial government remained in a vortex of problems, the arrival of prisoners, fugitives, internees, accommodation and food exacerbated the problem[9]. The authorities assigned this obligation to the local population. In 1915-1916, after re-evacuation of a part of the refugees to their original places in the interior regions of Russia and Ukraine, the situation eased a little in 1917. Among the refugees, there were many prisoners of the First World War kept in Turkestan. According to the researches, in 1914-1915, Turkish prisoners were not sent to Turkestan because there were Muslim representatives. In 1915-1916, there were only 15-25 Turkish prisoners in Turkestan military camps. Turkish prisoners fled to Turkestan from the Ural and Siberian prison camps, and local residents hid them and took them under their protection. In 1914-1915, 300 Germans and Poles of military service age came to Turkestan along with prisoners of war. While thinking about the problem of refugees in Turkestan, information is given about the fact that the army of prisoners from Austria-Hungary and Germany, exiled to the region, tried to escape to Afghanistan and Iran, and they used the help of Afghan and Persian citizens in Turkestan to achieve their goals. According to one of the sources, one of the Afghan citizens, Sherafgan Hayotkhanov, had a private shop and a tea house in the free market of Ashgabat[11]. He gained the trust of the government of the Russian Empire and helped the captives escape to Afghanistan. However, 800 to 600 German, Austrian, Romanian, Hungarian (Hungarian) prisoners of the First World War were kept in Chorjoi and Karshi military garrisons. They were accused of disobeying the government of the Russian Empire and fleeing to Afghanistan and Iran[12]. Of the prisoners who tried to escape abroad, two out of 10 succeeded. They joined the Afghan army and worked as military

advisers, master administrators, military doctors and sanitary workers. In the archive documents, it is noted that 14 of the 20 people who escaped from the Chorjoi military garrison to Afghanistan in 1916 were captured and returned to their place, and 6 are being sought[13]. The fugitive soldiers fled to the territories belonging to the Bukhara Emirate and appealed to Amir Syed Olimkhan and Koshbegi (head of the government) for permission to send them to their country. At the beginning of 1916, in one of the letters of Amir Koshbegi, it is stated that 2 former prisoners (of Austrian nationality) fled to Nurota Beggi, belonging to the Emirate. The fugitives spent 4 months in the shelter of Nurota Beg Abdurayim Toksaba and were treated for their injuries. The captives in Nurota asked for help from Abdurayim Tuqsaba to reach their country, and the bek sent them to the emir in Bukhara. - it is reported. In one of the archives of Amir Koshbegi, it was recorded that 20 Germans, Austrians, Romanians, Poles, and Hungarians escaped to the territory of the Emirate and were hiding[14].

**CONCLUSION.** They have signed applications for permission to return to their homeland. At the beginning of the 20th century, the migration and escape of the population to Afghanistan increased in Eastern Bukhara (present-day Tajikistan and Surkhandarya region)[15]. The reason for this process to take a sharp turn was the lack of harvest and famine, especially the locust attack on cultivated agricultural products. In 1900-1902, as a result of crop failure and locust infestation, villages in Sarai were deserted, houses were destroyed, and fields were left abandoned. If the local bek paid 15,000 rubles in taxes for the treasury due to the decrease in population, in 1900 he was able to collect 15 times less, i.e. 1,200 rubles. To keep the refugees on their vacant land, the Afghan government provided a subsidy of 100 Russian rupees (48 rubles) per household. Thus, at the end of the XIX century - the beginning of the XX century, various streams of refugees appeared in Turkestan.

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