

ORTHODOXY IN THE AKTOBE REGION AT THE TURN OF THE XIXth AND XXth CENTURIES

POPP I.A.¹, BEGIMBAYEVA ZH.S.², NASSYROV R.T.^{2*}

Popp Ivan Aleksandrovich¹ - Candidate of historical sciences, associate professor, Ural state pedagogical university, Ekaterinburg, Russian Federation.

E-mail: popp82@mail.ru, <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5257-1126>

Begimbayeva Zhibek Saginbaevna² - Candidate of historical sciences, associate professor, K. Zhubanov Aktobe regional university, Aktobe, Kazakhstan.

E-mail: zhibekbegimbayeva@gmail.com, <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9827-379X>

***Nassyrov Ruslan Tabrisovich**² – Master of history, lecturer, K. Zhubanov Aktobe regional university, Aktobe, Kazakhstan.

E-mail: rnassyrov@zhubanov.edu.kz, <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2661-1670>

Abstract. The study is devoted to the development of orthodoxy in the Aktobe region in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Following the transformation of the Ak-Tyube fortress into the district town of Aktyubinsk in 1891, a significant increase in migration to the region was observed. The growth of the Slavic population in the city created the need for the construction of Orthodox churches. The article examines the history of the establishment of the first churches and the activities of the clergy. The conditions of the functioning of churches and parish schools, as well as information regarding teaching activities, are investigated.

In the course of the research, the authors conducted a critical analysis of materials collected in the State Archive of the Aktobe Region and carried out a historiographical review of scholarly works, including church documents related to the region. Attention is likewise given to statistical data, particularly the size and composition of the city's population and their changes over time.

Key words: church school, missionary activity, resettlement policy, Aktobe district, population.

Introduction

The development of economic and diplomatic relations between peoples inevitably leads to the establishment of close humanitarian ties. Beginning in the mid-eighteenth century, socio-economic and humanitarian interaction started to grow in Western Kazakhstan, manifested through research expeditions to the Junior Zhuz, the development of trade, the establishment of fairs, the construction of fortresses, and the subsequent migration movement. The Ak-Tyube fortification was founded in 1869 at the confluence of the Kargaly and Ilek rivers under the command of General Borkh as a kind of «security stronghold» during the period of mass uprisings caused by the adoption of the «Temporary Regulations» of 1868. The development of the fortification during the 1870s and 1880s led to a significant increase in migration from the central provinces of the Russian Empire to the city and nearby districts.

The aim of the authors is to demonstrate the development of the orthodox religion in our region and to identify the reasons for the demand for church construction that emerged in the late nineteenth century. The topic of this study is one of the most important issues in the history of the region, and, in our view, the absence of specific thematic studies on the history of the development of orthodoxy further increases its relevance.

Materials and methods of research

The history of the development of orthodoxy in the Aktobe region at the turn of the centuries remains a poorly studied topic. For our research, the collection and analysis of archival documents constituted the most important stage. We conducted an analysis of the documents from Fund 1249 of the State Archive of the Aktobe Region. The documents of this fund enabled us to examine information about the first orthodox clergymen of Aktobe and the beginning of church construction in the city. The reviews of the Turgai region for the years 1895 and 1915 provided valuable information on the population size and composition of the region during different periods of its history.

Well-founded conclusions were drawn in accordance with modern methodology and the principles of critical analysis. The examined archival documents related to the opening of churches in the city and the spread of Orthodoxy were analyzed using retrospective, historical-comparative, and systematic methods within the context of the historical processes of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, which were directly connected with the history of our country. The object of this study is the spread of the Orthodox religion in the territory of the Aktobe region. During the research, it was established that the study of the history of orthodoxy in the Aktobe region is a relevant topic, the exploration of which makes it possible to investigate the history of Kazakhstan in greater detail.

Results and its discussion

Between 1873 and 1874, the first residential houses were built in the fortification, and the zoning of the future city began to take shape. In 1883, Ak-Tyube became the administrative center of the Иетск district. According to the «Regulation on the Administration of the Akmolinsk, Semipalatinsk, Semirechensk, Ural, and Turgai Regions» adopted on March 25, 1891, the Ak-Tyube fortification obtained the status of a district town of the Turgai region and was given the name Aktyubinsk [1, 142].

These developments inevitably contributed to the growth of migration from the Yekaterinoslav, Voronezh, Tambov, Saratov, and several other provinces. Migration processes led to changes in the city's population size, as well as in its national and religious composition. While in 1885 the population of the fortification amounted to 1,970 people, by 1895 it had reached 3,495. By 1900, the population of Aktyubinsk had grown to 6,804 people [2, 113-116].

The religious composition of the city and county in the mid-1890s is quite interesting, as shown in the table below [3, 48].

Table 1. Religious composition of Aktyubinsk and the district in 1895.

	Orthodox Men/Women	Old Believers Men/Women	Mussulmans Men/Women
Aktyubinsk	1564/1431	24/9	305/162
Aktobe district	127/122	-	48780/42891

The predominance of the orthodox population in the city created the need for the construction of a church. Thus, between 1880 and 1882, the Church of the Holy Blessed Prince Alexander Nevsky was built. In 1896, a side chapel dedicated to the Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos was added. The church accommodated 600 worshippers and was placed under the administration of the Orenburg Diocese. The Alexander Nevsky Church was assigned one priest and one psalm-reader. In 1896, the church servant was Arsenii Mazokhin, who had graduated in 1881 from the Kazan Teachers' Seminary under the well-known educator and missionary N. I. Ilminsky [4, 137].

Orthodoxy significantly influenced not only spiritual life but also contributed to the development of education in Aktyubinsk. The church school became the most important institution for the spiritual and moral upbringing of the younger generation. The school was opened in 1891 but did not have its own building and changed location three times before 1917. The educational institution was divided into male and female sections. In the male section, the teacher was Priest Arsenii Mazokhin, while in the female section it was Aleksandr Isaakov. By 1905, the number of students at the church school had reached 95. The school also had a boarding facility housing 14 kazakh boys and 8 russian boys from distant auls and settlements of the district [5, 154-156].

In the 1904–1905 academic year, 1,900 rubles were allocated for the maintenance of the boarding school, while 400 rubles were designated for the salaries of the teacher and assistant [6, 10-11].

A serious drawback of the boarding school was the absence of a medical room, which often contributed to the spread of infectious diseases among students. The school frequently organized festive events for children who were not students of the institution. Such activities brought together children of different nationalities and faiths, contributing to the preservation of a peaceful atmosphere in the city [5, 157-159].

In addition to the church school, the city also had two-grade russian-kyrgyz male and female schools attended by 45 boys and 50 girls of the orthodox faith, constituting more than half of all students [7, 95].

During the expedition led by F.A. Shcherbina in the Steppe region, aimed at studying the economy of the kazakhs and forming a land fund for the resettlement of peasants from the European part of the country, a significant increase in migration from the Penza and Simbirsk provinces to the Turgai and Ural regions was recorded [8, 213].

This event undoubtedly influenced the increase in the orthodox population in Aktobe. The changes are presented in the table below [9, 31].

Year	1893	1903	1904	1905	1907	1908	1909	1913	1915
Men	857	2688	2534	2489	3194	3960	4842	5928	5571
Women	805	2304	2333	2745	3201	3943	4525	5805	6100

In Aktyubinsk, the need arose for the construction of a second church, since during orthodox celebrations the Alexander Nevsky Church lacked sufficient space for congregation, which caused considerable dissatisfaction. In 1898, the foundation of the church was laid, and by 1900 it was opened. The new church was consecrated in the name of Saint Equal-to-the-Apostles Grand Prince Vladimir. Also, beginning in 1898, the Vladimir Missionary Brotherhood emerged and began to function actively in the city. Its chairman was Arsenii Mazokhin. By 1905, the brotherhood had 83 members. Members of the missionary brotherhood traveled to settlements and auls with sermons, distributed religious literature, and held meetings both with settlers and with the local population. Priest Mazokhin himself repeatedly visited kazakh auls in the nearby Karatugai, Bestamak, and Aktobe volosts. The indigenous population received Orthodox missionaries quite warmly, although they regarded their sermons with caution [10, 21-27].

Thus, the religious situation in Aktyubinsk and the Aktobe district at the turn of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries did not differ significantly from that of other cities in the northwestern part of the Steppe Region, such as Uralsk and Kostanay. From the 1880s onward, the number of people professing Orthodoxy in Aktobe grew rapidly. The construction and opening of churches provided considerable moral support to settlers from the Chernozem region, Volga, and Greater Black Sea area provinces, who faced the absence of traditional beliefs and rituals during the initial period of the development of Aktobe.

Conclusion

The purpose of our research was to identify, analyze, and demonstrate the significance of the formation and development of orthodoxy in the Aktobe region at the turn of the XIX and XX centuries. During this complex historical period, accompanied by a number of major events on the territory of Kazakhstan, a multi-confessional society was formed. Based on the conducted research, the authors present the following conclusions:

- The transformation of Aktobe from a fortress into a district town significantly accelerated the migration movement from the European part of the empire into the region.
- The resettled population required religious support and was interested in the rapid construction of churches, which was reflected in financial donations.
- Attempts by representatives of the orthodox church to conduct missionary activities among the kazakh population are noted.
- Orthodox clergymen sought to develop church schools and boarding institutions, which for a certain period represented the only form of education available in the city.

References

1. Zlobin YU.P., Polyakov A.N. Istoriya Orenburgskogo regiona. T.1. Orenburg: GOU OGU, 2006. 256 s.
2. Tarasenko F.N., Tarasenko YU.F. Gorod. Gody. Lyudi. ZHizn'. Aktobe: Poligrafiya, 2006. 264 s.

Қ.Жұбанов атындағы Ақтөбе өңірлік университетінің хабаршысы, №2 (84), маусым 2026
Тарих-История-Historical

3. Obzor Turgajskoj oblasti za 1895 god. Orenburg: Tipografiya P.N. ZHarinova, 1896. 72 s.
4. Gosudarstvennyj arhiv Aktyubinskoj oblasti (GAAO). Fond 1248. Opis' 1. Delo 73.
5. GAAO. Fond 1249. Opis' 1. Delo 3.
6. Orenburgskie eparhial'nye vedomosti. 1905. №19. Orenburg: Turgajskaya oblastnaya tipografiya. 141 s.
7. Kudyralina ZH.U. Etnos i religiya v Kazahstane: istoriya i sud'by. Astana: Elorda, 2007. 221 s.
8. Artykbaev ZH.O. Istoriya Kazahstana. Almaty: Kazak universitet, 2006. 312 s.
9. Obzor Turgajskoj oblasti za 1915 god. Orenburg: Tipografiya B. Breslina, 1916. 175 s.
10. Orenburgskie eparhial'nye vedomosti. 1905. №17. Orenburg: Turgajskaya oblastnaya tipografiya. 142 s.

Список литературы

1. Злобин Ю.П., Поляков А.Н. История Оренбургского региона. Т.1. Оренбург: ГОУ ОГУ, 2006. 256 с.
2. Тарасенко Ф.Н., Тарасенко Ю.Ф. Город. Годы. Люди. Жизнь. Ақтөбе: Полиграфия, 2006. 264 с.
3. Обзор Тургайской области за 1895 год. Оренбург: Типография П.Н. Жаринова, 1896. 72 с.
4. Государственный архив Актыубинской области (ГААО). Фонд 1248. Описание 1. Дело 73.
5. ГААО. Фонд 1249. Описание 1. Дело 3.
6. Оренбургские епархиальные ведомости. 1905. №19. Оренбург: Тургайская областная типография. 141 с.
7. Кыдыралина Ж.У. Этнос и религия в Казахстане: история и судьбы. Астана: Елорда, 2007. 221 с.
8. Артыкбаев Ж.О. История Казахстана. Алматы: Казак университет, 2006. 312 с.
9. Обзор Тургайской области за 1915 год. Оренбург: Типография Б. Бреслина, 1916. 175 с.
10. Оренбургские епархиальные ведомости. 1905. №17. Оренбург: Тургайская областная типография. 142 с.

ХІХ–ХХ ҒАСЫРЛАР ТОҒЫСЫНДАҒЫ АҚТӨБЕ ОБЛЫСЫНДАҒЫ ПРАВОСЛАВИЕ

ПОПП И.А.¹, БЕГИМБАЕВА Ж.С.², НАСЫРОВ Р.Т.^{2*}

Попп Иван Александрович¹ – Тарих ғылымдарының кандидаты, доцент, Орал мемлекеттік педагогикалық университеті, Екатеринбург қ., Ресей Федерациясы.

E-mail: popp82@mail.ru, <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5257-1126>

Бегимбаева Жібек Сагинбаевна² – Тарих ғылымдарының кандидаты, қауымдастырылған профессор, Қ.Жұбанов атындағы Ақтөбе өңірлік университеті, Ақтөбе қ., Қазақстан

E-mail: zhibekbegimbayeva@gmail.com, <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9827-379X>

***Насыров Руслан Табрисович**² – Тарих магистрі, оқытушы, Қ.Жұбанов атындағы Ақтөбе өңірлік университеті, Ақтөбе қ., Қазақстан

E-mail: rnassyrov@zhubanov.edu.kz, <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2661-1670>

Аңдатпа. Зерттеу ХІХ ғасырдың соңы – ХХ ғасырдың басындағы Ақтөбе облысындағы православиенің дамуына арналған. 1891 жылы Ақ-Төбе бекінісінің уездік Актыубинск қаласына айналуынан кейін өңірге қоныс аудару үдерісі айтарлықтай күшейді. Қаладағы славян халқы санының өсуі православиелік шіркеулер салу қажеттілігін туғызды. Мақалада алғашқы шіркеулердің құрылу тарихы мен дін қызметкерлерінің қызметі қарастырылады. Шіркеулер мен приходтық мектептердің қызмет ету жағдайлары, сондай-ақ оқытушылық қызметке қатысты мәліметтер зерттеледі.

Зерттеу барысында авторлар Ақтөбе облысының мемлекеттік архивінде жинақталған материалдарға сыни талдау жасап, өңірге қатысты шіркеулік құжаттарды қоса алғанда, ғылыми еңбектерге тарихнамалық шолу жүргізді. Сонымен қатар, қала халқының саны мен құрамы және олардың уақыт өте өзгеруі жөніндегі

статистикалық мәліметтерге ерекше назар аударылған.

Түйін сөздер: шіркеу мектебі, миссионерлік қызмет, қоныс аудару саясаты, Ақтөбе өңірі, халық саны.

ПРАВОСЛАВИЕ В АКТЮБИНСКОЙ ОБЛАСТИ НА РУБЕЖЕ XIX-XX ВЕКОВ

ПОПП И.А.¹, БЕГИМБАЕВА Ж.С.², НАСЫРОВ Р.Т.^{2*}

Попп Иван Александрович¹ – Кандидат исторических наук, доцент, Уральский государственный педагогический университет, г. Екатеринбург, Российская Федерация

E-mail: popp82@mail.ru, <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5257-1126>

Бегимбаева Жібек Сагинбаевна² – Кандидат исторических наук, ассоциированный профессор, Актюбинский региональный университет имени К. Жубанова, г. Ақтөбе, Қазақстан

E-mail: zhibekbegimbayeva@gmail.com, <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9827-379X>

***Насыров Руслан Табрисович**² – Магистр истории, преподаватель, Актюбинский региональный университет имени К. Жубанова, г. Ақтөбе, Қазақстан

E-mail: rnassyrov@zhubanov.edu.kz, <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2661-1670>

Аннотация. Исследование посвящено развитию православия в Актюбинской области в конце XIX - начале XX веков. После преобразования крепости Ак-Тюбе в уездный город Актюбинск в 1891 году наблюдалось значительное увеличение миграции в регион. Рост славянского населения в городе вызвал необходимость в срочном строительстве православных храмов. В статье рассматривается история создания первых храмов и деятельность духовенства. Исследуются условия функционирования церквей и приходских школ, а также информация, касающаяся преподавательской деятельности.

В ходе исследования авторы провели критический анализ материалов, собранных в Государственном архиве Актюбинской области, и провели историографический обзор научных трудов, в том числе церковных документов, связанных с регионом. Внимание также уделяется статистическим данным, особенно о численности и составе населения города и их изменениях с течением времени.

Ключевые слова: церковная школа, миссионерская деятельность, переселенческая политика, Актюбинский уезд, население.