**Lecture 6**

**Kazakh culture in 20th century**

1.Kazakh culture during the Soviet period. Contradictory trends in cultural politics

2. Establishment and development of Kazakh science, educational institutions and culture.

**Kazakh culture during the Soviet period. Contradictory trends in cultural politics**

Contradictory trends and crisis characterized the cultural life of Kazakhstan at the beginning of the 20th century.

An integral part of the *Bolshevik program* for building socialism was the formation of a new culture based on the principles of *partisanship* and *class ideology*. Basically, the *Bolshevik* party sought to concrete results which mostly resulted in propagating the values of *communism*.

In Soviet Kazakhstan, public education was the central direction of cultural transformation. In the pre-war period, *elimination of the illiteracy* of the population and creating a Soviet system of general and professional education has been a top priority.

The first schools of elementary literacy appeared in Akmolinsk, Aulie-Ata, Verny, Semipalatinsk cities and other settlements in late 1917 - early 1918 where there were the necessary conditions and intellectual forces.

In the second half of the 1930s, the first collective farms and areas of complete literacy appeared. The workers of such industrial giants as Turksib, the Balkhash copper-melting plant, the Chimkent lead plant, and the Karaganda coal basin learned to read and write. In 1937, almost all the Komsomol members of the republic were literate. In 1939, the *literacy* of the population of Kazakhstan under the age of 50 constituted nearly 83.6 per cent. The Great Patriotic War prevented the complete eradication of the alphabetical illiteracy.

After the introduction in 1930 of a universal compulsory primary education, a new phase in the history of school education starts. The Komsomol took over general education. They organized the repair of school premises and took care of providing children with shoes, clothes, and hot breakfasts. Subbotniks and voskresnik

By the end of the 1930s, the implementation of universal primary education was almost complete. In 1937, the level of enrollment of children in primary education reached almost 96 per cent.

At the same time, the *totalitarian* regime turned schools into a tool for educating an obedient and ideological generation. The government also propagated hatred of everything non-Soviet and the blind faith in the politics and ideology of the party. From the curriculum of the 30s, the books of A. Baitursynov, S. Asfendiarov, S. Seifullin, H. Dosmukhamedov and others - the «alash orda representatives (alashordyncy)» and so-called «enemies of the people» were withdrawn.

The problems and difficulties of school construction became even more aggravated during the Great Patriotic War. Many high school students had to join the *Red Army*. Schoolchildren had to leave studies and replace their fathers and brothers who had gone to the front in the workplace. The supply of schools with textbooks and teaching aids, notebooks and other school supplies has significantly deteriorated. Many children have become homeless, which led to total ignorance among youth. *The war worsened the material conditions for the proper functioning of schools.*

In less than three decades, the *Bolshevik regime* haveradically changed the cultural and spiritual image of the country. The then government established a vast network of cultural and educational institutions and the foundations of professional art. However, the cultural policy of the regime subordinated the entire spiritual sphere of society to the principles and spirit of *Marxism-Leninism in the Stalinist interpretation*. The government also placed under the most severe party control the activities of libraries, museums, clubs, theatres, and the press. The restriction of an individual's creative freedom and that of culture led to the alienation of an individual. It became one of the main reasons for sameness in the world outlook and people's lifestyle. Kazakhstan, as well as the entire Soviet Union, was cut off from world cultural processes.

**Establishment and development of Kazakh science, educational institutions and culture.**

The changes which took place in economy and culture with Soviet principles required the expansion of the training of specialists. Technical schools and colleges trained specialists. A large group of Kazakh boys and girls studied at Russian universities.

*Science, universities*

In the 20-30s, the higher school of Kazakhstan was at the stage of formation. Due to the lack of qualitative material and teaching staff, the accelerated quantitative growth of institutions was not possible.

So, in 1928, the first Kazakh National Pedagogical University named after Abai opened in Almaty. At least nine teachers worked there, and there were only 124 students. The Almaty Zooveterinary, Kazakh Agricultural and Almaty Medical Institutes opened in those years. In 1934, the Kazakh State University named after Kirov (currently Kazakh National University named after Al-Farabi) opened as well. Before the Great Patriotic War, as many as ten thousand students studied at twenty different universities of Kazakhstan. However, the degree of the teaching staff remained low.

The Great Patriotic War has been a significant impetus to the development of higher education in Kazakhstan. Several Russian, Ukrainian universities, as well as outstanding scientists from Moscow and the union republics, have arrived in Kazakhstan.

The development of higher education in Kazakhstan in the second half of the 20th century is the formation of the *Kazakh national intelligentsia*. 13 institutes opened in the 50s. Among them are zoo veterinarian (1951) and medical (1953) institutions in Semipalatinsk city; medical (1950), pedagogical (1952) and polytechnic (1953) institutions opened in Karaganda city; pedagogical institutes inaugurated in Guryev (1950), Chimkent (1954), Kustanai (1955) and other cities.

The main components of the educational and scientific potential of post-war Kazakhstan were the completion of the transition to seven-year, eight-year and secondary general education. The *Academy of Sciences of the Kazakh SSR* in 1946 established. Later on, it transforms into an important scientific centre in the East of the USSR.

During this period, the Academy included 50 scientific institutions, in which nearly five thousand scientists worked. Prominent scientists of the country such as A. Mukhamedgaliev, D. Zykov, A. Zhanderkin, N. Bazanova introduced over one hundred high-yielding varieties of crops into agriculture. Along with it, the Kazakh historians have created a two-volume work on the history of Kazakhstan whereas literary critics conducted in-depth research of Kazakh folklore, the account of Kazakh literature and language.

*Literature*

Kazakh literature occupied a prominent place in multinational Soviet literature. A decade of Kazakh literature took place in Moscow in 1949. In this time, Mukhtar Auezov publishes the novel «Abai». It received the USSR State Prize of the 1st degree. Later, other volumes of the four-volume epic «The Path of Abai» (Abai zholy), dedicated to the great enlightener of the Kazakh people Abai Kunanbayev, were published; the book was awarded the Lenin Prize as well. The epic novel, which has become an «encyclopedia of Kazakh people's life», a «moving panorama» of his everyday life, had a significant influence on the work of writers of the entire Soviet Union.

The Kazakh writers depicted the most important socio-economic and cultural tasks of that time.

The historical-revolutionary theme of the Great Patriotic War occupied an essential place in the Kazakh literature. S. Mukanov published the historical and revolutionary novel “Botagoz”, in which the life and struggle of the Kazakh people in 1912-1920 received a broad artistic embodiment.

Sabit Mukanov, Gabit Musrepov, Gabiden Mustafin - the writers, known as the *group of titans* have depicted the images of Ch. Valikhanov, S. Seifullin, a labour man, a Kazakh soldier-warrior, mothers, etc. Aбдижамил Nurpeisov's «Blood and Sweat», I. Esenberlin's «Nomads», A. Kekilbaev's «Urker», H. Esenzhanov's «The Zhunusov Brothers», Sh. Murtaza’s «Red Arrow», B. Momyshuly, A. Nurshaikhov, T. Akhtanov, M. Magauin, K. Zhumadilov, K. Salgar, D. Isabekov and others demonstrated the ideological and artistic growth of the national literature. Poets M. Makataev, T. Aybergenov, O. Suleimenov, K. Myrzaliev, M. Shakhanov, F. Ungarsynova, T. Moldagaliev, N. Aitov, K. Akhmetova raised the literary movement to a new level thereby continuing the best traditions of their senior colleagues.

*Theatre, music*

The improved level of stage skills made it possible to transform the musical theatre into the *Kazakh* *State Opera* and *Ballet Theater*. The coverage of the population with theatrical art had also increased sharply.

Auezov’s “In the apple orchard”, Musrepov’s “Amangeldy”, Abishev’s “Who is my father?” was successfully performed in the theatres of Kazakhstan. An important event in the musical life of the country was the creation in 1946 of a folklore opera by Tulebaev “Birzhan and Sara”, consonant with the motives of “Romeo and Juliet”. Veterans of the musical artists such as A. Zhubanov, E. Brusilovsky, V. Velikanov, L. Hamidi, S. Shabelsky and others created original works in the postwar years. Such famous pop masters as Roza Baglanova, Zhamal Omarova, Shara Zhienkulova, Bibigul Tulegenova and others have successfully performed at the Kazakh Philharmonic.

*Fine art, cinema*

The first successes of the visual arts are closely related to the activities of the Russian artist N. Khludov. In his works, he recreated the ordinary life of people, their bitterness and joy. Khludov initiated a painting studio in 1920. Artist N. Krutilnikov painted a portrait of Abai in oil paints for the 20th anniversary of the poet's death.

Realistic paintings represented fine art on modern themes created by young artists Telzhanov, Galimbaeva, Tansykbaev and others. The exhibition of Kazakh artwork in Moscow in 1958 showed more than five hundred paintings from works of applied art.

A. Ismailov, A. Kasteev and others have studied art education outside of the country

The best creation of the Kazakh cinema art of the 50-60s was the feature films «Dzhambul», «Botagoz», «His time will come», «Song of Manshuk», «Moscow is behind us», «Girl-horseman». The films of the 70-80s «Kyz-Zhibek», «The End of the Ataman», «Transsiberian Express», «Torah», «Sultan Beybarys» testify to the professional and creative growth of filmmakers in the country.

Thus, the Soviet period in the history of Kazakhstan's culture, full of significant, sometimes dramatic changes and events, wrote one of the volumuous pages in the past of our country. In the difficult conditions of totalitarianism and ideological diktat, an integral system of spiritual values has developed. The people's intellectual elite made an invaluable contribution to the treasury of world civilization. The culture of Kazakhstan, having got rid of the administrative diktat and ideological preoccupation inherent in the totalitarian regime on December 16, 1991, entered a new stage of its development.