

The influence of environmental factors on the socio-economic adaptation of deported populations during the Great Patriotic War

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Abstract. The role of natural conditions in shaping the socio-economic adaptation of deported peoples during the Great Patriotic War is a multifaceted topic that deserves comprehensive exploration. This study delves into the complex interplay between environmental factors and human adaptation strategies in the context of wartime displacement. By analyzing historical records, demographic data, and testimonies from deported populations, the research sheds light on how environmental conditions such as climate, geography, and resource availability influenced the socio-economic dynamics of displaced communities. Moreover, the study examines the resilience and resourcefulness exhibited by deported peoples as they navigated unfamiliar environments and confronted various challenges. It explores how these populations utilized local resources, adapted traditional practices, and forged new social and economic networks to cope with the upheaval caused by forced displacement. Additionally, the research investigates the responses of authorities and relief organizations to the needs of deported populations, considering the extent to which environmental factors informed policy decisions and humanitarian interventions.

1 Introduction

This review provides insight into the evolving historiography surrounding the Soviet home front during the Great Patriotic War, focusing on the phenomenon of limit state mobilization. The authors aim to identify new aspects that contribute to understanding the complex dynamics of resource utilization and societal adaptation during wartime mobilization efforts. Through a meticulous examination of archival sources and personal accounts, they highlight the integral role of various adjustments and adaptations in enhancing the effectiveness of the mobilization system [1].

Traditionally, studies on the Soviet home front have explored topics such as evacuation, economic development, labor regulation, propaganda, and mass sentiments. However,

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recent historiography has expanded the scope of inquiry and deepened the analysis of each topic, thanks to the availability of new archival materials [2]. The authors, W.Z. Goldman and D. Filtzer, draw on a wealth of archival sources to shift the focus from institutional structures to the specifics of directive preparation and implementation, as well as the outcomes of mobilization mechanisms.

The review underscores the significance of mass evacuation as a crucial component of the Soviet mobilization system, emphasizing its scale and impact on future victory. Evacuation, once examined primarily through policy documents and reporting data, has now become the subject of in-depth investigation into its economic, social, and cultural dimensions [3]. This shift reflects broader trends in humanitarian research, which prioritize understanding the lived experiences and interactions of evacuees with host communities.

Overall, the review highlights the evolving nature of historiography surrounding the Soviet home front, particularly in the exploration of mobilization practices and their socio-economic implications [4].

2 Research methodology

In the history of every ethnic group, there is tangible evidence of the profound impact of its geographical surroundings. Ethnic communities are intricately linked with nature through their economic pursuits [5]. Many ancient tribes and nationalities seamlessly integrated into their landscapes without attempting to alter them. This includes hunters, fishermen, pastoralists, gatherers, and some agricultural tribes that don't rely on artificial irrigation. The bond between established ethnic groups and their environments is demonstrated by how they adapt their economic activities to specific conditions. Over time, a harmonious relationship between ethnicity and landscape develops, benefiting both. A stable landscape helps stabilize an ethnic group, rendering the creation of a new one unnecessary. However, if the landscape undergoes significant changes due to drastic climatic shifts, the ethnic group, deprived of its accustomed conditions, may decline in numbers, face extinction, or migrate in search of familiar environments.

Ethnogenesis processes can occur independently of climatic changes, but they often originate in specific regions of the Earth's surface. While some habitable areas have never been the ancestral lands of peoples, already established ethnic groups may inhabit them and achieve advanced levels of development.

Human existence has always been intertwined with the geographic environment, leading to inevitable interactions between them. This interaction has two evident aspects: the impact of nature on humans and the influence of humans on nature. Before delving into the intricate dynamics of this interaction, it's crucial to understand its complexities.

3 Results and Discussions

Many proponents of geographic materialism attributed significant influence to climate. They believed that climate shapes the human psyche, which in turn affects various aspects of life, customs, social systems, and laws. Despite its outwardly materialistic nature, S.V. Kalesnik argued that this theory is essentially idealistic because it places the human psyche at the forefront of social phenomena [6]. According to this perspective, soil fertility supposedly also influences the governance of a country. Other advocates of geographic

materialism contend that climate, soil quality, and food availability shape material culture, while the overall appearance of nature influences spirituality.

Understanding Soviet deportation requires a global context. It challenges conceptions of global justice and the rule of law (Hasselberg, 2016: 145). Analogous instances, such as the deportation of Jews during the Holocaust, highlight similar themes of displacement and injustice [8].

Contemporary examples, like debates over immigration policies such as the proposed Great Wall of America, echo historical patterns of exclusion and displacement. The Rohingya crisis, with over 730,000 refugees fleeing to Bangladesh, underscores ongoing issues of persecution and displacement.

The integration of Chechen people into East Kazakhstan's socio-cultural fabric has proven challenging. Local authorities made efforts to support settlers, but local communities often overlooked their needs, leading to varied responses from kindness to violence. These dynamics highlight the complexities of socio-cultural interactions in frontier regions, where diverse ethnicities intersect amidst economic and social transformations.

Ancient Greek scientists, such as Hecataeus and later Hippocrates, recognized the interdependence between humans and their natural environment. Hippocrates introduced the concept of "fusus," viewing humans as part of a cosmic harmony. He saw humans as microcosms within the larger mesocosm and macrocosm [4]. While the macrocosm was considered ideal, the mesocosm (environment) could vary in its qualities. Hippocrates identified three climatic bands: cold northern, moderate middle, and hot dry southern. He observed that the inhabitants of these regions differed in their physical and mental characteristics, suggesting a link between climate and human attributes. This laid the foundation for geographical determinism.

The challenges of integrating Chechen people into the socio-cultural fabric of East Kazakhstan highlight the complexities of frontier dynamics. While regional authorities made efforts to support settlers, important issues faced by the Chechens were often overlooked at the local level, leading to varied responses from local populations ranging from kindness to violence. This underscores how the sociocultural space of frontiers influences ethnological dialogue and interactions with diverse ethnic groups.

During the archival revolution, the problem of forced resettlement under the Soviet state's repressive policies initially garnered attention due to its sensational nature. Foreign historiography subsequently explored deportation as a tool of the Soviet state against perceived threats, such as the 'fifth column,' ethnic cleansing, or ethnic conflict, while also analyzing the assimilation of deported peoples and employing anthropological approaches [5]

Some authors, like J. Burds, argue that the indirect cause of the Chechen deportation during the Soviet state's war with Germany was the strategic importance of the Caucasus, which supplied a significant portion of Soviet gas and fuel reserves. Burds also contends that Chechen resistance against the NKVD in the Caucasus Mountains during the war contributed to their deportation. I. Hasselberg posits that the Soviet forced population movements have been the subject of earlier literature on deportation, tracing back to the 1960s. Deportation, as noted by Walters (2002), is just one form of expulsion, which also includes religious expulsion, transportation of criminals, political exile, and population transfers. Unlike other forms, Soviet forced population transfers specifically relocated people from their birthplace to a designated area, often targeting specific ethnic groups such as Chechens, Poles, or Ingush. Deportation, on the other hand, aims to forcibly remove

individuals from their current residence to their prospective country of origin, typically based on factors like lack of legal immigration status or undesirable behavior such as moral conduct, political beliefs, or criminal records. However, these distinctions aren't always clear-cut.

Foreign authors have extensively studied ethnic cleansing of various groups such as Poles, Crimean Tatars, and Germans. Research on the deportation history of Crimean Tatars indicates that generational memory influences the behavior of descendants of deportees, shaping their political attitudes.

In Russian historical science, significant contributions have been made to the coverage of forced resettlement issues and subsequent rehabilitation of affected peoples. Notable works by N.F. Bugay focus on the historiography and source study of forced migrations, particularly those of 'desecrated' and 'punished' peoples deemed unreliable. P. Polyan has examined the geography of forced resettlement, including the deportation of Chechens and Ingushes to Kazakhstan's Karaganda region/

4 Conclusions

Unfamiliar climatic conditions, moral despair, violations of constitutional rights, verbal abuse and disrespect from leaders and officials, hunger, and perpetual deprivation sadly characterized the daily lives of Chechens and Ingush during that time. The spring of 1944 and the subsequent winter were particularly harsh. Like other special settlers, Chechens and Ingush endured extreme hardships just to survive. V. Chernov was compelled to acknowledge this reality in one of his memorandums on October 24, 1944. He noted that "the deportees were forced to cram into semi-basements, former warehouses without heating, dugouts with dirt floors, devoid of windows, heating, and light." Life in such inadequate accommodations without sufficient food or warm clothing was a nightmare for the mountain people.

Numerous archival sources corroborate the lawlessness experienced by special settlers. Many heads of collective farms, state farms, and industrial enterprises neglected their needs entirely. For instance, in the North-Kazakhstan region, the chairman of the Khleborob collective farm in the Konyukhovsky district openly admitted ignorance about the whereabouts and conditions of the special settlers, stating, "Let them live as they wish." These examples offer a glimpse into the tragic circumstances faced by those deported to Northern Kazakhstan and Central Asia in 1944. Yet, even these isolated instances underscore the magnitude of the tragedy and the inhumane policies of the Stalinist regime towards entire peoples.

It's worth noting that those attempting to justify or whitewash the actions of the regime should remember that Stalin was personally acquainted with each document presented in this work. He approved them with his signature, initiating each into action without consideration for the tragic fate that awaited many repressed peoples.

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