Problems of Kazakhs Resettlement to Altay Region (Russian Federation)

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ABSTRACT The focus of the present paper is the history of resettlement; the reasons and ways the Kazakh population migrated to Altay Republic of Russian Federation. This paper is based on fieldwork results and materials that were collected during scientific expedition to Altay in 2013. Researchers used and analyzed materials from various sources (archival, literary, scientific, and oral), to clarify the clan-tribal composition of Kazakh population in the region that was studied. Comparative analysis along with other scientific methods was used in the research of the present problem. The researchers also identified peculiarities of the resettlement processes and ethnic demographic indicators for local Kazakhs. The researchers traced the beginning of Kazakh resettlement to mountainous Altay that started in the second half of the nineteenth century. The initial resettlement of the Kazakhs to these lands was triggered by ethno-political changes that happened in the region. Those changes were caused by foreign politics of the Russian and Chinese empires which significantly contributed unto Kazakh migration.