

CHINESE MIGRATION TO KAZAKHSTAN: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

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The purpose of the research is to consider the economic aspects of migration from China to Kazakhstan, to reveal its features and the most important mechanisms of development, to analyze the objective determinants and socio-economic impacts of the expansion of Chinese presence in the Republic of Kazakhstan in the context of forming the effective migration policy in the country. The article is based on the use of the interdisciplinary nature of the subject and on the works of Kazakhstan and foreign authors. The following scientific methods and techniques have been used in the work: scientific abstraction, grouping, qualitative expert estimates, quantitative estimates, comparative analysis and synthesis. In the article the process of Chinese migration to the Republic of Kazakhstan in terms of trade and economic cooperation between the two countries has been analyzed. On the basis of statistical and sociological data the characteristics of the migration are represented, its role in the socio-economic life of the country is defined. In addition, the present article considers the role of modern diasporas in international relations, reveals peculiarities of the demographic and migration policies of the People's Republic of China, observes the dynamics of cross-border migration. Recommendations for improving the migration policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan have been given.

Keywords: Chinese migration, immigration, labor migration, migration processes, expansion, demography, immigrants, trade and economic relations, investments.

INTRODUCTION

Description of the problem

In the world characterized by highly developed means of transport and global networks that are used for the production of goods, provision of services and information and their sharing, the population is becoming more mobile. International movement of people has currently become an ingrained feature of the modern life. In the face of growing incorporation of the international labor market and the world economy, migration has become an integral part of the phenomenon, commonly referred to as globalization (Vitkovskaia, 2004, p. 9).

Nowadays the urgency of the problem of migration, especially labor migration, is increasing dramatically during the global financial and economic crisis (Kozhirova, 2009), but at the same time the international economic relations including trade ones between China and Kazakhstan are strengthening.

Migration has become one of the main factors that have a direct impact on the economy, culture, national policy, international and inter-ethnic relations

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(Mustafayev, 2006). Nowadays the migration is moving from the stage of socio-economic phenomena to the stage of political ones. Therefore, understanding of interaction of political processes and migration, as well as revealing the essence, nature and direction of their interaction are becoming essential elements of national and regional security.

Relevance of the study

Chinese migration is one of the most important factors affecting the socio-economic and possibly demographic development of Kazakhstan in the long term (Kozhirova, 2009). In this case we proceed from the fact that the demographic situation and main migration processes are important areas of life and politics of modern China, which determine not only its own development, but the development of its neighbors. Over the long term they will become one of the factors forming China's relations with neighboring countries, including Kazakhstan. Steady population growth exacerbates the problems associated with insufficient food stocks, deterioration of nutrition quality, uncontrolled migration. Taking these circumstances into account, one may consider our research topical.

The publications often contain the statements that Beijing purposefully implements the strategy of expansion, intending to settle the border areas with its citizens (Zhiengaliev, 1999; Zhundibaeva, 2001; Curry, 2001; Berimzharova, 2001). However, the available materials and documents do not allow to interpret this problem unambiguously. Facing a significant increase in unemployment and adapting to globalization, Chinese leaders pursue an active migration policy aimed at supporting "Huaqiao" abroad and using its business and financial capacities for the development of the national economy (Gelbras, 2004). In this regard, it is impossible to imagine that Beijing can decide to give priority to the policy of demographic expansion, risking to provoke destabilization of its relations with Kazakhstan and the whole Central Asian region. In turn, this would affect trade and economic development of China.

The inconsistency of assessments of demographic, economic and socio-political consequences of the expansion of the Chinese presence in the country, as well as the policy on immigration of Chinese citizens to the country in terms of the future development of Kazakhstan, are always considered by researchers and periodically become the subject of debates. In Kazakhstan, the official attitude towards Chinese migration is more positive than negative. However, in the Kazakh society the level of concern arising from the expansion of Chinese migration does not decrease (Amantaeva, 2009).

Noteworthy is the fact that, despite the ongoing heated debates on the issue of Chinese immigration, there are not enough reliable data on the real extent and structure of migration from China (Sadovskaya, 2009; Syroezhkin, 2006; Amantaeva, 2009). Official statistics does not coincide with the researchers's

estimates. This fact determines the importance of a comprehensive and balanced analysis of the main trends of Chinese migration to Kazakhstan and the outcomes this situation may cause.

Literature Review

In the study we generally used the materials of Russian and Kazakhstan experts in the field of migration. The primary focus of the works by V.G. Gelbras (2001, 2004), V.Y. Portyakov (2006), A.G. Larin (2002) is on the problem of Chinese migration. In particular, the scholarship by Gelbras V.G. is based on the results of the survey of representatives of Chinese communities in Moscow and in the Far East. The main conclusion to be drawn from his work is the evidence of the absence of “Chinese expansion”. Kazakhstan studies of Chinese migration are mainly represented by the works of K.L. Syroezhkin (2006, 2010, 2011), who gives a detailed account of the history of Chinese migration to the territory of Kazakhstan, highlights the steps and the sequence of population migration. In Syroezhkin’s studies for the first time the question about the nature and the meaning of Chinese migration was raised, its assessment was given, the analysis of the impact on social and economic processes in Kazakhstan was carried out. In addition, his works contain the generalized analysis of contemporary Chinese studies on cross-border relations, Chinese migration policies, the demographic potential of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region (XUAR).

The problems of Chinese migration to the Republic of Kazakhstan and security issues were comprehensively considered in the work by S.B. Kozhirova (2009) “Chinese migration as an element of regional security”. Some aspects of the problem under study were analyzed in the works by G.M. Mendikulova (1997, 2009), who laid the foundations of diasporology in Kazakhstan. Some aspects of this problem were considered in the works of B.Zh. Amantaeva (2009), E.Y. Sadouskaya (2009). The issues of modernization, trade and economic relations of the Republic of Kazakhstan and China have been discussed in the monograph by N.A. Aldabek (2014) “Modernization of China and Kazakhstan”.

The main purpose of this article is to consider the economic aspects of migration from China to Kazakhstan, to reveal its features and the most important mechanisms of development, to analyze the objective determinants and socio-economic consequences of expanding Chinese presence in the Republic of Kazakhstan in the context of the national security and effective migration policy making in the country.

The article consists of 6 parts: introduction, methods, results, discussion, conclusions, references.

METHODS

The classic Western social theories compose the theoretical and methodological basis of this article. According to P.Sorokin’s theory migration may be regarded

as horizontal social mobility; one may distinguish between two types of it: mobility as a voluntary movement and mobility caused by structural changes (industrialization and demographic factors). In the course of research we used general scientific and special Political science methods. The systematic method and the use of the analytical approach allowed to substantiate the relations of migration processes and national security issues.

The methodology was chosen to perform the tasks formulated in the article to the fullest degree possible. A set of practical methods offered by theories of international relations, along with the historical-comparative method and systematic approach, were used.

In addition, theoretical and methodological basis of the research is based on the use of multi-disciplinary nature of the subject as well as the works by Kazakhstan and foreign authors. In the course of the article the following scientific methods and techniques were used: scientific abstraction, grouping, qualitative expert estimates, quantitative estimates, comparative analysis and synthesis. The comparative analysis allowed to trace the general mechanisms and principles of migration between Kazakhstan and China. As a result, different phenomena were combined, the causal relations between them were identified and assessed.

The method of content analysis in the use of mass media materials, articles on websites and social networks was used.

RESULTS

An increase in scientific interest towards the Chinese migration and focusing on such issues as economic, socio-cultural and demographic security are considered up-to-date, as the situation associated with the Chinese presence in Kazakhstan is complicated. At present, the main challenge is to study not only the quantitative characteristics of Chinese migration, but also its quality parameters. It is of paramount importance in the context of the current development of migration processes and scenarios of their development in the future. Complicated modern cross-border migration processes make topical the issues of mutual adaptation of migrants and the host society, the factors of their interaction, problems of conflict situations (Kozhirova, 2009). It should be emphasized that the issues of regional and national security in Central Asia are largely determined by the demographic situation in China, the character and the intensity of Chinese external migration. In this regard, analyzing the works of the above-mentioned researchers and mass media materials, one may make the following general conclusions about problems of migration in the Republic of Kazakhstan and generally in the world today:

1. Migration processes are becoming an integral structural part of globalization. The globalization of labor migration leads to segmentation of the labor market in the host countries and the allocation of job types that are mainly occupied by migrants (Amantaeva, 2009). The scale and

the area of international migration have expanded; this process affected almost every country in the world. According to the needs of the globalized labor market the structure of migration flows has changed.

2. Migration processes are not only the result of the integration, but also a prerequisite for further changes in the society, they can affect the allocation of factors of social development, the formation of the political and legal system of the state (Mustafayev, 2006). The interaction of migration processes and national security are defined by geopolitical aspects, threats and challenges of the demographic and economic security.
3. The study of the dynamics of migration processes from China to the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan allows to determine the characteristics of modern Chinese migration, to understand ethnic and cultural specifics of the Kazakh-Chinese border areas. In the course of the large-scale migration flows the areas of resettlement of former Chinese citizens, mostly ethnic Kazakhs and Uighurs (Seylehanov, 2009) have been formed. In fact, XUAR, Almaty, and East Kazakhstan regions of the Republic of Kazakhstan represent a single migration area between the two countries.
4. China has enormous potential for migration, the implementation of which in the conditions of market reforms and the current financial and economic crisis has led not only to internal population flow. The Chinese authorities encourage a part of the population of the eastern provinces – in particular the Han people – to migrate to the national suburbs (Mendikulova, 2009). At the same time, these processes are accompanied by a marked migration outflow from the country. Further strengthening of foreign economic expansion of China will actively promote the growth of migration from the country.
5. The social and professional composition of Chinese migrants who arrived in Kazakhstan, is quite diverse (Kozhirova, 2009). It consists of individuals having their own businesses, or people who work on a regular basis. These findings refute the embedded stereotypes about the fact that the main reason for Chinese migration is the unemployment in the country. A distinguishing feature of the structure of migration from China is its spatial characteristics. Geography of Chinese migration is quite extensive and has a complex internal structure.
6. There are no serious studies and publications with official data on the presence of the Chinese in Kazakhstan. There is no publicly available information on the number, geography of settlement, the structure of labor migration from China and the problems in their community. There is no available information on major Kazakhstan-Chinese trade, economic and

investment projects. These facts give rise to “myths” that accompany the Kazakhstan-Chinese relations and Sinophobia (Syroezhkin, 2010). The importance of studying Chinese migration is defined not only by lack of knowledge about that social phenomenon, but also by the lack of regulatory experience in Kazakhstan and, therefore, the need for the formation of the analytical base for decision-making in this area.

7. Modern Chinese migration is temporary and is not aimed at the resettlement of the Chinese (the Han people) for permanent residence (Sadovskaya, 2009). The strategy of Chinese entrepreneurs in Kazakhstan is to accumulate the initial capital for subsequent repatriation for business expansion or relocation to the West. According to the observations, the Han people employ mostly the ethnic Chinese, so with the increase of the Chinese and joint businesses the employment rate in these areas will increase.
8. The migration for permanent residence from China to the Republic of Kazakhstan took place in years prior to the sovereignty, but since 1991 it has been implemented in the framework of repatriation of ethnic Kazakhs (oralmans), which is the main direction of the state migration policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan (Sadovskaya, 2009). Therefore, since the establishment of diplomatic relations between Kazakhstan and China, most Chinese migrants arriving in Kazakhstan are ethnic Kazakhs.

DISCUSSION

Strengthening economic relations between Kazakhstan and China as a factor of the growth of Chinese migration

The China's population is 1 billion 306 million 280 thousand people, the number of population participating in the process of internal migration has reached 147 million 350 thousand people, including migration to the other provinces – 47 million 790 thousand people (Kozhirova, 2009). According to Syroezhkin K.L., the internal migration in China is 210-215 million people (Syroezhkin, 2011).

For the stable social and economic situation in China, it is necessary to provide a greater part of the population with jobs. According to forecasts, the number of the unemployed only in Chinese cities by 2020 may reach 90-130 million people (Kozhirova, 2009). Thus, the reasons of Chinese migration are largely related to the specifics of the socio-demographic situation in Kazakhstan and China, as well as features of the political regime and socio-economic processes.

Migration from China to Kazakhstan is caused by the system of “pushing” and “attracting” factors, which present a set of conditions and circumstances affecting the territorial mobility of the population. These factors are mainly characterized by economic aspects, expanding economic links between the two

countries, as well as the specific features that are characteristic of migration flows from China.

Currently, Kazakhstan, along with the other Central Asian states, is an important country for China, because it is located in close proximity to the main areas of its global and regional influence. In this regard, it is clear that China will intensify its economic policy in Kazakhstan as the main means of comprehensive influence, occupying all sorts of free economic niches.

Currently, in Kazakhstan there are more than 30 companies with Chinese participation, 12 of which are wholly owned by Chinese investors (Aldabek, 2014). Participation of Chinese investors in Kazakhstan's oil industry is expanding through the acquisition of the assets sold by western companies, and China is willing to continue financing this sector. According to various estimates, it controls from 20 to 40% of the oil sector of the country. Kazakhstan is also the largest trading partner of China in Central Asia. Trade turnover between the two states in 2013 amounted to 26 billion dollars; in 2015 the states decided on an increase in the volume of mutual trade up to 40 billion dollars (Akorda, 2013).

At the official meeting in Astana with the Kazakhstan President N.Nazarbayev, in 2013 the Chinese President Xi Jinping stressed that "the Kazakhstan's land, through which the routes of the ancient Silk Road were mapped, has made a significant contribution to the integration of Eastern and Western civilizations, contributed to the development of relations with different nationalities and cultures". Today there is "the need to apply new models of cooperation, mutually form an "economic route" of the Silk Road, starting from the specific areas" (Kazinform, 2013).

In short, using its economic and financial power, the opportunities for investment and trade, China will expand its presence in Kazakhstan and "will behave more actively, primarily in economic terms" (Aldabek, 2014), according to professor Pan Guang, the vice-chairman of the Shanghai Center for International Studies at the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, the Director of the Shanghai Research Center of the SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organization).

The Chinese policy of expanding its presence in Central Asia is evident in the economic sphere, which particularly reveals a large-scale increase in the volume of the Sino-Central Asian trade, the Chinese design and investment activity in the region has considerably increased along with the intensification of trade relations (Kozhirova, 2009). The Chinese migration area will be expanded by groups of medium and small business entrepreneurs who will seek spheres for investment, as well as new forms of doing business in neighboring countries.

The Chinese labor migration is an objective reality to be reckoned with. We should learn this, especially in the context of the forthcoming accession of Kazakhstan to the WTO (World Trade Organization) (Syroezhkin, 2006, p. 186). In December 2015, Kazakhstan became a full member of the World Trade

Organization; it means that the two countries are moving into a new stage of multilateral cooperation.

Migration potential of Chinese XUAR and economic relations between Kazakhstan and China

The role of XUAR in economic relations between Kazakhstan and China and migration potential of the western part of the neighboring state should be taken into account.

Recently, in the official framework of interstate relations and strategic partnership, the process of sub-regional economic merger of the Central Asian republics, in this case, Kazakhstan with Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, is strengthening. This is reflected in the intensification of commerce, cross-border, investment, agriculture cooperation, migration exchange, cultural and humanitarian relations between people of similar ethnic groups living on both sides of the border, the development of transport and logistics projects (Aldabek, 2014). Cross-border transport infrastructure, in the construction of which China is currently investing significant financial resources, will contribute to deepening the process of sub-regionalization, so that the integration of the countries of Central Asia and China continues at full stretch.

For greater clarity, it is necessary to set out the priorities of China in economic cooperation with Kazakhstan, which are naturally consistent with its program of development of the western regions as one of the most important tasks of the country modernization.

In addition, the program is aimed at addressing the demographic problems in the east of the country, because millions of people can be resettled in the vast and sparsely populated areas of the western provinces. Certainly, in conditions of the market economy the pre-reform mobilization methods of resettlement cannot be followed, and the science-based migration programs are being developed, taking into account the regulation of the size and employment of the population.

Chinese authorities intend to turn their northwestern autonomous region into the active engine of China's economy, this factor will contribute significantly to the socio-economic growth and development of Kazakhstan, and in order not to miss the chance to maximize the potential of the future of XUAR, it is necessary to intensively cooperate with Beijing in the implementation of infrastructure projects and the joint management of migration flows.

According to the official data, the Han people account for only 40% of the population of this major administrative region of China. There is a hypothesis about the prospects of increasing demographic pressure on the Central Asian states from the part of Xinjiang, emergence of the problem of illegal migration. Indeed, in the next 10-20 years, the population explosion is expected in XUAR. According to the calculations of Xinjiang demographers, the population of XUAR in 2030

will increase up to 24.1-30.1 million people, and according to the overvalued forecast – up to 33.5-40.6 million people (Kozhirova, 2009).

According to Syroezhkin K.L., Xinjiang's population is steadily increasing. At the end of 2008 it exceeded 21.3 million people. The migration of the Han people from the internal districts can take place. It has an impact on the problems of ethnic competition and “surplus labor forces”. Therefore, it potentially creates conditions for foreign labor migration, and in case of exacerbation of the situation – the conditions for the emergence of refugees from XUAR (Syroezhkin, 2010).

Most entrants arrive in Kazakhstan using guest visas. This is about 35-45 thousand people per year, while 80% of the entrants are holders of tourist visas. Labor migration is 5-7 thousand people per year (Syroezhkin, 2011). However, some of migrants seek by all means to settle down in Kazakhstan and get a job in the country; it means they break the laws of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The problem of illegal migration and the ways of its solution

Chinese labor migration is a challenge to the economic security of Kazakhstan: it exacerbates the problem of unemployment in the region, increasing it (Mendikulova, 2009). Illegal residence and illegal economic activities of the Chinese in Kazakhstan create “shadow structures”, the informal sector of employment, the illegal export of funds from the country (Kozhirova, 2009). All this contributes to the emergence of all-encompassing corruption network.

The main current threat to national security is caused not by Chinese migration, but the mechanism of economic and other extra-legal relations accompanying the migration process. These relations are reinforced by migration one way or another (Syroezhkin, 2006, p. 187). And apparently, these are Kazakhstani officials who are responsible for violations, rather than Chinese immigrants, who are subsequently blamed in such situations.

Everything rests on our own administrative and economic system, or, put simply, the corruption of relevant bodies dealing with migration (Aldabek, 2014). In other words, the main direction of work should include not the limitation of the Chinese appetites, but rather good state regulation of manage economic relations, raising patriotism and professionalism of public servants responsible for the corresponding work, incrimination of corruption and its suppression, ensuring that investments by Chinese companies and Chinese migration would work in accordance with the interests of the state.

The perception of this reality depends on us, thus, should we fill our minds with negative sentiment on the strategic threat if the dependence has already taken place, it will not be possible to change the existing situation, the conflicts will possibly occur, but does it make sense? It is better to look for the positive aspects of this reality and work out the plans for cooperation, for the system of the

Kazakhstan-China trade and economic relations to work constantly for increasing the well-being of the citizens of Kazakhstan.

CONCLUSION

In this article the study of migratory flows from China has been conducted in the context of their impact on the processes of demographic and socio-economic development of Kazakhstan, the role and place of China in contemporary international migration in Kazakhstan have been revealed, the basic mechanisms of dynamics and trends of Chinese migration to Kazakhstan have been established.

The analysis of the research problem, new theoretical and methodological approaches and recent scientific literature, the dynamics of migration processes lead to the following conclusions:

- It has been proved that the interdependence of migration processes and the state of national security is determined by the geopolitical aspects, threats and challenges of demographic and economic security;
- The wrongfulness of statements on Chinese demographic expansion has been proved, it has been revealed that Chinese labor migration presents a trade minority;
- It has been proved that with the expansion of the scale of China's economic presence in Central Asia the structural changes and an increase in migration flows will take place.

The problem is not how to prevent the Chinese migration, but how to take this process under control, at the same time the key objectives of the regulation of this process should be regarded as administrative and legal aspects that must be considered in the following areas:

- Ensuring the protection of the national economy from the unwanted inflow of Chinese migrants, both on a scale and in the qualitative composition;
- Addressing the most pressing problems in the employment of Chinese migrant workers in Kazakhstan with flexible regulation of the number of migrants;
- Rational use of Chinese migrants arriving in the country in the economic interests of Kazakhstan;
- Opportunities for legal migration (including labor migration programs to ease population pressure, the opening of labor markets, etc.);
- Effective organization of border protection (for border security, protection against crime, combating illegal migration).

Uncontrolled migration can often lead to immeasurable social, financial and political costs for individuals, society and state anywhere in the migration spectrum, i.e. in the country of origin, transit or destination country. When discussing any

element of the approach to migration, a whole range of issues should be taken into account. Since migration is an international phenomenon, the isolated development of the national strategy on migration will not allow to achieve good results. Thus, inter-state cooperation is a prerequisite for effective management of international migration.

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