

# Policies and Impacts of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics Against the Polish People from 1937-1942: The Case of Kazakhstan

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## Abstract

The article examines the concept of Stalinist stereotypes, first of all, in order to understand the causes and consequences of repressive measures carried out by the state against various categories of the people of Kazakhstan. It looks particularly at the Poles on the basis of documents and materials introduced into scientific circulation, identified in the archives of Kazakhstan and Russia.

The study of social and household structures of repressed ethnic groups allows the tracing of the role of special settlers in creating a powerful industrial potential of the country in remote areas with harsh climatic conditions. Particularly interesting is the question of the work of state authorities to create conditions for the life of special settlers in special settlements,

In summary, this research contributes to a deeper understanding of the repressive measures taken by the state during the Stalinist era in Kazakhstan, particularly concerning the Poles, and their implications for the industrial and social development of the region. It also highlights the government's role in managing and providing for special settlers, as well as legal challenges they faced.

**Keywords:** Repression, deportation, besiegers, special settlements, special commendation, camp economy.

## Introduction

Commonality of the historical fate of the people of Kazakhstan has developed over many decades as a result of living together on the territory of Kazakhstan. At different times, in different ways, different nationalities, including the Poles have moved to Kazakhstan, and have ended up there not of their own free will. The Poles became one of the numerous groups that became victims of the repressive policy of the USSR based on nationality, and not class affiliation. Many of them remained to live in Kazakhstan forever.

Today, 34,057 Poles live in Kazakhstan (ARARK, 2011) who represent the latest ethnic component of the multinational population of Kazakhstan. They come together through the cultural center of the Poles known as 'Polonia' exists in Kazakhstan. The work of the center is

aimed at maintaining ties between the two groups of people in the fields of culture, entertainment and education. The Union of Poles of Kazakhstan represents the interests of the Polish population in the Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan and in other government institutions of the country. Its activities are aimed at the revival and development of national traditions and customs, the study of the native language and the Polish history. While maintaining and strengthening ties with the historical Motherland of Poland, Kazakh Poles gratefully perceive Kazakhstan also as their Motherland. Indeed, it is where they were born, where their friends are, where the graves of their parents and grandfathers are, and where all ethnic groups have merged in the single people of Kazakhstan.

In this context, this paper examines the ways in which the policies of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic have implemented acts against the Polish People in 1937-1942. Its objectives are:

1. To elucidate the systemic mechanisms and ideological underpinnings through which the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics executed repressive measures against the Polish People from 1937 to 1942, shedding light on the broader dynamics of state-sponsored repression within a multinational context.
2. To analyze the impact of these repressive policies on the formation and negotiation of individual and collective identities within the Polish community, while also assessing their role in shaping the evolving landscape of nationhood in Kazakhstan during its years of independence.

### **Theoretical Framework**

The passage you provided appears to touch on several important theoretical ideas related to the study of history, repression, identity, and nationhood. Let's elaborate on these concepts with references to relevant theoreticians:

Repression:

Repression is a complex phenomenon that often involves the use of state power to suppress dissent, control populations, and enforce a particular ideology. One of the most prominent theoreticians in this area is Michel Foucault. Foucault's work, particularly in "Discipline and Punish," explores how institutions of power, such as prisons and the state, exert control over individuals. The idea of the "disciplinary society" is pertinent here, as it refers to the mechanisms and techniques through which the state maintains control through repression. Additionally, Hannah Arendt's concepts of totalitarianism and the "banality of evil," discussed in her book "Eichmann in Jerusalem," shed light on how repressive policies can be implemented on a massive scale within a bureaucratic system, which is relevant in the context of state repression in the USSR.

### **Identity**

The notion of identity is a central theme in the passage. The works of Stuart Hall, particularly his essay "Cultural Identity and Diaspora," are significant in understanding how identity is not fixed but constructed through various cultural, social, and historical processes. In the context of Kazakhstan's history, the construction of national and ethnic identities is a multifaceted process that can be influenced by state policies and historical narratives.

Benedict Anderson's theory of "imagined communities," as presented in "Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism," is also relevant. It explores how nations are not natural but are constructed in the minds of people through shared symbols, language, and historical narratives.

### **Nationhood**

Nationhood is closely linked to identity, and theorists like Ernest Gellner, in his book "Nations and Nationalism," argue that nationhood is often a product of modernity and is intertwined with the development of a centralized state and standardized education. Gellner's concept of the "industrial society" and the role of cultural homogenization in nation-building

can provide insights into the historical development of Kazakhstan as a nation during its years of independence.

In summary, the passage hints at the need for a comprehensive analysis of repression, identity, and nationhood within the context of Kazakhstan's history. Theoretical perspectives from Foucault, Arendt, Hall, Anderson, Gellner, Smith, and Braudel can provide a solid framework for approaching these issues and shedding light on unexplored aspects of Kazakhstan's historical experience during its years of independence.

### **Review of Literature**

In the context of the aggravation of the international situation and the real danger of war, the national policy of the Soviet state acquired an increasingly repressive character. Secret negotiations between the USSR and Germany in 1939-1940 and the agreements now known as the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact led to the fact that the USSR annexed the Baltic countries, Western Ukraine, Western Belarus and Bessarabia. Soon, a shock campaign began to sovietize and collectivize these regions, and according to the scheme worked out by the system back in the 20-30s, the so-called 'kulaks' were evicted to Siberia, Central Asia and Kazakhstan, as well as all representatives of these people objectionable to the regime. Together with the indigenous people in the territory of Western Ukraine and Western Belarus, a significant number of representatives of Polish nationality lived, both locally and emigrated here in 1939-1940, as a result of the invasion of Nazi troops into Poland.

Initially, in 1936, a resolution of the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR 'On Settlers from Ukraine' was adopted, according to which the Poles who lived in Ukraine were resettled in Kazakhstan. Social status was defined as 'politically unreliable elements' of the border zones. The contingent of special settlers was the following - Poles, Germans, mostly residents of the Zhytomyr region, Kyiv region, Vinnitsa region, Kirovohrad region.

By the end of 1936, 95% of the newly arrived farms were merged into collective farms. Only members of the collective farm at that time were legally protected persons. If the collective farm allocated land and seed material to individual farmers, then they had to sow and plow at their own expense. For this simple reason, some refused to sow. Then, there were frictions between the local residents and the special settlers: the Poles.

Another repressive action against the Poles falls on 1939-1941. after the 'Polish operation' of the NKVD 1937-1938, on the basis of the Order of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party of Bolsheviks of August 11, 1937. Among them, the main category was settlers. Settlers are immigrants from Poland, mostly former servicemen of the Polish army, who distinguished themselves in the Polish-Soviet war of 1920, who received land in areas populated by Ukrainians and Belarusians.

Settlers in Poland performed certain police functions in relation to the local population, and therefore in the USSR, they were declared 'the worst enemies of the working people' and all families were evicted deep into the USSR. Their national composition was heterogeneous, and most of them were represented by the Poles, but among them were a significant number of Jews, Ukrainians, Belarusians, Germans and representatives of other nationalities. At a meeting of the Politburo of the Central Committee on December 4, 1939, it was decided to approve the following proposals of the NKVD, which instructed the NKVD of the USSR to lead all the settlers living in Western Belarus and Western Ukraine together with their families, using them in the forestry developments of the USSR People's Commissariat of Forests.

The most malicious of the evicted, in respect of whom materials will be received about their anti-Soviet and counter-revolutionary activities in the past or present, be arrested with the subsequent transfer of cases about them to the Special Conference. It was also instructed that the NKVD of the USSR develops and submits for approval to the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR the procedure for the resettlement of osadniks, while providing for a list of property and small agricultural implements that can be taken by the evicted with them. The organization of special settlements evicted in places of resettlement used the living quarters of the USSR People's Commissariat of Forests. The organization of commandant's offices of the NKVD at special settlements. funds needed to carry out this operation; establish that the

livestock and the main agricultural implements of the evicted remain in place and are placed at the disposal of local authorities (RSAMH,2000) The Council of People's Commissars and the Central Committees of Belarus and Ukraine, within two decades, developed and submitted for approval by the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR a procedure for using the real estate of the evicted settlers, their livestock and equipment. The end date for the eviction was already set on February 15, 1940.

Thus, preliminary data on the results of the operation carried out by the NKVD of the USSR to evict siegemen and forest guards from the western regions of the Ukrainian SSR and the Byelorussian SSR were as follows, as Beria reports to Comrade Stalin No. 559 / b of February 11/12, 1940, that "preparatory work was carried out with the expectation of completing the operation within one person to be seized and 52,000 people participated in the operation of the NKVD and Militia workers, the Red Army soldiers of the NKVD troops, district and rural activists". The operation was launched at dawn on February 10 and completed by the beginning of the day on February 11 with the withdrawal of siegemen, forest guards and their families. According to the accounting data, 146,375 people were subject to eviction. (27356 families), including 95065 people in the Ukrainian SSR (17753 families) and in the BSSR - 51310 people (9603 families). There was a seizure of persons who evaded eviction or did not find themselves at the place of permanent residence continues. There were no incidents of note during the operation. In some villages, some osadniks attempted to escape or resist the eviction. In the village of Kovynichi, Dragobych region, a group of local residents tried to prevent the eviction. However, by the measures taken by the task force of the NKVD, 27 families scheduled for eviction were evicted (RSAMH, 2000).

At the same time, a number of other legal acts on the resettlement of Poles were adopted. The provision under the heading 'secret' and "On special settlements and the labor arrangement of special settlers-osadniks evicted from the Western regions of Ukraine and Belarus" (references?) , where special settlers-osadniks from the territory of the Western regions of the Ukrainian SSR and the BSSR for labor use were relocated to the areas of forest development of the People's Commissariat of the USSR. All able-bodied special settlers-osadniks were obliged to engage in socially useful work at the jobs provided to them by the enterprises of the People's Commissariat. Along with this, a resolution was adopted on the additional resettlement of special settlers-osadniks, in connection with the increase in the number of families of special settlers-osadniks to be evicted from the western regions of the Ukrainian SSR and the BSSR, the Central Committee of the CPSU (b) and the SNK of the USSR decided to allow the NKVD of the USSR to transfer up to 5,000 families for labor use in mining and logging operations of the People's Commissariat of Non-Ferrous Metallurgy special settlers-osadnikov. At the same time, the reception, placement and labor arrangement of special settlers should be entrusted to the NCC of the USSR. The list of places of settlements should be supplemented with the regions: Chelyabinsk, Chkalovskaya and northern parts of the Kazakh SSR (RSAMH, 2000).

Thus, Kazakhstan became one of the main objects of resettlement of repressed Poles in the USSR. About 66 thousand family members of repressed officers and other ranks of Poland were in exile in Kazakhstan (Zemskov, 1994). In 1940, numerous groups of exiles were sent to the North Kazakhstan, Pavlodar, Akmola, Taldy-Kurgan, Alma-Ata and Dzhambul regions. These are family members of repressed members of insurgent organizations, officers of the former Polish army, policemen, jailers, gendarmes, landowners, manufacturers and officials of the former Polish state apparatus (ANKVD USSR, 1990).

According to the State Archive of the Karaganda region, on the eve of the Great Patriotic War, 104 thousand Poles and their family members were deported to the territory of Kazakhstan (Kalybekova, 2008). The massacre of the NKVD over the Poles continued in Kazakhstan. They were tried by special meetings of the NKVD troika. Thus began a new history of Poles in Kazakhstan. They arrived in Kazakhstan, in a stressful state without means of livelihood and with the stigma of 'enemy of the people'. After July 1941, instead of 'osadniks', 'refugees', 'families of the repressed', the heading 'former Polish citizens' appeared in the NKVD accounts.

The institution of the deportation of people in the form in which it developed in the former USSR, from the very beginning was associated with a massive violation of people's rights. Firstly, a person, regardless of whether he committed or did not commit the act imputed to him, fell under suspicion. Thus, all representatives of the deported people found themselves in a legally flawed position. Secondly, the legal insecurity and vulnerability of all the evicted were accompanied by new violations of their rights and freedoms (Arkhytatayeva, 2021).

In fact, Poles from the very beginning of their eviction were morally and socially disadvantaged and deprived of basic human rights. In most cases, the right of preservation of personal property and property of special settlers was not ensured, although state documents provided for the delivery of agricultural equipment, livestock, grain fodder belonging to special settlers to special commissions, followed by their compensation at the place of settlement. A special instruction of the NKVD of the USSR was developed "On the procedure for the resettlement of Polish osadniki from the Western regions of the USSR and the BSSR", which emphasized the eviction of osadniki from the western regions of the USSR and the BSSR are carried out simultaneously in the USSR and the BSSR on the day appointed by the NKVD of the USSR (ANKVD USSR, 1990).

Upon eviction, all real estate, agricultural equipment, livestock remained in place and were accepted by the act of local administrations. The besiegers were allowed to take the following property and small household equipment with them: clothes, underwear, shoes, bedding. In the places of settlement, they had to be provided with ready-made houses, or given, as it was supposed, a loan for the construction, and, if necessary, for the repair of houses.

### **The Settlements**

The resettlement itself was carried out in railway wagons and was accompanied by armed guards so that none of the migrants could escape. For violation of labor discipline, migrants were liable administratively and criminally. Working conditions in terms of working hours, rest, wages, medical care, workwear, safety equipment, bonus and incentive measures were regulated by the contract of the Department of Correctional Labor Colonies of the NKVD with the enterprises of the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs. From the earnings of special settlers-osadniki, the enterprises of the People's Commissariat of the People's Commissariat withheld and transferred to the NKVD from 5 to 10% monthly. Special settlers-Poles were settled in separate settlements of 100 to 500 families in each (RSAMH, 2000).

The situation of special settlers was characterized by humiliating registration procedures, re-registration and permanent marks in local commandant's offices, NKVD bodies. Every step of the special settler was monitored, and any minor violation was immediately punished.

For each special settler, a personal file was started, which, upon his release from the prison, was postponed in the archive, and upon his departure, they were stored in the archives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Prosecutor's office at the former location of the special commissariats in alphabetical order, regardless of nationality, and personal files on special settlers registered in the city special commissariats were stored at the Management of the MGB in alphabetical order. The files contained information about the criminal records, causes of death, places of burial and other data about their fate from the moment of arrest to release or death. The registration of a personal file had a strict order. Personal files on the special settler were drawn up and conducted by the city departments.

For each special settler who reached the age of 16, a personal card of form No. 1 was created, according to which strict records were kept. This is what this card was: the gender was indicated on the right side, the number of the account book page was indicated in the middle, on the left side, the special settlement, the district, the region and the date of arrival. Then, in the order of the sequence, the following items were indicated (ACLSSA, 2021).

1. Nationality
2. Place of birth: the region, district, city-village is specified specifically
3. Education
4. Social status at the time of expulsion
5. Specialty

6. Military service (when and position)
7. Marital status
8. Ability to work (for the disabled, the group is indicated)
9. Sent to work where and in the position of whom
10. Date of referral
11. Transferred to the position (transfer date)
12. Mark of rewards and penalties
13. Escaped from a special settlement (date)
14. Search announced (date)
15. Placed in a special settlement (voluntarily returned or detained by him and the date of placement are indicated)
16. Criminal record (when) sentenced by the people's court ...
17. A note on marriage and divorce (marriage or divorce, with whom, date, record of the act and certificate number are indicated)
18. Surname after marriage or divorce
19. Transferred to a special settlement
20. Died (date). Signature of the commandant of the special settlement.

In addition to the personal file and personal card, a special account of special settlers was kept.

The registration of special settlers was conducted by the accounting department, which was located at the 9th department of the UMGB and was conducted by two alphabetical reference files. The first card file reflected the presence of special settlers, the second card file for special settlers who had left (outside the region, deceased, convicted). The card files, both the first and the second, were kept strictly alphabetically. Thus, strict control over the special settlers was carried out, so that all changes in the composition of the family of the special settler were to be reflected in the registration card. The registration card was filled in three copies: one was kept in the district commandant's office, the second was sent to the department of correctional labor colonies of the NKVD and the third was kept at the GULAG of the NKVD of the USSR. Special settlers and their families, who were settled in special settlements, did not have the right to leave the administrative districts of the settlements. Absenteeism from a special settlement or place of work for a period of more than 24 hours, as well as moving to the village from one barrack (house) to another was allowed with the permission of the commandant of the settlement (RSAMH, 2000).

Especially severe trials fell on the share of special settlers, including Poles, who in war conditions were considered by the state as the cheapest labor force. They formed the main backbone of those mobilized into the 'labor army'. Special settlers were sent to the most difficult areas, primarily for the construction of the most important facilities.

Thus, the NKVD, acquiring the functions of economic departments remained a punitive and forceful body. By the beginning of the Great Patriotic War, the NKVD had turned into the largest industrial and construction department: two main categories of the 'labor force' worked on the construction sites and industrial facilities of the NKVD during the war: prisoners and labor-mobilized.

The camp economy grew very rapidly. If in 1932 there were 11 GULAG correctional labor camps in the country, then at the beginning of 1949, there were already 53 camps and so-called NKVD construction camps, and 425 correctional labor colonies under its jurisdiction (ANKVD USSR, 1990).

The GULAG also extended within Kazakhstan. In the early 30s, more than 30 thousand dispossessed, sent to work settlements, were employed in coal mining and construction of the Karaganda railway.

## Research Methods

The delineation of data from various sources in this research involved the systematic examination of archival materials from multiple agencies. Here's how data was obtained from each of the mentioned sources:

Central State Archives of the Republic of Kazakhstan (CSA RK) No. 1109, 1137: The research accessed documents from these specific funds within the CSA RK, which likely involved searching, reviewing, and extracting relevant materials related to the topic of Stalinist stereotypes, the treatment of ethnic groups, and the role of special settlers.

Archive of the Committee on Legal Statistics and Special Accounts of the General Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Kazakhstan (fund No. 16): Materials from this archive, including those from the NKVD and the Ministry of Internal Affairs, were examined. Researchers likely reviewed files, reports, and other documents to extract data relevant to the study's objectives.

State Archive of the Almaty Region (fund 685): Data from this source was acquired by investigating materials within fund 685. The research would have involved identifying and extracting information concerning the repressed ethnic groups and special settlers in the Almaty Region.

Karlag Archive D.20 - Karaganda ITL, Special Department of the USSR: Materials from this specific archive, related to Karlag (Karaganda Corrective Labor Camp), were examined. Data was likely obtained through the systematic review of documents, records, and materials related to special settlers in this camp.

Akmola camp of wives of traitors to the Motherland (ALZHIR): The research utilized materials from the fund of the Akmola camp of wives of traitors to the Motherland, acquired from the Archive of the Information and Analytical Center of the Department of Internal Affairs in Almaty. Researchers would have extracted relevant information concerning the experiences and conditions of individuals in this camp.

Russian State Archive of Contemporary History (RSACH), Fund 3: This archive was a source of data on the subject matter. Researchers examined materials within Fund 3 of the RSACH, likely focusing on documents that pertain to Stalinist stereotypes, repressive measures, and special settlers in the Soviet context.

In each case, data extraction involved careful review, cataloging, and analysis of archival materials specific to the research's objectives, with a focus on gathering information related to the repressive measures, social structures, and legal aspects associated with special settlers and repressed ethnic groups during the Stalinist era.

## Structures

One of the largest GULAG structures was the Karaganda camp. It ranked 9th in terms of the number of prisoners among the 42 NKVD camps. The Karaganda correctional labor camp of the OGPU (NKVD-MIA) was established on the basis of the department of the OGPU Kazitlag- state farm "Giant" and began to function as an independent camp on November 1, 1931. The management of the camp was located in the village of Dolinskoye. Throughout the history of Karlag's development, the number of its divisions has varied. At the very beginning, these were production areas. Later, they were called production sites, and then in 1932, camp departments. If on January 1, 1933, the territory of the Karlag was divided into 9 camp divisions, then in 1955, there were already 33. Camp departments were stationed at various sites on the vast territory of the Karaganda ITL, the current Michurinsky, Telmansky districts in the Karaganda region and Zhana-Arkinsky, Shetsky districts.

The filling limit of the Karaganda ITL can be traced by years. According to the list of personnel on October 1, 1931, there were 12174 people. However, on January 1, 1941, 51404 people, and on January 1, there were 1950 - 54180 people. In total, during the period from 1931 to 1959, approximately 800,000 people had passed through Karlag (DSAKR, 2005). According to the Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Kazakhstan, special settlers from Moldova and the Baltic States totaled 8,064 people (3,010 families), who were settled only in seven regions in this order: Karaganda – 70 people (60 families); Akmola – 1,213 people (353 families); Aktobe – 3059 people (1052 families); Guryev -130 people (117 families);

Dzhambul – 108 people (45 families), Kzyl-Ordinskaya – 461 people (161 families) and South Kazakhstan – 3017 people (1214 families) (ACLSSA, 2018).

During the war, by special Government resolutions, contingents from among the special settlers, together with the local population, were mobilized for work in the industry and for the most important construction. Soon, due to the shortage of labor, women began to be taken away. Thus, men from 15 to 55 years old and women from 16 to 45 years old were subject to mobilization (CSA RK, 2000).

The policy of the state became rigid and was aimed at ensuring that “the physical capabilities of the camp labor force could be used as much as possible in any production” (KA,1930). This is evidenced by the Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR dated June 5, 1939, which refers to "On the camps of the NKVD of the USSR". According to this, it was necessary to abandon the system of conditional early release of the camp contingents, to stop the practice of offsetting one working day for two days of the sentence and parole from the camp. In order to raise the incentive to increase labor productivity, to establish monetary bonuses for individual production workers who give high labor productivity indicators, a facilitated camp regime with a general improvement in their living situation was established. As for truants, refusers from work and disorganizers of production, severe coercive measures were applied along with an enhanced camp regime, a punishment cell, worse material and living conditions and other disciplinary measures. More severe, judicial punishments to the most malicious disorganizers of camp life and production, in some cases, included capital punishment.

During the Great Patriotic War, the training of skilled workers for the industry and transport acquired its exceptional importance. State labor reserves from the very first days of the war were one of the forms of replenishment of the working class. In this system, extensive training of qualified personnel for leading industries, transport and construction was carried out.

The mobilization of young people to the schools of the Federal Law of Handicraft and railway schools was carried out in such a way as mobilization into the Labor Army on the basis of government documents.

During the first quarter of 1940, in the Karaganda region, 92974 able-bodied people were mobilized at the most important construction sites and enterprises of the NKVD and other People's commissariats. 43954 of them have been special settlers who had worked at such People's commissariats as: Trestugol-8748 people; Shakhstroy- 1948 people; Karaganda Gresstroy- 390 people, etc. (CSA RK,2006).

During the first quarter of 1940 in the Karaganda region, out of 92974 able-bodied people, 43954 special settlers have been mobilized to the most important construction sites and enterprises of the NKVD and other People's Commissariats (CSA RK,2006).

### **Special Camps**

The Steppe Special Camp of the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs was the first Special camp on the territory of the Karaganda region. It consisted of departments: No. 1 - in the village of Rudnik, and the station of the Novorudnaya of the Karaganda railway. On the basis of the second lag department of the Dzhezkazgan district of the Karlag of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the use of prisoners in mining operations of the Ministry of Color have been carried out.

At the beginning of 1942, the following enterprises of the Narkomsvetmet employed 1,053 special settlers without specifying their nationality (648 of them were men, 395 women, 10 teenagers from 4 to 16 years old) (ACLSSA, 2020):

- May mine "Boko and Akzhal" – 219 people, of which 7 are under construction;
- Semiz-Bugu mine – 41 people;
- Turgistroy – 51 people;
- Trestkazoloto – 487 people;
- Irtys plant – 183 people;
- Belousov ore Management – 18 people;

Altaypolymetal Combine - 30 people;  
Berezovsky shakhtostroy – 16 people

No. 2 – in the village of Spasozavodsk, on the basis of the Spasozavodsk camp department for prisoners of war prisoners from among the weakened and unfit for physical work.

Camp No. 99 of the USSR Ministry of Internal Affairs for prisoners of war and internees was organized in July 1941 on the basis of the Spassky branch of the Karaganda camp of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and was located 45 km from Karaganda on the territory of the former Spassky copper smelter. During the existence of the camp, 66,160 people were admitted, 1208 of them Poles. The documentary fund of the Management of the Prisoner of war Camp No. 99 of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the USSR is represented by orders for the management of the camp; echelon reports; books records of losses of prisoners of war, etc. The records of prisoners of war have been kept on file. According to this card file, lists of prisoners of war by nationality, deceased and buried in the camp in the number of 155 Poles were revealed (Fedosova, 2000).

Thus, according to the head of the 4th department of the counter intelligence department (CID) of the NKVD of the Kazakh SSR, on November 29, 1941, 61092 people were placed in Kazakhstan, of which the adult population was 29214 people. The elderly from 60 years old and above were 3590 people, while children under 16 years old were 16588 people. All special settlers were placed in state farms: 17900 people, in collective farms; 35528 people, in industrial enterprises and 3699 people and in state institutions including 732 people (Tseselsky & Kuchinsky, 1996).

It is documented that the prisoners who served their sentences in the territory of the Karaganda region were convicted under the following articles: espionage, sabotage, treason, banditry, counterrevolutionary crimes and criminal offenses.

It is possible to distinguish a category of political prisoners convicted under the article 58 for anti-Soviet agitation and counter-revolutionary activities, convicted by extra-judicial bodies-troika and special meeting, as well as under the article "CHSIR". This is a family member of a traitor to the Motherland. Basically, the wives and relatives of the so-called 'enemies of the people' were convicted under the article 'CHSIR', where Polish women served quite a few terms. This category of people served their sentences in the special Akmola camp department 'ALGERIA' - Akmola camp of wives of traitors to the Motherland, the 17th women's camp of the special department of the Karaganda correctional labor camp.

ALGERIA is one of the largest Soviet women's camps, one of the 3 islands of the GULAG Archipelago, as well as in the Dolinsky camp division of Karlag. Here, for example, the Archive file on the accusation of Fedoseeva M.A., is stored in a Special state Archive of the Information and Analytical Center (IAC) of the Department of Internal Affairs of Almaty (Fedosova, 2000).

### **An Illustrative Case Study**

Fedoseeva Marianna Antonovna was born in 1893, a Pole by nationality and a native of the Lublin province, Lyubartovsky district, Chesherniki district. She was illiterate. Before her arrest, she lived in Alma-Ata region, Alma-Ata. Arrested on November 19, 1937 under the articles: 58-7, 58-8, 58-9, 58-10, 58-11 of the Criminal Code of the RSFSR, she was sentenced to imprisonment in the ITL for a period of 10 years. Rehabilitated on January 16, 1989. She was arrested by the city NKVD for unknown reasons and sentenced to further 8 years, which she served in the camps of Akmolinsk That is, ALGERIA. The names of 13 more Polish women and their Polish children have also been revealed out of a total of 1507 children born during the years of political repression to women who were in the Karaganda correctional labor camp GULAG of the NKVD-Ministry of Internal Affairs of the USSR (Karaganda, n/a 246).

It should be noted here that there is a very delicate situation. The list of children is given indicating only mothers and their nationality, who gave birth to sons and daughters in captivity, where they themselves fell under the yoke of the ruling regime.

After the outbreak of the war with Germany, an agreement has been signed between the Soviet government and the Polish Immigrant government on July 30, 1941, on the restoration of diplomatic relations and the creation of a Polish army on the territory of the USSR. The Government of the USSR recognized the Soviet-German treaties of 1939 as null and void. The following protocol was attached to the Soviet-Polish agreement: "The Soviet Government grants amnesty to all Polish citizens currently imprisoned on Soviet territory as prisoners of war or on other sufficient grounds since the restoration of diplomatic relations" (ACLSSA, 2017:204). In accordance with this protocol, a decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR on amnesty for "all Polish citizens" was adopted in August 1941.

The Soviet government determined citizenship by nationality. Polish citizens among the inhabitants of Western Ukraine and Western Belarus, are considered Poles only by nationality. For many decades, the issue of guardianship of Polish citizens living on the territory of Kazakhstan by the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Kuibyshev in 1941-1943 was deliberately not mentioned. Based on the decisions agreed by the Ambassador of the Republic of Poland and Vyshinsky in the areas inhabited by the Poles, the stage of organizing representative offices began. The main task has been to coordinate trusteeship activities and the lives of administrative Polish citizens. The Government of the Soviet Union has been convinced that the representative office was engaged in activities hostile to the Soviet state, and this completely excluded the resumption of their activities. Since that time, the Soviet leadership has tried in every possible way to prove that trusted persons can work without the help of a higher authority. However, at the end of 1942, the situation was still not the worst. Over 200 different trustee organizations worked in Kazakhstan.

The situation deteriorated decisively after the tensions between the Polish Government in London and the Government of the Soviet Union in 1940. Indeed, the activities of the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Kuibyshev played an important role in saving the lives of many thousands of Polish citizens. Poles were conscripted into a labor army. Working columns were formed only from among the 'unreliable' people to work in the coal, metallurgical and other industries of Kazakhstan. There was a difficult situation with the food supply of special settlers, and there were no vegetables and other necessary products. Supply of bread has been carried out intermittently. Especially inconsistencies in material supplies have been observed in the families of Polish Army servicemen in the USSR.

Medical and sanitary services have been in a deplorable state. Here is what the deputy of the NKVD of the Kazakh SSR, Comrade Bogdanov, wrote about this to the head of the Department of labor and special settlements of the GULAG of the NKVD of the USSR, Comrade Zhilov. "Special settlers were served by a general civil network of hospitals and first-aid posts, which mainly satisfy the needs of the population. Due to the introduction of evacuated special settlers from front-line areas into special settlements, insufficient sanitation among them, as well as insufficient attention to sanitary and preventive measures by local health authorities, a number of cases of epidemic diseases were noted during the reporting period" (Fedosova, 2000).

### **Impact on Health**

Here are the facts.

In the Akmola region, in special settlements No. 3, 29 and 31, there have been 7 cases of typhoid and typhoid fever, of which one was fatal. In the village No. 27, 4 cases of typhoid fever were registered. In the village No. 32, out of 6 people with typhoid fever, 2 died. In the village No. 10 out of 10 people 1 person died of typhus. Similarly, there have been 5 cases of typhoid fever in the village No. 12, and 10 cases of scurvy in the village No. 4. After the evacuated Germans moved into settlement No. 3, there were 13 cases of measles among the children, in the settlement No. 14, there have been 4 such cases, of which 2 deaths (Tseselsky & Kuchinsky, 1996).

One of the reasons that caused the outbreak of typhoid fever was that the wells available in the settlements were polluted, and poor-quality water was formed in them.

The epidemic of typhus broke out because sanitation was carried out poorly among the population of these settlements, while the baths worked poorly. There were 2 cases of typhoid fever in the labor settlements of the state farm No. 2 of the NKVD of the Alma-Ata region.

In the North Kazakhstan region, after the arrival of Germans evacuated from the Voroshilovgrad and Mykolaiv regions of the Ukrainian SSR, some of whom were evicted to work settlements, one case of typhoid fever and 3 cases of typhus, as well as 16 cases of measles were noted in the village of Ozernoye. In the villages of Chernihiv, Konstantinovka and Krasnaya Polyana, there were cases of typhoid fever, dysentery and scarlet fever.

In the South Kazakhstan region, intestinal and gastric infectious diseases (typhoid fever and dysentery) broke out in the state farm 'Pakhta-Aral' (commandant's office No. 14) in the summer, due to contamination of the territory of the state farm. This did not stop until the end of the year. Of the 24 people who died, 50% accounted for infectious diseases. The situation with the epidemic situation in the state farm 'Pakhta-Aral' has been repeatedly reported to the South Kazakhstan Regional Health Department and the regional Committee of KP (b) of Kazakhstan.

Indeed, there have been cases of epidemic diseases in the village No. 7 of the Akmola district administration, where 4 cases of typhus have been registered: 2 people have died; in the village No. 12, 5 cases of typhoid fever have been found, 2 of them have died; in the village No. 14, 10 cases of scurvy have been detected (ACLSSA,2019:9).

One of the drawbacks in this work should be considered interruptions in the supply of medicines to local medical institutions. Thus, the epidemiological situation in the republic has developed unfavorably. After taking appropriate measures to combat the spread of "these infectious diseases through the district health departments carried out sanitation of the population, the latter were partially eliminated". Opened in the fall of 1942, evacuation centers (dezkamera, baths, sanitary dispensaries) have been established despite belated measures and poor equipment played a role in preventing the spread of acute infectious diseases among special settlers and the local population. Thus, the most common causes of death according to the NKVD archive were: epidemic diseases; typhoid fever; typhus; scurvy; dysentery; measles; insufficient attention from district health departments; poor medical and sanitary services for special settlers; difficult material and living conditions and basic malnutrition, i.e. lack of food, which led to a significant exhaustion (dystrophy) of people.

Only after the debunking of the cult of Stalin's personality did the flywheel of the state machine stop. Special supervision of Poles was abolished in 1956.

In a 3-day period, local commissions were created consisting of the chairmen of the regional executive committees, and the deputy. The heads of the NKVD and the UKGB developed instructions for sending the Poles (Zemskov, 1996). The train supplies were drawn up for sending special settlers to the places of their former residence, with instructions to the chiefs of the echelon for accompanying special settlers and servicing them on the way.

An echelon consisting of 10 passenger and 2 freight cars with citizens who expressed a desire to leave for the Polish People's Republic in the number of 437 people, including 50 children under 16 years old, was sent from Karaganda. All those who left were given a one-time cash allowance at the rate of 300 rubles for each adult and 200 rubles for each child. The mood of those who left was good. Many expressed that if they were removed from exile, they would never agree to leave the USSR. They left only because it was a shame to go with a 'white ticket'. That's what they called a certificate instead of a passport for exiles (Zemskov, 1996).

## Conclusions

In conclusion, this research has shed light on the institution of the deportation of peoples in the former USSR as a manifestation of totalitarianism, emphasizing its grim impact on the human rights and freedoms of the individuals affected. The study underscores two major points of concern. Firstly, it highlights the inherent injustice in deporting individuals regardless of whether they had committed any offense. This initial act of punishment placed all representatives of the deported people in a legally flawed position, stripping them of their basic

rights. Secondly, the research points out that this legal inferiority, insecurity, and vulnerability of the deported individuals were compounded by further rights violations, creating a system that clearly ran counter to established legal and democratic standards.

Strengths of this research include its historical analysis, which provides valuable insights into the repressive policies of the Soviet era. It offers a comprehensive examination of the human rights violations associated with deportation, shedding light on the systemic nature of these injustices.

However, the study may be limited by a lack of contemporary relevance, as the events described are historical in nature. Additionally, it could benefit from a more in-depth exploration of the specific methods used by the Soviet regime to carry out deportations and the long-term effects on affected communities. Furthermore, a more thorough discussion of the broader historical context of the Soviet Union and its policies would provide a richer understanding of the subject.

In summary, this research effectively highlights the egregious human rights violations associated with the deportation of peoples in the Soviet era. While it has notable strengths in its historical analysis, it could be enhanced with a more extensive examination of specific methods and a deeper contextualization within the broader historical and political landscape of the time. Nonetheless, it underscores the importance of safeguarding human rights and the perils of totalitarian regimes in compromising these fundamental values.

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