

ABSTRACT

**of the dissertation for the degree
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)
8D02206 – “History”
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**The animal face of imperial power: Kazakh animal husbandry and tsarist
veterinary services, 1868-1917**

General description of the research. The dissertation research is devoted to the problem of the introduction of imperial veterinary practices in the Kazakh steppe at the end of the colonial period. In this process, the Russian Empire, hiding behind the rhetoric of care and technological progress through the introduction of the veterinary service into the practice of Kazakh animal husbandry, in fact strengthened its power, made its presence visible, and changed the internal structure and functions of the Kazakh economy. This indicates that veterinary medicine became part of the colonial management of the steppe – it led to the creation of new forms of life and the transformation environment.

Relevance of the research. The study is relevant because, first of all, in Kazakhstani historiography there are still not enough studies written on the basis of the latest research strategies of world historical science. The features of modern historiography are interdisciplinarity, the use of methods from other social sciences, interest in micro-level studies, introducing new kinds of primary sources to solve historical problems, as well as the emergence of new historical sub-disciplines that draw attention to new aspects of human life. One of them is environmental history. As a historiographical area of focus, environmental history has expanded and added a global perspective to colonial history, exploring the destructive forces that European colonialism and exploitation wrought on a global scale, as well as patterns of interaction between European and local uses of the environment. The concept of a colonial context in the history of the environment can be traced in the works of British scientists, where such theoretical frameworks as coloniality and the qualitative change in internal regimes were defined. The starting point of this approach was the perception of the periphery as part of the wild, natural world, while the colonizing regions of Europe portrayed themselves as carriers of civilization and cultural development.

At the same time, historical science has experienced the integration of the historical connection between people and the natural world. This integration is based on criticism of "anthropocentrism", defined as "viewing the world from the point of view of human values and experience" – in other words, privileging humans and their relationship to the natural environment above all else. This shift of the ecological paradigm has made it possible to develop other "relationships" like "human-animal interactions".

The developed historical literature about animals and human relations with them became a part of so-called "animal turn" in the humanities, exploring the

change of human relationships with animals, and gave a new answer to the "challenge" in the formulation of a new sub-discipline of historical science, "animal history". Of course, this does not change the fact that animals have always been present in historical writing in any other historical sub-discipline, but a change has occurred in research approaches and perspectives on the problem. After the changes from the turn to animals in the humanities, in particular, in historical science, it is time to develop a special kind of interdisciplinarity, a willingness to draw principles or theories from different fields of science, from philosophy to veterinary medicine, with the help of which historical sources can be interpreted.

By studying the introduction of new veterinary practices, we can determine whether their introduction was a manifestation of flexibility and pragmatism, or a mechanism for intervening in social practices. This combination of social, political, economic and "ecological" history, taken together with a new trend in the study of the history of animals and imperialism, makes it possible to reveal new dimensions of colonialism in the steppe. In this case, it is important to consider not only the relationship of the natural world with the new system, but also connections with equally important actors - animals.

The object of the research is imperial veterinary practices in the late imperial period.

The subject of the research is the policy of regulation of veterinary practices among the Kazakh people in the late imperial period, aimed at qualitative changes in the internal regimes of Kazakh society.

The purpose of the dissertation research is to analyze the inclusion of Kazakh lands in the system of the imperial veterinary service and show how the practices of Kazakh animal husbandry changed in the years 1868-1917.

To achieve the goal, the following specific **tasks** were identified:

1. To identify the main directions and concepts in studying the problem of implementing new regulatory methods;
2. To classify and analyze the main complex of sources needed to study the issue of the formation and development of the veterinary service system in the Turgai region as a colonial project;
3. To determine the features of the organization and implementation of the imperial veterinary service in the Kazakh steppe, using the Turgai region as a case study;
4. To show the epizootic situation in the region and the isolation of the veterinary service on livestock-driving routes and stations;
5. To identify common problems hindering the further development of veterinary practice in the region, and identify the role of veterinarians in the project of "correct colonization";
6. To show new forms, methods and mechanisms for regulating veterinary practices;
7. To determine the qualitative changes in the internal mechanisms of Kazakh animal husbandry.

Methodological basis of the research work. On the basis of new methodological approaches, this research presents the concept of "rational

governance" – governmentality, as colonial state rhetoric, which is based on governmental interest. The imperial colonial administration sought to minimize risks and increase the well-being of the people for the sake of its own interests, and intervened in all spheres of life of the people, both public and private.

Chronological framework. The chronological framework of the study is determined in accordance with the administrative reforms of the 60s of the XIX century, the first moment at which these reforms covered almost the whole of Kazakhstan. These reforms emphasized the completion of the process of joining Kazakhstan to Russia and strengthened the political position of the imperial Russian government in the steppe. In particular, according to the Provisional Statute on administration in the steppe regions of 1868, a significant place was given to the issue of the livestock industry, caravan routes, fairs, which had not previously been mentioned. As a result, veterinary medicine protected only livestock-industrial capital, without showing the necessary concern for the protection of Kazakh animal husbandry. Subsequently, veterinary medicine began to serve to block the penetration of epizootics from the Kazakh steppes into Russia, by strengthening the border points of the veterinary service, and to ensure the security of the interests of livestock merchants. Finally, the mass resettlement of peasants to the territory of Kazakhstan began in the second half of the nineteenth century, after the abolition of serfdom in 1861. The main motive for resettlement was lack of land in the central and southern regions of Russia. The choice of the upper limit of the chronological framework, 1917, is due to the collapse of the empire - the extinction of the Russian Empire.

Territorial framework of the research. In this study, the research problem is studied within the framework of a case study, where the boundaries of the Turgai region are defined as the territorial boundaries of the study. This choice was due to several reasons. First of all, the Turgai region was a zone of contact between the steppe and the Russian Empire. This region occupied a special place as a border area near Orenburg province. Secondly, after the abolition of serfdom in Russia, the flow of resettlement movement intensified precisely on the territory of the Turgai region, and subsequently the region became a zone of contact between the settlers and the Kazakh society. After the abolition of the Orenburg Governor-Generalship, the region acquired great economic importance, and became a zone of contact for new relations between Central Asia and the inner provinces of Russia. The region's economic potential was complemented by its role as a transit zone, as the Turgai region was at the intersection of profitable trade routes passing from Russia to Central Asia. This position contributed to the construction of railways through the territory of the region (Orenburg-Tashkent railway).

Source base of the research. An extensive body of sources was collected on the basis of the theoretical and methodological basis of the study, post-structuralism - the identification of different meanings and understandings of the essence of phenomena. Therefore, the sources were divided into two groups. The first originating from the Russian Empire, the second from the Kazakhs themselves. The division into two groups is conditionally dictated by the need to see the difference between what livestock represented for the Kazakhs and for the Russian Empire –

to see how Russian intervention in the relationship between man and the natural environment differed from Kazakh understandings. Thus, the source base of the study is a set of administrative documents, the research materials of statistical and research expeditions of the second half of the 19th century, a number of scientific and journalistic works, and scientific works of representatives colonial government representatives that were created and used for official purposes, as well as folkloric and ethnographic sources, which are conditionally classified and divided into several groups. The systematization and classification of these types were supplemented by an analysis of semantic meanings, and of the genre specifics of sources, studying causes, patterns, and changes.

The scientific novelty of the research lies in the novelty of the formulation of a scientific problem in Kazakhstani historiography, where topics related to veterinary medicine, veterinary practices, and animals have remained outside the objectives of colonial research. In this research, for the first time, at the junction of three paradigms – environmental history, the animal turn, and the poststructuralist methodology of M. Foucault, a work methodology has been formulated to determine the degree of intrusion of new forms of colonial governance. The novelty of the research is also determined by the nature of the source base. For the first time in the historiography, folklore and ethnographic sources are analyzed alongside administrative documents, research materials of statistical and research expeditions of the second half of the 19th century, a number of scientific and publicist works, and scientific works of the conductors of imperial policy, which makes it possible to show everyday practices related to the animal husbandry and inner worldview of the Kazakh people.

The main arguments for defence:

1. The foundation and development of the veterinary service in the Kazakh steppe were facilitated by epizootic outbreaks, which increasingly began to disturb both the nomadic and sedentary population of the steppe.

2. The isolation of the veterinary service on livestock-driving routes and its concentration at certain points was reflected in the limitation of the work of the veterinary service in relation to the local nomadic livestock.

3. The belated formation of a civil veterinary network, concentration on rinderpest, and activities aimed at protecting the interests of the commercial and industrial sector established the colonial structure of the veterinary service in the Kazakh steppe.

4. The fight against infectious diseases limited the movement and lifestyle of the local nomadic people. The Kazakhs began to face more and more often the state administration, veterinarians, paramedics, new laws, regulations, and prohibitions.

5. The activities of veterinarians are seen as part of the "correct" colonization project, as a "tool of the empire".

6. Animal vaccinations became a practice of continuous control and interference in the public and private spaces of the Kazakh people.

7. Imperial rule viewed the Kazakh steppe as a potentially limitless source of horses for their military, agricultural and industrial sectors.

8. Loss of habitat and reduction of migration routes for Kazakhs, together with an increase in demand for livestock and livestock products, threatened the degradation of Kazakh sheep-keeping and the loss of a key element of culture.

9. Cattle has become the main subject of rapid and radical change in Kazakh animal husbandry, an important element in the qualitative change in herd composition, and a symbol of the decline of the pastoral economy and its well-being.

10. The process of qualitative change in the herd composition changed the traditional way of life of Kazakh livestock herders. Keeping livestock in stables, and new practices of land use, contributed to the development haymaking. The latter had a large influence not only on the deviation from the usual forms of the "pastoral" economy of the Kazakh people but also on the natural environment of the steppe, as well as on a decrease in the fertility of the soil cover. This different way of life had a different impact on the environment, changing the environment and itself in different ways, introducing changes into the stable triad of nature-man-animal in the space of the steppe.

Scientific and practical significance. The practical significance of the study lies in the fact that it offers conceptual approaches that can be used in research, the preparation of academic courses and programs, and in writing textbooks and teaching aids. The theoretical and methodological approaches used in this research can be applied in the study of other regions, not only with a predominantly nomadic people since the history of the environment has several areas of interest, one of them with a focus on the material world, another on cultural and intellectual matters, and a third focused on political aspects, which can expand and manifest these relationships in all spheres of life.

Approbation of the research results. The dissertation was prepared, discussed and recommended for defense at the Department of History of Kazakhstan at Al-Farabi Kazakh National University. The scientific results obtained in the course of the research were published in 8 articles in domestic and foreign publications in accordance with the topics that systematically reveal the content of the dissertation: including in publications recommended by the Committee for Quality Assurance in Education and Science - 4; in the collections of domestic and international scientific conferences - 3; in a journal with a non-zero impact factor indexed in the Web of Science database - 1.

The structure of the thesis research consists of an introduction, four chapters and a list of references.