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## The resettlement policy of Tsarist Russia on the Kazakh steppes of the late XIX – early XX centuries (based on the materials of periodicals and scientific articles)

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### Abstract

**Relevance.** After the conquest of Turkestan in the second half of the XIX century, the tsarist government began to take concrete action. The tsarist government sent special research expeditions to the Kazakh steppes and began to collect a lot of information about the geographical, economic and social situation. The Myrzashol and Kyzylkum districts in the south, notable for their proximity to the fertile and bird-rich banks of the Syrdarya River, offer convenient water access and deserve special attention. The materials collected by the researchers were processed, summarised and published in the Russian periodical "Turkestan Collection".

**Purpose.** The aim was to show the results of research expeditions and to introduce rulers, military personnel, peasants and peasants of vast Russia in search of work and land in the virgin steppe, where they have not yet plowed.

**Methodology.** This research utilizes a historical review methodology, examining archival materials, periodicals, and previously published scientific articles.

**Results.** The findings suggest that the resettlement was extensively facilitated by the division of Kazakh lands into administrative territories and the systematic imposition of state property laws. The analysis shows that this not only disrupted the traditional nomadic lifestyle of the Kazakhs but also paved the way for significant Russian migration and agricultural development, particularly in cotton cultivation.

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**Conclusions.** The study concludes that the resettlement policy was a form of imperial strategy that had lasting impacts on the region's demographic and economic landscapes. It underscores the dual role of economic exploitation and cultural domination in Tsarist colonization efforts, reflecting broader patterns of European imperial practices in Asia. The research highlights the need for a nuanced understanding of these historical dynamics to appreciate the complex legacy of colonial policies in Central Asia.

**Keywords:** expeditions of tsarist Russia; Kazakh steppe; resettlement policy; periodicals; irrigation of the Myrzashol steppe; cotton growing.

## Introduction

The Myrzashol region, located in the southern part of the Kazakh steppe, adjacent to the Sharda – Zhyzak in the West, bordered on the south by the Nurata Mountains and the Turkestan ranges, on the east and northeast by the Syrdarya, whose area reaches tens of thousands of square kilometers, in the period from 1867 to 1917 was part of the Syrdarya and Samarkand regions of Turkestan general governorships. In connection with the “Regulations on the administration of the Semirechensk and Syrdarya regions” of July 11, 1867, the royal authorities of the Syrdarya region were established in the Turkestan Region, according to which the Kazalinsky, Perovsky, Turkestan, Shymkent, Aulieata, Tashkent, Kozhent and Zhyzak counties were included in it [1]. In 1886, the first laws on the settlement of Russian newcomers in the Turkestan Region began to be published. On July 12 of the same year, the regulation on the administration of the Turkestan Region was adopted, on June 12 of the same year – a secret resolution of the State Council of the Russian Federation, which is not subject to publication as a whole. In article 10 of this resolution of the State Council, as a temporary measure, the following procedure was developed for the placement in the Turkestan Region not only of military personnel who performed duties, but also of Russian immigrants who expressed a common desire:

1) resettlement to the Turkestan region was allowed only to Russian subjects professing Christianity, who were aware of agricultural work;

2) migrants, depending on local conditions, depending on their capabilities, but no more than 10 tithes per person, the territory under the jurisdiction of the state was provided in agreement with the Governor-General [2-4].

The overwhelming majority of Russian immigrants sought to settle in the areas belonging to the nomadic Kazakhs of the Shymkent and Aulieata counties in the north of the Syrdarya region. After that, the administration of the Turkestan Governor-General concluded special agreements with the nomadic population, handed them monetary rewards and tried to get settled lands for the development of the settlement [5; 6].

But it was an illegal act to donate such a financial bonus to local Kazakhs for the fact that they handed over their lands to aliens. After all, according to the regulations on the management of the Turkestan region, the lands of nomadic Kazakhs were henceforth declared state property. Therefore, the as a whole had no right to dispose of his lands transferred to the jurisdiction of the state [2; 7]. The Myrzashol region in the south of the Kazakh steppe was subordinated to the Khozhent and Zhyzhakh counties by territorial and administrative division. The Khozhent and Zhyzhakh counties of the Samarkand region separated from the Tashkent Valley across the Syrdarya River in the West. In the north – Chimkent district of Syrdarya region, in the

West-Bukhara Khanate and Amudarya branch of Syrdarya region, in the north and west it borders with Kyzylkum. The land used by the Kazakhs in the Myrzashol steppes occupied an area of 37.228. 92 square miles [8]. After accurately determining the location of the deployment, specialist scientists began to make suggestions, opinions and publish articles in newspapers about the need for irrigation and development of the Kazakh steppes. The newspaper “Turkestanskije Vedomosti”, one of the Russian presses in the “Turkestan Collection”, immediately took up the systematic recording of this issue, familiarising readers with data on the undeveloped valley between the new Chinaz fortress and the Iirzhar region [1].

Sifting through such scientific works, we can understand why tsarist Russia needed the development of the Kazakh steppes, which at one time, pulling a bale, were so fertile that the fat was gone, the water was flooded with fish, the land was rich, but because of the plunder by the colonialists-invasers were under unhealthy sand. In Russia in the XIX century, the trade business developed very poorly. The work of the tsarist authorities in this area has not progressed.

In the 40s of the last century, cotton fabrics worth 400 thousand rubles, cotton fabric worth 170 thousand rubles and cotton worth only 98 thousand rubles were imported to Russia from Turkestan through Orenburg and Troitsk [9; 10]. This was 6 times less than the cost of a cotton product [11]. For this reason, it was equipped with old appliances, which the country in which the tsar ruled had neither a pair nor a pair for backward industry. Russia, which annually bought textile thread in England in ready-made form, only in 1844 needed 9664 tons of cotton. It didn't seem enough for a country with a backward economy and industry. Before the conquest of Turkestan, only 1 percent of irrigated land was sown here, i.e. 35-40 thousand acres of land [12]. The situation remained as difficult as after the forcible annexation of Turkestan to itself. The production of products comparable in price to the cheap and effective cotton of America in the world competitive market did not so easily get to Russia. [13-15] He had the following three different reasons. Firstly, the cotton was peeled from the white fabric only with the help of hand power. Only 10 kilograms of cotton are shipped by two people in one day. Two cotton growers worked two to three weeks to clean it. Because of this, 200 people had to spend a month harvesting cotton for 200 camels.

Secondly, the road connection has been achieved. Communication with distant regions is so difficult that caravans spent six months to travel 2.5 thousand kilometers from the Samarkand region to Orenburg. And for its fast delivery in two or three months, each cotton idol paid two rubles extra [16]. Thirdly, conditioned upon the fact that rainy, wet weather worsens the quality of cotton and harms, it was transported only in summer. As a result, there was a

lot of trouble on the road. Cotton is crumbling through the passage, losses have been incurred.

All this has made the cost of cotton grown in the colonial countries of Russia too expensive. Knowing well that one of the ways to improve the difficult economic situation is the development of the Myrzashol region in the south and the development of agriculture, the tsarist authorities set themselves the following goals:

- achieving economic superiority conditioned upon the abundant production of raw materials necessary for cotton production;
- the desire for political domination as a result of international relations, the prosperity of the trade business;
- the establishment of a colonial order aimed at exploitation, using the local population as a living force [17-20].

By focusing on such key issues, the tsarist government has achieved certain results. In 1874, industrial enterprises for the regulation, pressing and packaging of cotton appeared in Tashkent [21]. In 1880, the first cotton gins were founded in Turkestan. Four years later, the first experiments were conducted on the cultivation of new cotton plants based on American types of high-quality cotton, which yielded results. Moreover, the construction of the railway from Krasnovodsk to Russia in the 80s of the XIX century also increased the ability of this country to interact with other countries [22-25].

## **Materials and Methods**

The author of this article, based on the materials of periodicals and research papers, has been studying the topic of migration policy of tsarist Russia in the Kazakh steppes of the late XIX-early XX century for almost 40 years. In 1997, the author defended his dissertation at the Al-Farabi Kazakh National University in Almaty, Kazakhstan in the newspaper “*Turkestanskije Vedomosti*” on the topic “Spelling of the colonisation policy of Myrzashol tsarist Russia”, published two monographs, published more than 100 scientific articles in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Russia [1]. Comparing the materials published in newspapers and magazines of the “*Turkestan Collection*”, devoted to the socio-economic situation of Russian peasants and settlements who moved to the Kazakh steppes, with the works of other publications, one can be convinced of this.

Analysing the data published in the Russian periodical press, we will see that the work on the resettlement of residents of Inner Russia to this region began in the 60s of the nineteenth century, such a policy, especially in the 90s of the nineteenth century, was carried out at a rapid pace. At the same time, the content of publications in Russian newspapers and magazines may indicate that Russian researchers did not have time to fully study the Myrzashol region in the south of Kazakhstan. The reason for this opinion is that contradictory data were sometimes published in the press in the “*Turkestan Collection*”. Along with the authors who expressed great confidence in the prospects of colonisation of Kazakh lands along the Syrdarya River, there were those who denied the prospects of development of this region. That is, the thoughts of the authors of journalistic publications were not always combined with each other.

Nevertheless, there was no place in the question for the authors' conclusions to be joined from different standpoints. That is, to establish the migration business, the need for lands convenient for development and irrigation, their fertility, was especially considered. The resettlement case was of a political nature. At the same time, the Turkestan Assembly criticised only some approaches to the implementation of this policy. To identify the general content of the colonisation of the Kazakh steppe, its aggressive direction, the periodicals of the “*Turkestan Collection*” had no opportunity. Because they had no other choice but to disobey the same policy, because it was the voice of the official government, which adhered to imperialist sentiments. As a result, speaking about the state of land management of landowners and peasants, and, accordingly, about the activities of the authorities and local administrations, the Russian press in the “*Turkestan Collection*” could not openly declare the main thing - that while maintaining the autocratic structure in tsarist Russia, it is impossible to avoid agrarian confusion. Periodicals grouped in the “*Turkestan Collection*”, although they touch on some aspects of the resettlement policy pursued by the tsarist government, they cannot consider the solution of this contradiction as a holistic one.

## **Results and Discussion**

### **Analysis of press materials**

Analysing the press materials in the “*Turkestan Collection*”, we can say that, in general, the tsarist Russian government carried out a socio-economic colonisation policy in the Myrzashol region of the Kazakh steppe in five stages. The first stage was from the spring of 1867 to the summer of 1872. At that time, the administration of the Turkestan Governor-General sent expeditions to the Myrzashol steppes, where it began to collect extensive information about the geographical, economic and social situation of this region. In the second period, from the summer of 1872 to the spring of 1882, work was carried out on the development of Myrzashol. The period from February 1883 to December 1899 stands out as the third stage of the measures taken by the tsarist government in an effort to turn this region into a densely populated one. At the fourth stage, from the second half of 1901 to January 1912, the development of Myrzashol was carried out under the direction of the Department of Lands and State Property. The fifth stage is the period from 1912 to 1917, when the work on the development of Myrzashol slowed down.

At the first stage (1867-1872), propaganda work on the topic of land irrigation was in full swing in the Russian newspapers of the “*Turkestan Collection*”. In the first issue of the newspaper “*Turkestanskije Vedomosti*”, an editorial main article [26] was published and directed against the famous researcher A. Vambéry, who traveled through Central Asia. After all, he criticised the hostile activity of the tsarist army in the Kazakh steppe and wrote: “For hundreds of years, Russia has been subjugating the countries lying in the north of Turkestan, making large land trade with the surrounding khanates.” Although the newspaper tried to refute the opinion of A. Vambéry, the situation turned out to be almost the same. Judging by the reports of the newspaper “*Turkestanskije Vedomosti*”, General M. G. Chernyaev has long begun to pay attention

to Myrzashol. In 1865-1866, a special expedition of the military detachment headed by him found caravan palaces and rabat sites in Myrzashol. It is determined that such a building is a place of settlements built by settled, settled peoples. A tree lying thirty kilometers northeast of Zhyzakh, Rabaty, according to a legend among the population, is convinced that several decades ago there was a dense grove, the place of the forest, from which the name remains. In the spring and summer of 1867, topographic works were carried out in the southern part of Myrzashol. In 1869, a postal route crossing Myrzashol along the Shynaz – Zhyzakh route connecting Tashkent and Samarkand was opened. This treatise had a special significance for this region. Therefore, the need to resolve the issue of its water supply is obvious.

In connection with this need, on September 5, 1869, members of a special expedition led by the captain of the Governor-General's General Staff, Baron G. A. Aminov examined Semizara Island in the area of Shynaz, Khozhent and Zhyzakh, lakes Iirzhar, Alkazhar, Maidazhyngyl, Aiymtogai, Kargalytogai, Shaltogai, Myrztogai, Butynkaiyk, Kosdyrmen, lakes Alakol, Aimkol, Kalgansyr, Rabatkol, Myrzakol, Shettikol, where the map shows ditches, roads, various buildings of the former. The goal was to determine in advance which lands are suitable for cultivation, construction of houses, accommodation of newcomers, what is the area of land occupied by Kazakhs, what are the possibilities of their movement to mountainous and rocky lands.

In this journey, the members of the expedition led by G. A. Aminov finds a huge caravan-barn with 25 bedrooms, built of burnt brick more than three centuries ago, compared to the size of that time. After the famous Battle of Iirzhar, the bricks of this caravan palace were demolished and taken to the city of “Russian Shynaz”. Researchers, members of the expedition will also meet other historical buildings. Captain of the General Staff of the Turkestan Governor-General, Baron G. A. Aminov writes an article about this and publishes it in the newspaper “Turkestanskies Vedomosti” No. 27 dated July 10, 1873 under the heading “Myrzashol Zhyzakh-Shynaz and the monuments of agriculture that took place.” In this article, Baron G. A. Aminov presented his vision to the readers as a guiding memory (Turkestanskies vedomosti, 1873). The “correction” did not consider what professions people are engaged in, what their life activity is, but, on the contrary, attached special importance to the description of the names of lands and lakes, rivers, edges, optimisation of their search and search. That is, they wanted to introduce the representatives of the colonial authorities to the Myrzashol region in general.

In 1869, an analysis of the work carried out by the groups to highlight the conditions of the location of lands and stones of the Turkestan Military Topographical Department was carried out. This time, among geodetic, topographic and cartographic works, special attention is paid to the map of the Myrzashol region between Shynaz and Zhyzakh. This map was compiled not at the expense of the Turkestan Military Topographical Department, but by the decision of the Governor-General's General Staff under the leadership of the officers of the General Staff – Staff Captain Skoblev. The fact is that the officers began their research work back in September 1869, when the

military topographical part of the Turkestan military district was not provided with the appropriate equipment and funds. They were provided by the Governor-General K. P. Kaufman directly by the financial fund at his disposal. In the last months of 1869, the military topographic unit was assisted in the study of the Myrzashol steppe and the neighboring Kyzylkum region.

At this time, everything that is done in the Myrzashol steppes is under the strict control of the tsarist administration. So, retired Colonel Zhemchugnikov will have to write a statement to the Turkestan Governor-General K. P. Kaufman for the lease of 100 acres of land for planting trees and landscaping in the area of the Malek station along the Shynaz communication system. His letter dated January 17, 1870 to the Governor-General “very supportive, but must be settled in due course” [27]. On February 5, 1870, a meeting of the Department of Physical Geography of the Imperial Geographical Society was held, at which a lot of interesting information and notes about the studied regions of the Turkestan Region were read. The members of the society pay special attention to the records of a member of the society, Staff Captain Sobolev, about the virgin lands located on the southeastern slope of Myrzashol between the Novy Shynaz fortress and the Iirzhar Valley.

This is reported by the newspaper “Turkestan Vedomosti” in the first issue of April 28, 1870: “Mr. Sobolev reported that in all areas of this valley, about 65 versts long, there is thick grass, water, but many wells were buried by the “rulers” during the enemy invasion. In this space between new Shynaz and Iirzhar, a road for transport will probably be built in the future instead of the current inconvenient road leading from Tashkent to Khozhent. The blooming area, where the Myrzashol or Shynaz steppe was once located here, did not seem to pour out so much sweat that it could be restored, watered, formed for the management of the earth economy. Traces of ditches found in many places of Myrzashol, especially the ditch of ostriches, indicate that previously the sedentary population was dense here. According to Sobolev, the Myrzashol steppe is effective for increasing cotton fields. In the autumn of last year, Baron Aminov, the staff captain of the regiment of His Majesty's General Staff, was sent to decipher the location of Myrzashol between Novy Shynaz, Khozhent and Zhyzakh. The order given to the Staff Captain Baron Aminov was carried out with great success, and the entire above-mentioned territory was checked” (Turkestanskies vedomosti, 1870), –□reports.

In the issue of the newspaper No. 3 dated June 1, 1870, a voluminous article “the postal road between Tashkent and Samarkand” was published, supplementing scientific information about the Myrzashol region. It is noted that Shynaz on the banks of the Syrdarya River is a small town built exclusively for military purposes, built by Russian soldiers who settled here. According to the newspaper, a direct and convenient road from Tashkent to Samarkand passed through this settlement. The Syrdarya River provided interaction with cities located along its banks, Darya had many opportunities to expand the shipping route. Therefore, speaking about the bright future awaiting Shynaz, the author of the article noted: “here visitors to Shynaz go to the left bank of the Syrdarya River: Myrzashol begins from this place, the Russians, looking at



the desert without end, called it Betpak Dala. This steppe can be called not a hungry arid steppe, but an uninhabited land, because a hardworking sedentary people once lived here, dug ditches, engaged in trade" (Turkestanskije vedomosti, 1870).

According to the author of the article, the signs left by the former settled population were clearly visible. There are three stations in Myrzashol: Malek, Myrzarabat and Agash. They were built very hastily, there were several Cossacks in each. Wells were dug around, unfortunately, their waters were bitter, salty. However, it seems that there was no harm to his health. This indicates that the Cossacks and post horses were not ill, although they drank and used the same water. Wells in the same area were dug in the old days when the Russians came here. The Cossacks have just removed them. Large, deep wells were built of burnt brick in the form of domes framed by buildings with windows vertically positioned on the ground. From a distance, they looked like low burial mounds or mounds, often found in the Kazakh steppes. But, having entered the building, it was noticed that the inner part of the dome is very wide. Since the floor of such structures is made close to the surface of the Earth, the inner part of the brick domes allowed breathing fresh and cool air. The researcher, who drew attention to the fact that in the old days caravans came here, cooled down and rested on hot summer days, in this article describes the caravan palaces and wells near the stations of Malek, Myrzarabat and Agashty, which he met and met with his own eyes.

The message about the project of watering the Zhyzhakh steppe, published in the issue newspaper "Turkestanskije Vedomosti" (1871), is called Myrzashol and Myrzashol in some works of Russian researchers, despite its small size, little information. The message reads: "As one of the important and wonderful projects of Mr. Governor-General, we should make proposals for irrigation of the Zhyzhakh steppes by conducting irrigation ditches from the Syrdarya to Myrzarabat. Everyone who has passed through Zhyzhakh is familiar with this region. The steppe, burning under the hot sun, initially makes a heavy impression. However, it is not difficult to notice that only yesterday the Zhyzhakh steppe became a land where turbulent life was boiling. The huge ditches here indicate that yesterday people lived here who were engaged in agriculture, received a rich harvest from the fertile land. If we irrigated this valley with desert, the old construction sites between Shynaz and Zhyzhakh would have been burned. In this regard, we are talking about the Myrzarabat caravan palace and Sardaba, built to store water" (Turkestanskije vedomosti, 1871). The author of such a small message in short admits that at the time of Myrzashol there were traces of life, that the people who lived there were engaged in agriculture, plowed, built a moat, developed a settled culture.

The report says that the vaunted project belonged to engineer N. Ulyanov. After all, the first governor-General of the Turkestan region, a major military engineer K. P. Kaufman in 1871, having once again toured Myrzashol via the communication line, familiarized himself with the local features, instructed engineer N. Ulyanov to start the first research case, having carried out preparatory work for the construction of a large moat irrigating this area with the Syrdarya River (Turkestanskije vedomosti, 1873). After

carrying out the first such research work, the administration of the General Government began the second stage of the development of Myrzashol (summer 1872 - spring 1882).

On April 26, 1872, the military governor of the Syrdarya region, N.I. Golovachev wrote a report addressed to the Turkestan Governor-General K. P. Kaufman with a request to transfer to the disposal of Staff Captain N.F. Ulyanov's Cossack team of 40 people, 2 constables, to provide him with finances and appropriate equipment for scientific work in Myrzashol. Qualified process engineers N. F. Ulyanov, as a result of this visit, developed a project for irrigation of Myrzashol, which was discussed on July 21, 1872. In this connection, on August 7 of the same year, it is reported to K. P. Kaufman that Golovachev was allocated 100 thousand rubles for the development of Myrzashol, 23 thousand people. However, according to the newspaper "Turkestan Courier", conditioned upon poor organization of work, lack of funds, construction work stops. The year 1873 generally passes in correspondence with St. Petersburg, with a financial request (Turkestanskije vedomosti, 1912). Therefore, the newspaper "Turkestan Vedomosti" publishes an article "ancient water channel from Syrdarya to Bukhara" to draw attention to Myrzashol again.

According to N.A. Ivanov, without significant damage to the living conditions of local aborigines (i.e. Kazakhs – M.Zh.), forced resettlement, factual irrigation and development of the region is impossible. "Even he believes that the valley of the confluence of the Angren, Arys and Shu rivers, compared to which the country is densely populated, can be separated from the banks of these rivers by directly harming the Russian "rectifiers". "Russian settlers on this land will not displace the indigenous inhabitants of the region, then the question arises: Is it profitable for us to colonize these lands?", – "after all, colonisation by Russian settled peoples, in addition to the goal of strengthening only the reproduction of Russian elements here, should have another very important goal: to turn the productive power of the region into the best direction, that is, our Central Asian possessions should serve Russia through measures to compensate for the needs of consumers of the products of our factories and plants." Indeed, tsarist Russia's need for precious cotton and silk fibers with gold was strong. "If we irrigated Khozhent and Zhyzhakh, we would have achieved the wealth we dreamed of faster" (Turkestanskije vedomosti, 1884), – Ivanov's fantasy conveys.

He suggests using the water of the Zeravshan River, including the Syrdarya River, for the development of the Myrzashol region. The proposals outlined in this article correspond to the intentions of the Russian bourgeoisie, which is interested in increasing cotton production. However, conditioned upon the imperfection of the necessary equipment, the local population, performing the main work manually, suffers greatly. In October 1874, N. Flavitsky proposed to irrigate 40 thousand dessiatines of the land of Myrzashol by attracting the water of the Syrdarya by machines. As compensation for this, a gratuitous transfer of 2 thousand acres of irrigated land will be required. On November 14 of the same year, after a break, the excavation and construction of the canal in Myrzashol will be resumed. But only 16 thousand rubles

are allocated for this. On January 18, 1875, by the decision of the Turkestan Governor-General, the aforementioned N. Flavitsky project on irrigation of Myrzashol was discussed, in connection with which the created commission was headed by Major General Euler.

The essence of the project developed by N. Flavitsky was as follows. Because of the Syrdarya River, irrigation of 120 thousand acres of vast lands is very expensive. Moreover, the settlers do not have the opportunity to clear ditches and open water utilities. Therefore, the Governor-General's Office is forced to issue funds every year. The most effective is to install water intake machines along the bank of the Syrdarya River, divide the valley into several parts and irrigate each part separately. However, the commission headed by Major General Euler did not show a positive attitude to Flavitsky's proposal, did not support it.

Noting that the owner of the project was increasingly inclined to the assumption "it would be like that", without relying on the real state of affairs, comes to the conclusion that it is necessary to smear Myrzashol not only by the forces of the Governor-General, but also by the forces of enthusiastic individuals. Thus, the development of the region, starting from the lands of Iirzhar, Alakol, Maidazhyngyl, Aiymtogay, prefers to give free rein to the settlers, wherever they go. It is assumed that it is necessary to place Russian husbands from Voronezh, Saratov and other provinces of Russia on these lands. In the period from 1874 to 1878, 14.444 people from Tashkent, 25.250 people from the combined (Tashkent) district, 28.600 people from the Khozhent district, a total of 68.294 people were involved in the excavation of the canal. However, the length of the dug channel barely reaches 13.5 versts. Nevertheless, 125.840 thousand rubles will be allocated for this. Thus, the first actions on the development of Myrzashol end without success. After the coming to power of the Turkestan Governor-General, General M. G. Chernyaev in the period from 1882 to 1884. the authorities did not water this region. The reason for this is the engineer-technologist n. f. Ulyanov explains not by the fact that conditioned upon the large expenditure of funds, the complexity of the work, but by the fact that the relations of General M. G. Chernyaev and K. P. Kaufman's were bad that Chernyaev was jealous and deliberately interfered with this good beginning (Turkestanskije vedomosti, 1884).

The main feature of the third stage of the development of Myrzashol (February 1883 – December 1899) is that the main work here is carried out under the guidance and organization of an individual. In 1883, a relative of the tsar, Prince N.K. Romanov, sent here at his own request, began to develop Myrzashol. On February 25 of the same year, Governor-General M. G. Chernyaev asks the Minister of Internal Affairs to allow the work of N. K. Romanov. On March 23, the Prince announced that, since the work had already begun, the government would allow him to continue this business. Romanov visited the Turkestan region, where he manages primary construction works. But, according to him, a large ditch dug by water will wash away the gusts of water. Nevertheless, articles are increasingly published in the press, insistently demanding the continuation of the development of Myrzashol by the state. For example, in the article "Attempt to irrigate Myrzashol" ("Attempt to irrigate the Hungry Steppe")

(Turkestanskije vedomosti, 1884), E. Smirnov recalls the history of the development of this region and introduces the geographical location of Myrzashol. Based on the map of the Turkestan military district published in 1877, the author notes that in the vicinity of the adjacent Kyzylkum Sands and the Syrdarya River, it is possible to draw an edge connecting the Shardara fortress, the Temirkabyk well, to conduct such a study to find out this area. Interestingly, like the authors of other articles, E. Smirnov does not hide that before the arrival of the colonists, Myrzashol was inhabited by a dense country where the local population lived. "Once it was sown and inhabited, there were even large cities, that is, the banks of the Syrdarya River. For example, the place of the city of Myntobe opposite the Shardara fortress, which was opened by Mr. Fedchenko, is proof of that," – he writes.

Similar articles were published in other editions of the Turkestan Collection. A prominent scientist-geographer A. I. Voeykov publishes an article in the journal "Russkij vestnik" ("Russian Bulletin") "artificial irrigation and its use in the Caucasus and Central Asia" (Russkij vestnik, 1884). He explains the ways of irrigation of desert and semi-desert lands from a scientific standpoint and gives valuable comments. Advanced engineers also strive to correct the shortcomings made earlier. For example, on February 14, 1885, N. Petrov sent a letter to the Turkestan Governor-General N.O. Rosenbach about irrigation projects in the Myrzashol steppe. Before the scientific notes of engineer N.A. Petrov overcame the corresponding bureaucratic obstacles and reached the Governor-General, Prince N. K. Romanov on April 10 managed to receive an answer to a letter from the Turkestan Governor-General addressed to him in January 1886 with a request to allow the restoration of ancient irrigation ditches in Myrzashol. In 1890, the Minister of Finance of the tsarist government Vyshnegradsky acquainted Prince N.K. Romanov with the course of irrigation works in Myrzashol and decided to allocate him 100 thousand rubles (Russian bulletin, 1884). Not limiting himself to this, Romanov in the next 1891 will receive another 50 thousand rubles as compensation for the funds spent on the restoration of the former Bukhara ditch.

Nevertheless, the need for the development of the Myrzashol region at the state level, and not by individual forces, is becoming obvious every day. Scientists began to sound the alarm, saying that if they did not urgently take up the watering of this region, it would gradually grow into a dead steppe. N. Dingelstede's work "The experience of irrigation research in the Turkestan region", published in St. Petersburg in 1893, says: "At present it is tragic that this country is slowly moving towards demoralisation. Although this happens gradually, it dries up and its water riches decrease. After all, evaporation prevails over atmospheric moisture. And the dry wind, hot and dried sand at a high level threaten to move into the green valley, turning into arid, the Land remaining from the old time, only a small signora" [28]. Such reasoning, based on the truth, does not remain fruitless. In 1894, engineer N.A. Petrov conducts an extensive analysis of the structure of the Iskituetartar moat, which previously irrigated Myrzashol. He proposes to restore this ditch for irrigation of 12 thousand acres of land, according to his calculations, this will require 1.5 thousand cubic meters of sapling water.

At this time, the tsarist authorities began to search for ways to continue the irrigation works that had previously been put into service in Myrzashol. A special commission chaired by the Assistant Military Governor of the Samara region, Major General M. P. Pukalov, on August 31, 1894, inspected the Russian settlements in Myrzashol. In particular, in the village Zaporozhye, located on the left bank of the Syrdarya River, along the Bekabat ditch, five versts from the source of the Bukhara moat, 86 cellars (a house made of clay) and the Grand Duke's Palace were built in the winter quarters of Bekabat, from 86 lands in the village. Zaporozhye it is known that 20 houses are suitable for human habitation, the construction of the rest has not yet been established. At the same time, the group led by M.P. Pukalov will inspect the houses of Russian husbands living in the village of Nikolaevsky in the Kiyat district, 20 versts from the winter quarters of Bekabat Sabat parish, in the village of Romanovsky on the shore of Lake Ayymkol, 22 versts from the Nikolaev parish, in the village of Nadezhdinsky in Iirzhar parish.

The resettlement of Russian peasants, who had not yet fully developed the region into a settled Horde, was impossible without improving road communication. Therefore, in order to build a railway from Samarkand to Tashkent, a special decision was made on April 17, 1895. This railway was to pass from the Southern and eastern sides of Myrzashol. The tsarist government is really starting to turn to this edge. In May 1895, he instructed the Minister of State Property, together with the Turkestan Governor-General, to develop a detailed plan for irrigation works in Turkestan (December 13, 1912). Accordingly, the Minister of Lands and State Property will inspect 600 thousand dessiatines of the lands of Syrdarya, Ferghana and Samarkand regions, including Myrzashol. On February 10-15, 1897, the interdepartmental commission for the consideration of irrigation projects of the Turkestan Region holds a special meeting and analyses the collected data. A land administration is being created in the Turkestan Region, which begins to search for land needed for irrigation and colonization. The above-mentioned interdepartmental commission meets twice from May 26 to June 3 to finalise the materials collected by the search teams. It examines the project of watering 60 thousand dessiatines of the lands of the South-East of Myrzashol and resolves the question of the need for even more in-depth study (Turkestanskije vedomosti, 1912).

This commission rejects the project of engineer N. A. Petrov flooding of 50 thousand dessiatine valleys in the south of Myrzashol. He designed the construction of a dam on the Syrdarya River near the village of Kazynak in order to strengthen the gusts of water. But his idea is not realised (Turkestanskije vedomosti, 1914).

And Prince N. K. Romanov continues to work independently. From November 1, 1895 to July 1, 1898, he spends 369,285 rubles 49 kopecks on the excavation of the Nicholas I canal. On August 16 of the same year, the Ministry of Land of the Tsarist Government sent a special group headed by engineer P. Elistratov to familiarise and review irrigation works under the leadership of Prince N. K. Romanov. As a result of a comprehensive examination, it turns out that the ditch dug by Prince N. K. Romanov, was carried out without complying with the relevant requirements, it is necessary to invest huge amounts of

money and carry out reconstruction every year, and it is also able to irrigate only tens of acres of land. It is believed that there is no need to spend public funds to expand this channel. On December 15, 1899, a special commission was created by the Administration of Land and state Property of the Turkestan Region, which adopted the Nicholas I Canal water system, owned by Prince N. K. Romanov, and returned 340 thousand rubles to him. But the prince no longer ceases to independently lease to others the lands transferred to the treasury of the state. As a result, the head of the Zhyzakh district will have to write a complaint to the military governor of the Samara region. The response to this complaint will be received in March of the same year. According to the military governor of the Samara region N. K. Romanov in connection with the illegal actions of the acting Governor-General of the Turkestan region N. A. Ivanov declares that any actions of the prince in Myrzashol are prohibited. Instructs to take measures to terminate the work of Romanov and prevent his transfer of land for lease. In turn, the military governor of the Samarkand region on March 18, 1900 gives appropriate instructions to the chiefs of the Khozhent and Zhyzakh counties.

After the adoption of the Nicholas I Canal at the disposal of the state, the Department of Lands and State Property of the Turkestan Territory informs the land Management Department of the Main Department of Land Management and Land Use about the need for 30 thousand rubles for repair and other works at the mouth of the Syrdarya River near the Iirzhar Pass in order to effectively use this channel. On June 12 of the same year, the State Council will allocate 50 thousand rubles for the repair of the canal named after Emperor Nicholas I (July 25, 1906). In 1901, Prince N. K. Romanov was forced to leave Turkestan. On July 20, 1906, he moved to Tashkent again and again began to master Myrzashol with enthusiasm. However, in addition to this, digging of the waterway will be required. Therefore, the Department of Lands and State Property of the Turkestan Territory transfers to the land Management Department of the Main Department of Land Management and Land Management of the tsarist government a number of projects for the development of lands and spending 9 million rubles on them with a total area of 154.700 thousand desyatinas in the Samarkand, Syrdarya and Fergana regions. During this period, promptly created projects activate the work. For example, the project of watering 45 acres of land on the north-eastern side of Myrzashol, implemented in early 1899 on behalf of Governor-General S. M. Dukhovskiy, will give impetus to further fundamental affairs.

Special importance is attached to this project, and in March and April of the same year, a meeting is held in the Land management Department with the participation of the Ministers of Finance, military, internal Affairs, railways, state Control and the heads of the Turkestan Governor-General. At the suggestion of the Turkestan Governor-General S. M. Dukhovskiy, the decision on the urgent entry into the watering of 45 thousand dessiatines of valleys in the north-east of Myrzashol will be discussed and supported. On April 11 this year, the construction of the railway from Chernyaev station to Tashkent will be completed, and ties with important economic centers of Russia will be strengthened. After the settlement of traffic on Myrzashol, the Ministry of Lands and State Property



proposed in 1900 the State Council to start implementing new projects for the development of vacant lands, allocate 2.500 thousand rubles for this (Turkestanskije vedomosti, 1901). This proposal, addressed on October 19, 1899, was supported by the State Council on November 18. The Russian press in the Turkestan Collection, in accordance with the designated program, during this period most systematically and comprehensively performs the task of constantly covering the progress of the development of the Myrzashol region in the south of the Kazakh steppe—one of the spheres of the so openly and comprehensively thought-out colonial policy. The most influential newspapers and magazines included in the “Turkestan Collection”, according to the decision of the authorities of tsarist Russia, use their ideological and organizational forces to the maximum in this political and economic matter. For example, in every issue of the “Turkestan Vedomosti” for those years, you can find a lot of materials talking about cotton cultivation in the region, digging, digging ditches, laying water supply networks. In a message published in the newspaper No. 35 of May 9 (12), 1899 (Turkestanskije vedomosti, 1899), it is reported that in near the Myrzarabat hill in Myrzashol, 12 kilometers from the Myrzarabat station, a large lake with an area of 5.000 acres of land was formed, which was formed from water flowing through the channel of Emperor Nicholas I, stretched across the Syrdarya River. The article also notes that nomadic Kazakhs, who effectively used such huge reserves of water, sowed barley, sesame, melons, watermelons and other vegetables, planted tree seedlings, local residents of Myrzashol mastered the culture of agriculture, but the fields that covered the expanses of the steppes began to incur losses to pests and locusts.

### History of development and irrigation of Myrzashol

The development and irrigation of Myrzashol —□was not only the work initiated by the Turkestan Governor-General. He was constantly held in his hands by the tsarist Russian government, the relevant decisions were made at the Imperial state level. The “Turkestanskije Vedomosti” newspaper reports that a very important telegram has arrived in Tashkent from St. Petersburg. The newspaper report says that the State Council of the Kingdom of Russia, having considered the estimate of the Ministry of Lands, allocated 300 thousand rubles in 1900 for watering 45 thousand desyatins of the desert in Myrzashol: “thus, this year the basis for such complex work as the development of the Myrzashol region will be created. Now in two or three years this region will become cultured, green” (Turkestanskije vedomosti, 1899).

At this time, the work is gaining significant momentum and Russian villages appear. The number of displaced persons evacuated from the inner provinces of Russia is increasing. Special laws have been issued in Myrzashol on the resettlement of Russian subjects only in Christianity, and the policy of the tsarist government on the colonisation of Kazakh lands is gaining momentum and strengthening. The main thing is that this issue is given special state significance, which the authorities directly direct through Russian periodicals in the “Turkestan Collection”. In September 1901, 210 Russian peasants took part in the construction of the Myrzashol main canal, led by engineer-technician A. Rudinsky and technician Petrov. In the

autumn of 1901, the first stones of the Orenburg–Tashkent railway were laid near Tashkent. 1108 dessiatines of irrigated land in Myrzashol were leased to 27 tenants, from whom income in the amount of 2.336 rubles is collected. In the issues of the newspaper “Turkestan Vedomosti” for 1900-1901, messages and articles are often printed telling about how the development of 45 thousand dessiatines of the above-mentioned lands is being conducted.

In the issue of the newspaper dated August 5, 1901 (Turkestanskije vedomosti, 1901), it is reported that an instruction came from St. Petersburg to Tashkent obliging to begin the development of the above-mentioned territory according to the project of the management of local land and state property. The next issue of the publication No. 63 dated August 9, 1901 contains a commentary on the decree of the Ministry of Lands and State Property on the beginning of the development of Myrzashol. It is noted that the natural conditions of this region are very favorable for the development of agriculture, in the spring the surface of the Earth is renewed and settles, soil fertility is high, there are rarely such areas that are beneficial for the settlement of Russians who moved to Turkestan. In this article, the author writes: “Of course, it is impossible to predict and list what awaits Myrzashol, full of massive herbage, in the future. But right now, when the desire of Russians to colonise this region and an increase in the number of settlers is beginning to be felt, for the comprehensive accelerated development of Turkestan, the landscaping of Myrzashol is considered a great event, people will soon settle on 45 thousand desyatins of land, culture is quickly taking wing here, the life of the steppes rushes into space, and in a few decades the entire Myrzashol steppe, which has become rich with its own colonizers, equal to a grain field and blooms with the fruits of thickly grown.

The geographical position of Myrzashol is in the center of the entire territory of Turkestan suitable for sowing, therefore, special attention should be paid to the ownership of Russian villages, and not to the use of villages peripheral from the center. Russian life is being revived here, and the present bare steppe is turning into a rich valley of cotton and is being revived in the environment of manufactured Russian products. Now this future is very close, the first shovel of the ditch, which diverts the waters of the Syrdarya to Myrzashol, opens the way to the development of the intense of a remote region and brings all the paths leading to the whole of Russia as close as possible” (Turkestanskije vedomosti, 1901). In the issue dated November 18, 1901, the newspaper “Turkestan Vedomosti” published an article about the beginning of irrigation work in Myrzashol, telling about the measures of the tsarist authorities to colonise this region. “...Thus began the grandiose business of landscaping Myrzashol, opening up a new space for Russian colonization and the bright future of our region of interest” (Turkestanskije vedomosti, 1901), from the lines of a newspaper article it is clear that the Turkestan Governor-General began to implement specific cases after the completion of relevant research work.

June 12, 1902 Turkestan Governor-General N. A. Ivanov informs the Minister of Lands A. S. Yermolov that next year a loan of 737 thousand rubles was requested for the work performed in Myrzashol. At the same time, the Governor-General requests that Lieutenant-General



Zhilinsky, the manager of the Land Management Department, be sent to familiarise himself with the course of watering the Myrzashol steppe [2]. After this visit of Lieutenant-General Zhilinsky, the Ministry of Lands and State Property of the tsarist government will propose to the State Council to send hydrotechnical research groups to Myrzashol. At that time, 1,558 acres of land were leased to more than 50 tenants in Myrzashol, compared with 1901, the volume of leased land will increase one and a half times, and the revenue from it will increase three and a half times (Turkestanskije vedomosti, 1906). In the summer of the same year, the task of developing Myrzashol was transferred to the management of the resettlement department. At the initiative of this institution, 16 families from Siberia will be relocated to the provided Land in the area of the Myrzashol railway station. However, many of them later moved back, and only three houses remain. And in the autumn of 1906, only 26 families will settle in the Myrzashol district (Turkestanskije vedomosti, 1907).

The progress of such works on the development of arid steppes is regularly covered by the Russian press in the Turkestan Collection. Let's pay attention to the following journalistic materials from the newspaper "Turkestan Vedomosti". "Since May 5, water began to flow from the Syrdarya to the Emperor Nicholas I canal, irrigating the state land in Myrzashol. Against this background, precipitation and suspicions of people who rented land under the treasury increased. However, water scarcity has caused significant damage to autumn-winter crops (especially wheat), and now its watering does not bring any benefit. The growth of cotton sprouts is good. On Monday, May 8, it started raining again. In Sabat and Iirzhar volosts of Khozhent uyezd, the destruction of locusts by burning was completed, and some students were returned home before the end of August. After the holidays, they were invited again to participate in the registration of locust distribution sites" (Turkestanskije vedomosti, 1907). "The Department of Lands and State Property of the Turkestan Region sent a junior topographer Popandopullo to Myrzashol to determine garden lands and lands of state practice opposite the Myrzashol station, and leased state lands in the private sector. The head of the Department of state property of the Khozhent district gave this topographer an indication of the annual lease of groves and the lake Zhekesardaba itself. Next year, Kazakhs from Iirzhar volost intend to rent these groves themselves, so as not to pay and not spend money on outsiders" (Turkestanskije vedomosti, 1907).

"In subsequent times, the Myrzashol markets remained park-like. Kazakhs, frightened by the cold, are not very eager to get together. Cotton in the fields" (Turkestanskije vedomosti, 1907). These excerpts from the "Turkestan Collection" are valuable with concrete data expressing the breath of that time. Notably, the tsarist authorities attached great importance to Myrzashol in the summer of 1907, when a special commission sent from St. Petersburg by the Institute of Hydrogeology arrived here and worked for two weeks (Turkestanskije vedomosti, 1907). On November 9-10 of the same year, the Minister of Lands as part of the government of tsarist Russia A. A. Schultz and gets acquainted with the Myrzashol experimental square [2]. The State Duma of Tsarist Russia in May 1911 will allocate 4 million 738 thousand 500 rubles for the

completion of irrigation works in the North-West of Myrzashol. It is established that these funds should be spent in 1910 – 348 thousand rubles, in 1911 – 1 million 214 thousand 600 rubles, in 1912 – 1 million 609 thousand 900 rubles, in 1913 – 965 thousand rubles, in 1914 – 601500 rubles (Turkestanskije vedomosti, 1912).

Despite such great measures, the work on the fifth stage of the development of Myrzashol is very slow. After all, this is strongly influenced by the difficult internal situation of that time in tsarist Russia, the aggravation of social contradictions, famine and war, and other events. Therefore, the tsarist government reduces the provision of financial loans for the development of Myrzashol. At a meeting held on December 1, 1911 under the leadership of the State Secretary of the Council of Ministers V. I. Kokovtsev, the order of irrigation work in Myrzashol will be determined and proposals for holding a trade auction to attract reliable contractors to it will be announced, and in case of its failure-self-financing. By January 1, 1912, excavation works in the amount of 36.69 km will be carried out here and 6 million 770 thousand 424 cubic meters of land will be developed (Turkestanskije vedomosti, 1917). As reported in the issue of the "Turkestan Vedomosti" No. 18 dated January 22, 1917, in the future it is planned to build 5 cities, 200 shopping and public places in the Myrzashol district, including about 60 thousand institutions dealing with settlement issues. In general, the volume of cotton transported from this region to the interior of Russia is planned to increase to 9-10 million rubles, and its total cost is up to 230 million rubles. To implement such a case, it is proposed to start the construction of the Syrdarya–Zhyzakh railway (Turkestan vedomosti, 1917).

However, the February and October revolutions of 1917, the civil war and the difficult situation in the country do not allow such plans to be implemented. Russian media regularly covered one of the main topics in the "Turkestan Collection", was the social situation of Russian settlements and settlements in the Kazakh steppe, including in Myrzashol, the life of immigrants. About the reason for such close attention to this issue in the article "The results of the colonisation of the region" published in the newspaper "Turkestan Vedomosti" dated June 22, 1904 No. 85: "Since the problem of colonisation of the Turkestan region from the point of view of Russian interests is of great state importance, the results of this work are often extracted" (Turkestanskije vedomosti, 1904), the author writes. According to the Turkestan Collection, in 1867 the settlement of Shynaz was built, which is the first Russian settlement in the Syrdarya region. According to the terms of construction, the village of Karabalta, founded in 1874 in the Aulieata district, is in second place. It was since 1874 that Russian settlements have been appearing annually in the Syrdarya region.

One of the first settlements for Russian navvies engaged in irrigation of Myrzashol, the village of Nadezhdinsky, was founded in 1885 under the leadership of Prince N. K. Romanov. The village of Nadezhdinsky belongs to the Iirzhar parish of the Khozhent district. It is located 6 versts from the village of Romanovsky, on the banks of the Syrdarya. As of August 31, 1894, 60 families, 38 families live here. The inhabitants of the village are mainly engaged in animal husbandry, agriculture. As of

November 5, 1910, 109 people, 324 people, including 150 men, 174 women, 43 school-age boys, 31 girls, 1.134 heads of cattle, 354 heads of small cattle, 163.5 acres of irrigated land, live.

As of October 6, 1911 – 109 heads, 543 people, 87 school-age children, 1.291 heads of cattle, 1.597 heads of small cattle, 163.5 acres of irrigated land. And as of May 28, 1912, 109 dessiatines, 101 private farms, 109 families, 264 men, 289 women use 1.430 dessiatines of irrigated land, 1.915 dessiatines of pastures, contain 2.747 cattle. There are 16 boys and 14 girls studying at this school, 52 children in winter. There will be no first medical center, school house in this village. On April 26, 1914, the territory under the jurisdiction of the settlement was renamed 1400 desyatins. The Romanovsky settlement was founded in 1887. As of August 31, 1894, it belongs to the Sabat parish of the Khozhent district, located in the lower reaches of the Syrdarya, 22 versts from the village of Nikolaevsky, on the shore of Lake Ayimkol. 16 families, 12 families graze cattle, sow crops, at this time they have no irrigated land. On January 28, 1904, Turkestan Governor-General N.A. Ivanov at the suggestion of the head of the Department of Lands and State Property V. M. Lazarevsky gives instructions on increasing the irrigated lands of the Romanovsky settlement. As of November 5, 1910, 92 heads were grazed, 434 people-706 heads of cattle, 279 heads of small cattle, 121 tithes of irrigated land. As of October 6, 1911, 672 heads of cattle, 2327 heads of small cattle live in the village, as of May 28, 1912-121 people, 112 personal subsidiary farms, 316 men, 331 women. 1.500 acres of irrigated land, 3.562 cattle. 11 boys, 5 girls studied at the school, 30 children in winter. On April 26, 1914, the village's lands reached 1.530 tithes.

In 1891, the village of Nikolaevsky was built. As of August 31, 1894, the settlement is located 20 versts from the winter quarters of the Begabat Sabat parish of the Khozhent district, 100 houses, 67 families, including 20 Orenburg Cossack families live in it. As of November 5, 1910, there are 30 people, 174 people, 30 school-age children, 477 heads of cattle, 297 heads of small cattle, 36 tithes were caught. As of October 6, 1911, there were 38 people, 204 people who kept 529 heads of cattle, 310 heads of small cattle. As of May 28, 1912, 40 women, 109 men, 96 women, 440 tithes. There are 20 children studying at the school. In 1896, by the verdict of Prince N. K. Romamov, the Verkhnevolynsky settlement is being created in the area of the construction of the Nikolai I canal. According to a report dated November 5, 1910, 70 people, 340 people, including 65 school-age children, live in it. Of these, 633 heads of cattle, 363 heads of small cattle. Mostly Baptists lived in this village. On May 28, 1912, the amount of smoke reached 78, and the land-450 dessiatines.

In 1896, the Promised settlement was built for the Cossacks who moved to Myrzashol. Based on November 5, 1910, 40 people, 233 people, 14 school-age children live here. Grazing 350 heads of cattle, 120 heads of small cattle, 300 dessiatines. As of October 6, 1911, the amount of smoke increased by 48, the population by 238, school-age children by 17, 347 heads of cattle, 5 heads of small cattle were registered, and on May 28, 1912, 47 chickens, 123 men, 122 women, 465 animals. On June 3, 1897, on the instructions of Prince N.K. Romanov creates a Konnogvardeysky settlement for sectarians. Based on

November 5, 1910, there were 28 people, 113 people, 24 school-age children. They raised 261 heads of cattle, 483 heads of small cattle, 29 dessiatines of irrigated land. As of May 28, 1912, 71 men, 59 women, 346 tithes, 1546 cattle are registered [2]. In 1898, in the area of the Myrzashol station, the village of Dukhovskoye was created (April 3, 1908) from 10 families who moved to protect the railway. As of November 5, 1910, 241 smokes, 1413 people, 272 school-age children, 257 heads of cattle, 163 heads of small cattle, 2492 dessiatines of irrigated lands, 608 dessiatines of dry lands were registered in the villages of Dukhovskoye and Spasskoye. Based on May 28, 1912, 291 people, 259 personal subsidiary farms, 718 men, 622 women live. As of June 8, 1899, residents of this village sent letters to official places, stating that they wanted to leave Myrzashol. In the autumn of 1908, 173 families, 883 people, 363 children, 24 families lived in the village of Spasskoye. In 1911, the population of the village exceeded 1,500 people. On the opposite slope of the village, since 1908, there have been 60 families, 240 people of displaced tenants. The village of Spasskoye is joined by 10 chimneys of the village of Dukhovskoye (Turkestanskies vedomosti, 1909). In March 1907, 1 thousand dessiatines of land were allocated under the Myrzashol railway station to demonstrate the village of Spasskoye, more than 10 dessiatines of land were allocated to each family [2]. On October 30, 1909, residents of the village of Dukhovskoye received a harvest of 22.5 percent per hectare. In November 1909, 70 children went to school in the village of Spasskoye. 52 thousand rubles will be allocated for the construction of a medical center in this locality in the spring of 1910. According to data for 1911, there were 2118 dessiatines of land in the villages of Spasskoye and Dukhovskoye. Settlers in the village of Dukhovskoye expanded cotton, and in 1911 its area was 58 percent of the total land area (September 12, 1909). The peasants of the village of Spasskoye in 1909 cultivated cotton by 9.2 percent of the total area of irrigated land, in 1910 – by 33.4 percent, in 1911 – up to 58 percent. As of October 6, 1911, 242 people, 1413 people, 272 school-age children lived in the village of Spasskoye, of which 367 heads of cattle, 115 heads of small cattle, 2492 dessiatines of irrigated land, 608 dessiatines of dry land.

The village of Nizhnevolynsky was built in 1897. As of November 5, 1910, 80 people, 350 people, 45 school-age children live here. 1160 heads of cattle, 400 heads of small cattle, 250 acres of land. As of October 6, 1911, 89 heads, 445 people, 41 school-age children, 1,256 heads of cattle, 138 heads of small cattle, 250 acres of land were registered. As of May 28, 1912, 90 heads, 71 personal farms, 243 men, 222 women, 2186 dessiatines of irrigated land, 1460 heads of cattle were counted. As of August 31, 1894, 86 houses and 12 families live in the village of Zaparozhsky on the left bank of the Syrdarya. In the village of Sretensky, built in 1887, with a report on November 5, 1910, 180 people, 854 people, 136 school-age children live. They contain 811 heads of cattle, 299 heads of small cattle. And with the report on October 6, 1911, the number here increased by 896 people, school-age children – by 184, the number of cattle – by 1160, small cattle – by 3282. On May 28, 1912, 169 families, 176 families, 444 men, 416 women, of which 3464 lived in the village of Sretensky desyatins, 3062 head of cattle (December 4, 1913). In 1909, more and more

migrants from all over Russia began to arrive in the Turkestan region. All of them do not have the ability to put everything in place, they have no limits in the number of people looking for land and work. Many of them independently seize land and start sowing without permission. Here, in the area of the Syrdarya railway station, one of the settlements where Russian peasants and other newcomers lived, he received the name "Nakhalovka". In the village of "Nakhalovka" in the summer of 1909, 120-150 smoke was recorded.

The inhabitants of this village seize the lands belonging to the Kazakhs of the Irzhar volost of the Khozhent uyezd. And at the bottom of the Rostovtsevo station, 25 people settled in this way, only 2 of them plowed and sowed crops, and the rest were engaged in trade. 52 people, 265 people, who kept 88 heads of cattle, settled independently in the Akpankol district. Thus, the tsarist government seized the lands of local Kazakhs in such numbers, without traces in the sand. On November 25, 1913, a general meeting of settlers took place in the area of the Syrdarya railway station "Altyn Orda" and it was decided to rename the newly erected settlement to "Alekseevskoye". The construction of the settlement will allow rationally organising irrigation of Myrzashol farms. The name of this settlement, which increased the number of Russian settlements in the area, was also written in some documents as Veliko-Alekseevskoye. In 1914, near the Syrdarya railway station, the village of Slavyanka was formed and began to flourish. According to the protocol of administrative registration in the Samara region of the Turkestan Governor-General, the village of Slavyanskoe is initially designed for 344 chimneys. However, in practice, as of December 29, 1915, 302 houses live in this village, in 1916-124 houses. At the suggestion of the inspector of public schools of the 2nd district of the Samarkand region, M. S. Andreev, in June 1916, it was decided to open two comprehensive parish schools [29].

Unfortunately, there is no uniformity in the data previously mentioned or recorded about the history of the construction of this settlement, which occupies a fundamental place among the Russian settlements in the Myrzashol area, lying in the south of Kazakhstan, and contradictions were often allowed. For example, in the Kazakh Soviet encyclopedia about the time of the foundation of this settlement Slavyanskoye (later renamed Slavyanka) it says: "Slavyanka is an urban-type settlement (1967). The foundation was laid in 1910. The former name of "Gavrilenko" [30]. It is not known what the historians relied on. In fact, Gavrilenko is not the name of the village. Only the name of one of the Russian peasants who moved from Russia to the Kazakh Myrzashol region. The Gavrilenko brothers were confiscated in the 30s of the twentieth century as malicious class enemies of society. According to researcher H. Arystanbekov [31], until 1914, there were 12-14 Russian settlements, 1100 private farms on the territory of the Maktaaral district of the modern South Kazakhstan region, the area of irrigated land reached 12 thousand hectares, including 5500 hectares of cotton lands.

According to the Turkestan Collection for February 1906, 9 settlements, 377 peasant farms, 174 families who did not have time to settle, a total of 2,532 Russian residents lived in the Myrzashol district. In the period from

December 1906 to March 1907, only 20 families wintered in Myrzashol on the lands of the colonization fund, designed for 26 families. In the spring of 1907, 65 chimneys were inhabited on farm plots, each of which was granted 10 acres of land [2]. If in 1903 there were only 99 Russian settlements in the Turkestan region (Turkestanskije vedomosti, 1903), then according to the census conducted by K. Riesenkampf [27], on November 20, 1914, there were 11 Russian settlements in Myrzashol alone, 1201 farms, 10667 hectares of useful land out of 5919 people. Thus, disputes related to land often arose between the local Kazakh people who lost their settlements conditioned upon the colonial policy of the tsarist Russian government, and Russian settlers who, with the support of the official authorities, fully settled in the built and erected settlements. The attitude of the military personnel of the General Government to the resolution of such a contradiction is clearly seen in the following entry of the military governor of the Samara region, Major General N. Z. Odishelidze on the state of Russian settlements in Myrzashol.

In the twelfth section of this entry, "unauthorised landowners", it says: "in the region, the village that the peasants built independently was built in 1909 in the Akpankol area, near the Syrdarya station and Rostovtsevo station. The court considered the issue of the resettlement of Russians to the lands of the Kazakhs of the village of Irzhar volost of Khozhent uyezd, who settled without permission in the valley adjacent to the Syrdarya station. To date, the number of unauthorised owners of land near the Rostovtsevo station has reached 25 people. They are not among the people engaged in land management. Because 2 of them plowed 2 tithes each, the rest were engaged in trade or household chores. And such construction belongs to the management of the "police officers". The number of self-employed in Akpankol is: households – 52, individual farms – 53, individual families – 53, including men – 142, women – 123, the area of irrigated land – no, the number of available livestock – 88 heads. Previously, there were much more such people, but some of them moved to other places developed by the land management department. The actions of other people are also not happy: conditioned upon the difficult situation that has been going on for three or four years, and the general hostility, they go to commit various criminal acts, not even avoiding illegal actions against the administration and neighboring "police officers" [32].

In order for the triumph of justice, the authority of Russian customs in this region not to decrease, landowners should be placed on the land as soon as possible. We have to relocate them to the lands belonging to the Kazakhs of the Irzhar volost. If someone is not satisfied with such work, then, on the instructions of the Resettlement Department, they will have to move to the other side" (Turkestanskije vedomosti, 1903). By such methods, Kazakhs who lost their homeland and were forced to quarrel because of forced eviction were beaten, considered lawbreakers and punished. The same actions of Russian peasants were evaluated differently and optimal conditions were created for them. Useful lands inhabited by Kazakhs were drawn to such people. The problem of the development of the Kazakh steppes is mentioned in one of the historical documents of the manager of the Department



of Land Management and Land Management A.V. Krivoshein [33]: “The political rule of the Russian people of Turkestan should be strengthened economically as well. We must provide the Russian settlers with the irrigated land wealth of Turkestan without any obstacles”, – the proposal testifies to this. In 1914, the tsarist Russian government adopted a special law on the admission to resettlement in Myrzashol only persons professing Christianity, including those who have funds in the amount of at least 1.000 rubles. This law has not easily affected the colonised local Kazakhs. They have lost their homeland. He was forced to leave his lands and move to the other side. Unable to withstand such injustice, they raised their heads and armed troops - Cossack squads - were used against those who resisted.

The number of Russian settlements built in this way in the Myrzashol district in southern Kazakhstan will reach 24 by the end of May 1917 (*Turkestanskije vedomosti*, 1917). Russian settlements were built on the most fertile and fertile banks of the Myrzashol rivers [34]. In parallel, Russification, the violent spread of Christianity, the arming of peasants, and the violent use of violence against local Kazakhs were carried out in Veliko-Alekseevsky, Verkhne-Volynsky, Dukhovskiy, Konnogvardeysky, Konstantinovskiy, Nadezhdinskij, Nakhalovskiy, Nizhne-Volynskiy, Nikolaevskiy, Promised, Slavic, Spasskiy, Sretenskij and other settlements erected in this region [35]. The tsarist authorities were interested in relocating healthy people to Myrzashol. “Future Russian settlements should be richer, richer and more architectural than the villages, wintering local Aboriginal people.” One of the documents adopted at that time noted: “in any case, we must admit that we liked and should have liked what we worked in the Russian possessions” [36].

On November 29, 1891, the law on arming Russian immigrants was adopted [37]. According to this law, every Russian settlement under construction in the Turkestan Region had to combine the functions of a military regiment, battery. Their code says that they should become an army that will unite in the fight against the local population, help each other. And the Russian peasants had to feel like soldiers of the same army. In the event of an unexpected threat from local residents, these militarily significant Russian settlements were the saving force from the threat of “reprisals”. A similar duty is imposed on the aforementioned villages of Myrzashol. “The question of arming the aliens was kept a secret, a secret, – says P.K. Galuzo [38], it was not allowed to write about it. Therefore, there is little evidence published in print”. Russian settlements built in the Kazakh steppes were not disclosed, but the periodicals of the Turkestan Collection published reports that among Russian peasants or during their quarrels with the Kazakhs, cases of the destruction of the enemy with the help of cold weapons became more frequent. For example, in the message “killed by a predator” (*Turkestanskije vedomosti*, 1917), printed in the issue of the newspaper “*Turkestan Vedomosti*” dated September 10, 1917, it is said that the peasants who were arguing on the land were drunk and shot a neighbor. Thus, the Kazakh steppe was colonised, and Russian peasants became hordes of their settlements.

## Conclusions

The materials of the Russian press in the “Turkestan Collection” devoted to the problem of the development of the Kazakh steppe are not unique in content. After all, these periodicals, in accordance with their tasks as a shaper of public opinion, selectively used data that meet the goals and interests of the tsarist government. When describing the events, they tried not to exceed the censorship limits that should be observed. Criticism of the actions of the official administration in this regard, as well as indications of shortcomings, were very poorly recorded in newspapers and magazines. And there such criticism is found only in the articles of high-ranking officials in power. But there are not so many descriptive materials in the “Turkestan Collection”. In general, in the “Turkestan Collection” dedicated to the political results of the conquest of the Kazakh steppes, I would like to once again note the following features of printed materials. Firstly, the views of periodicals on this matter were very limited. Secondly, authors on this topic rarely came across. Thirdly, the policy of the tsarist government found full support from the Russian press.

In general, the periodicals in the “Turkestan Collection” only supported the development of the Kazakh steppe – the desire of tsarist Russia to colonise a remote region. Only the side of the usefulness of this colonial policy of Russia was considered. That is, the newspapers and magazines in the “Turkestan Assembly”, as the official periodicals of the respective governors-general and, accordingly, their tone, fully performed the functions of a propagandist of the colonial policy pursued by the tsarist government.

Periodicals grouped into the “Turkestan Collection” were published from the first issues and regularly recorded issues related to immigrants to the Kazakh steppes. It is no coincidence that their special attention is paid to the situation of Russian peasants. After all, the tsarist government carried out a special state policy on the resettlement of newcomers from the interior regions of Russia to the titles of Kazakhs. Since these were official publications, newspapers and magazines could not get around this topic. Analysing the content of journalistic materials seeking to answer such unresolved questions that have arisen about the settlement, we note that periodicals served to form public opinion in the following direction:

- multiplication of all selected fertile, fertile lands, settlements and villages by Russian settlers, thereby morally and psychologically glorifying the local Aboriginal people of the “advantages” of Great Russian household and ritual traditions;
- the establishment of the rule of Christianity and the maximum restriction of Muslim customs with the help of churches and other places of baptism;
- Russian-correctional mixed educational institutions have been firmly established in the minds of the capable children of the local population, the idea that “there is nothing better than Russian culture and education” has been established as a result of the opening of Russian-correctional mixed educational institutions.

Propaganda work in this direction was carried out openly and decisively, without cover on the pages of the Russian press in the “Turkestan Collection”.

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## Conflict of Interest

None.

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## **Переселенська політика царської Росії в казахських степах кінця XIX – початку XX ст. (за матеріалами періодичних видань та наукових статей)**

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### **Анотація**

**Актуальність.** Після завоювання Туркестану в другій половині XIX століття царський уряд почав вживати конкретних заходів. Царський уряд відправив спеціальні дослідницькі експедиції в казахські степи і почав збирати багато інформації про географічну, економічну та соціальну ситуацію. Мирзашольський і Кизилкумський райони на півдні країни, що вирізняються своєю близькістю до родючих і багатих на птахів берегів річки Сирдар'ї, зручним доступом до води, заслуговують на особливу увагу. Зібрані дослідниками матеріали були оброблені, узагальнені та опубліковані в російському періодичному виданні "Туркестанський збірник".

**Мета.** Метою було показати результати дослідницьких експедицій та уявити правителів, військових, селян і міщан величезної Росії в пошуках роботи і землі в цілинному степу, де ще не орали.

**Методологія.** Це дослідження використовує методологію історичного огляду, вивчаючи архівні матеріали, періодичні видання та раніше опубліковані наукові статті.

**Результати.** Результати дослідження свідчать про те, що переселенню значною мірою сприяв поділ казахських земель на адміністративні території та систематичне запровадження законів про державну власність. Аналіз показує, що це не тільки порушило традиційний кочовий спосіб життя казахів, але й відкрило шлях для значної російської міграції та розвитку сільського господарства, зокрема, вирощування бавовни.

**Висновки.** У дослідженні зроблено висновок, що переселенська політика була формою імперської стратегії, яка мала тривалий вплив на демографічні та економічні ландшафти регіону. Воно підкреслює подвійну роль економічної експлуатації та культурного домінування в колонізаційних зусиллях царату, що відображає ширші моделі європейських імперських практик в Азії. Дослідження підкреслює необхідність тонкого розуміння цієї історичної динаміки, щоб оцінити складну спадщину колоніальної політики в Центральній Азії.

**Ключові слова:** експедиції царської Росії; казахський степ; переселенська політика; періодичні видання; зрошення Мирзашольського степу; бавовництво.