



## Methodological Aspects of Studying the Activities of Land Institutions in East Kazakhstan (1920-1932)

*Aspectos metodológicos del estudio de las actividades de las instituciones  
agrarias en el este de Kazajstán (1920-1932)*

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### Abstract

Despite significant theoretical developments in the field of land relations in Kazakhstan, studies of methodological aspects of their establishment and development in the first decade of Soviet power remain incomplete. The purpose of the study is to determine the degree of development of the methodology aimed at investigating the concept of land management in 1920-1932 in East Kazakhstan, to reveal the features of the socio-philosophical meaning of the concept in the region. The methodological base includes the method the analysis of research on the land policy of the region in 1920-1932, systematisation and synthesis of principles and methods of studying the problem, and methods of induction, deduction, historical-logical and comparative, and the method of the study of the entire complex of measures related to the process of land management in the territory of East Kazakhstan in the first decade of Soviet power. Displayed the current level of study of the problem, and determines the ways of its further understanding and development in the interests of creating a complete picture of the history of land relations in East Kazakhstan. The analysis of natural historical realities of 1920-1932, can be considered and used in the modern historical context.

**Keywords:** East Kazakhstan, land relations, localisation policy, land management works, the national question.

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## Resumen

A pesar de los importantes desarrollos teóricos en el campo de las relaciones territoriales en Kazajstán, los estudios de aspectos metodológicos de su establecimiento y desarrollo en la primera década del poder soviético siguen siendo incompletos. El propósito del presente estudio es determinar el grado de desarrollo de la metodología destinada a investigar el concepto de gestión de la tierra en 1920-1932 en el este de Kazajstán, para revelar las características del significado sociofilosófico del concepto en la región. Se incluye como base el método el análisis de las investigaciones sobre la política agraria de la región en 1920-1932, la sistematización y síntesis de los principios y métodos de estudio del problema, y los métodos de inducción y deducción histórico-lógica y comparativa. La base metodológica incluye el método del estudio de todo el complejo de medidas relacionadas con el proceso de gestión de la tierra en el territorio del este de Kazajstán en la primera década del poder soviético. Así, se muestra el nivel actual de estudio del problema y se determinan las formas de su mayor comprensión y desarrollo, con el fin de crear una imagen completa de la historia de las relaciones territoriales en el este de Kazajstán. El análisis de las realidades históricas naturales de 1920-1932 puede ser considerado y utilizado en el contexto histórico moderno.

**Palabras clave:** Kazajstán oriental, relaciones territoriales, política de localización, gestión territorial, cuestión nacional.

RECIBIDO: 30/08/2022 · APROBADO: 13/09/2022 · PUBLICADO: 04/05/2023

## Introduction

The process of land management in East Kazakhstan in 1920-1932 is a complex process that was associated with one of the most difficult periods in the history of the state. The methodological analysis of the land policy of the region in 1920-1932 is aimed at analysing and systematising the principles and methods of studying the problem, determining the degree of its study and areas for further research.

Kazakhstan is the ninth country in the world by area. The territory with an area of 2,724.9 thousand square kilometers within the framework of the administrative-territorial structure unites 14 regions, including East Kazakhstan. The population of Kazakhstan exceeds 18 million people, most of which are Kazakhs – 68.5%, Russians – 18.8%, other nationalities – 12.6% (Republic of Kazakhstan, 2022). The territory of the East Kazakhstan region is 10% of the total area of the state. Special attention should be paid to the fact that most of the agricultural land in the region – 11.957 thousand hectares – is occupied by pastures – 9,665.6 thousand hectares (Akimat of East Kazakhstan Region, 2022). The independent development of Kazakhstan after the collapse of the Soviet Union posed several of problems for the state, including the issue of choosing a system of land relations. The study of topical issues related to the development of the agricultural sector made it necessary to conduct a comprehensive study of the totality of socio-economic factors that influenced the development of modern Kazakh agriculture in the historical context (Ibragimova, 2008). Land policy in Kazakhstan was closely intertwined with the national question. The study of the history of the development of national relations in the region allowed the developing a national policy that meets the requirements of modernity (Bielov *et al.*, 2019).

The land problem as a whole was one of the most complex but at the same time quite developed topics in Kazakh historical science. The appeal of historians of various generations to this issue can be explained not only by the interests of a scientific and cognitive nature, but also by significant practical relevance (Ibragimova, 2008). However, despite significant theoretical developments in the field of land relations in Kazakhstan, studies of methodological aspects of their establishment and development in the first decade of Soviet power remain incomplete. The problem of land survey in East Kazakhstan during this period has not been comprehensively investigated, in a number of papers it is covered in fragments (Mykhailo *et al.*, 2020; Zhanbosinova, 2012; Tugai, 2016). The analysis of the land policy of the region was carried out in fragments in the context of generalising studies related to the land management of the specified period on the territory of Kazakhstan. Some aspects of the activities of the regional land institutions were used by the researchers as examples and illustrations of socio-economic and political processes taking place in Kazakhstan. The fragmentary presentation of the material is associated with its ambiguous interpretation, which made many issues of the agrarian policy of the Bolsheviks in the 1920s controversial. Such issues include the localisation policy and other features of the agrarian policy of the Soviet state on the outskirts, including in Kazakhstan (Omarkhanova *et al.*, 2022).

The economic development of the territory of Kazakhstan, accompanied by the confrontation of central and regional authorities, was closely connected with the solution to the national question. A qualitative assessment of the process of forming a new land-use system was the reaction to the events of the rural population—peasant protests against the Soviet government and migration outside Kazakhstan. A significant amount of research is devoted to the national question, the Soviet localisation policy, and peasant uprisings of the specified period (Kaziev, 2014a). The definition of methodological aspects of studying the problem allowed identifying those components of the land-use process that were presented in the studies.

The chronological framework of 1920-1932 defines not only the first years of Soviet power but also the period of the most active search for an effective Soviet land-use system for the region. In 1920, the Autonomous Kyrgyz (Kazakh) Socialist Soviet Republic was formed, and in 1932 the process of the administrative-territorial division was almost completed and the East Kazakhstan Region was created (Kozlov, 2012a).

The object of the study is the land-use system, and the mechanisms of its development and implementation in East Kazakhstan in 1920-1932. The subject of the study is the methodological aspects of investigating this problem. The study is designed to reflect the current level of knowledge of the problem, and to identify ways to further comprehend it in the interest of creating a complete picture of the history of land relations in Kazakhstan.

## **Materials and methods**

The process of studying the methodological aspects of the problem was based on the definition of a methodological approach to the activities of land institutions of East Kazakhstan in 1920-1932. The formulated and structured problem was analysed

in the context of the results of modern research in this field to establish the results of achievements, contradictions, methodological errors, and outlined prospects. The study is based on the laws of identity and contradiction, and the obtained results of the analysis correlated with the given concept from the position of completeness and consistency. The methodology of the research was based on a set of general scientific principles, historicism, and objectivity. Within the framework of the study, a systematic approach was applied, program-targeted, comprehensive, etc., which allowed organising and conducting the most effective research.

Problem-chronological and comparative methods are derived from methodological principles. The problem-chronological method determined the structure of the study, allowing to consider the land policy of Kazakhstan in dynamics, structuring, and highlighting the main components of the process. The comparison is used to identify common areas in the studies considered.

In the course of the research, such theoretical methods as interrelated methods of analysis and synthesis, and methods of concretisation, generalisation, and analogies were used. The analysis identified the components of the problem, each of which is considered separately. By means of synthesis, the disparate areas were combined and systematised. The most significant characteristics of the problem were determined by the concretisation method. The induction was used in the process of identifying research papers of interest within the framework of the topic. The deduction was used when considering each selected paper.

The given topic was considered in several stages. In the first stage, the research problem was identified, and the main components of the process under study were identified. The detailing of the subject of methodological research has determined the possible methods and areas of its study. In the future, the basis for methodological analysis was identified, and determined research papers devoted to various aspects of a particular problem.

The theoretical and methodological basis of the study are papers of modern Kazakh and foreign researchers on the problems of land relations in 1920-1932. In the course of the study, the papers devoted to the land management policy in East Kazakhstan in 1920-1932, the problems of land management in Kazakhstan in general in 1920-1932, the policy of the USSR in Kazakhstan in 1920-1932, the policy of localisation of the Kazakh population, the policy of localisation of the political and government apparatus, interethnic relations, problems, and conflicts, social relations and conflicts of the specified period were considered.

At the next stage, each paper was considered in the methodological aspect of the topic of the land policy of the region of the specified period. Analysis of research papers, the definition of concepts, approaches, methodology: subject, object, forms, means, methods, tasks, ways to solve them, results, and conclusions; time periodisation was carried out from the position of a given problem of land management in East Kazakhstan in 1920-1932.

At the final stage, the structuring and systematisation of the received material were carried out. The findings are compared with the detailed subject of methodological research, certain methods, and areas of its study. The conducted research determined the degree of study of the subject matter, to identify the main problems.

## Results and discussion

The process of land management in East Kazakhstan in 1920-1932 combined a number of activities related to the survey of the land condition, planning, and organisation of activities aimed at their rational use. Thus, in the process of studying the problem, each of these measures was reflected. The period of 1920-1932 is one of the most complex and contradictory in the history of Kazakhstan and the Soviet Union. The events accompanying the implementation of land policy, related to social and national problems, filled the concept of land management with a new meaning. Repressions, poverty, hunger, migrations, and the death of hundreds of people have changed the socio-philosophical content of the concept. To understand how researchers today view the problem of land management of that period, it is necessary to consider the methodological aspects of studying the problem. The theoretical and methodological basis of the study are papers of modern Kazakh and foreign researchers on the problems of land relations in 1920-1932.

The peculiarities of land management in Kazakhstan during the first decade of Soviet power, and its influence on the change of conventional forms of the Kazakh economy attracted the attention of researchers of different generations. The main part of modern studies is generalising and generally creates a fairly complete picture of the most significant events in the history of Kazakhstan of that period.

Initially, the land issue in the Kazakh steppe was not very acute. The local population was engaged in cattle breeding, there was practically no landowner land ownership, mainly settlers, and cossacks were engaged in agriculture. At the beginning of the 20th century, there was a decrease in the share of the indigenous population and an increase in the number of migrants, especially in North and East Kazakhstan (Kozlov, 2012b). The Soviet government in 1920-1932, deprived of a social base, decided to seek support in the national interests by restoring the Kazakh statehood. In 1920, the Autonomous Kyrgyz (Kazakh) Socialist Soviet Republic was formed.<sup>1</sup>

The land management of the indigenous population has become an urgent socio-economic problem of the new administrative-territorial entity. In February 1921, the CEC (Central Executive Committee) of the Kyrgyz (Kazakh) ASSR decided to return the lands that had been alienated by the tsarist government to the Kazakhs. Plots of free land in Semipalatinsk, Akmola, Turgai, and Ural provinces were returned to the Kazakh people. The republic included territories with a Russian population, but land management works and the localisation policy of the government apparatus of the republic led to the redistribution of land resources in favour of the indigenous population. The authorities explained the need for land redistribution by the negative impact of land surpluses in resettlement villages and cossack villages on the Kazakh cattle breeding economy since they block the nomadic routes. By the mid-1920s, the land management policy of the Republican authorities not only did not bring the desired results but also

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<sup>1</sup> Decree of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee and the Council of People's Commissars. On the formation of the Autonomous Kyrgyz Socialist Soviet Republic (1943). *Collection of Legalizations and Orders of the Government for 1920*.



led to an aggravation of inter-ethnic relations. Land management works of the specified period in Kazakhstan were carried out against the background of the Soviet localisation policy of the party apparatus of the republic (Kozlov 2012a). In 1922, the Technical Board of the Main Department of Land Management and Land Improvements was given special instruction that resettlement to Kazakhstan from outside largely hinders the implementation of planned land management activities (Abdurakhmanov, 2014).

In 1921, the People's Commissariat of Agriculture of the RSFSR coordinated the activities of the Commissariats of Agriculture, the centre, and local bodies, land legislation, sometimes contradictory to each other, created a Committee on Land Affairs.<sup>2</sup>

In August 1922, the All-Russian Central Executive Committee adopted the Basic Law on labour use in the Kazakh Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic (KASSR), which was actively developed by party organisations and the government of the republic. The law assigned to the peasants of the republic the lands (within the norms) that they actually cultivated and used as pastures. In 1923, the Land Code of the RSFSR was adopted in Kazakhstan, but with a number of changes. The most important addition to the Code was the provision related to the traditional local nature of land use in nomadic and semi-nomadic areas. The new land act reflected the relationship of the physical and geographical features of the region with the planning and organisation between land management activities. According to the Land Code, lands in actual use were assigned to the population of areas with a settled agricultural form of farming. Land management at the initial stage was selective and required payment, so the new law did not pay attention to the class nature of the activities carried out (Abdurakhmanov, 2014).

In the future, the process of mandatory land management of the nomadic and semi-nomadic Kazakh population began, regulated by the Law of 1924 "On the Land Management of the Nomadic, Semi-Nomadic, and Kazakh Population Transitioning to Settled Life."<sup>2</sup> The former principle of land management by actual use for the settling semi-nomadic and nomadic population was preserved. The land management of the nomadic and semi-nomadic population was supposed to contribute to its settling. Since 1924, the borders of Kazakhstan, until the final determination of the size of land needs of the local population, were actually closed to agricultural colonisation from the outside. The central government supported active agricultural colonisation, but at this stage, local authorities were opposed to the necessity and possibility of colonisation of Kazakhstan (Abdurakhmanov, 2014).

The Fifth Congress of Soviets of the Kazakh ASSR (April 1925) noted that all land management measures in the republic, due to the lack of planning, did not achieve significant results, and only 0.9% of the territory was settled. In 1925, the secretary of the Kazkraikom N.F. Goloshchekin proposed to conduct complete collectivisation in Kazakhstan (Documents of the Former Archival..., 2004). At the Fifth Regional Party Conference in December 1925, a decision was made on the order of priority of land

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2 Decree of April 17, 1924. "On the Land Management of the Nomadic, Semi-Nomadic and Transitioning to a Sedentary Economy of the Population of the Autonomous Kirghiz Socialist Soviet Republic."

use: first – the Kazakh population; second – newcomers (Russian, Ukrainian, Uzbek, etc.), who were actually engaged in farming until 1918; third – unauthorised immigrants living in KASSR until August 31, 1922, and fourth – unauthorised immigrants who arrived in KASSR in the period between August 31, 1922, and August 7, 1924. The resolution led to an aggravation of inter-ethnic relations.

On February 3, 1927, the CEC of the KASSR approved the “Regulation on the Redistribution of Arable and Hay Lands.” The redistribution of land was carried out in stages, haymaking—in the spring of 1926, arable—in the fall of 1927, and in the spring of 1928. The complexity of the organisation and implementation of the redistribution was conditioned by the lack of consideration of existing land, a system of developed uniform measures, and norms. The bodies of the People’s Commissariat of Agriculture of the Republic were responsible for organising and carrying out work on the distribution of haylands and arable lands. For direct leadership at the provincial, district, and county executive committees, the “fives” were created, and at the volost executive committees and village councils, “threes.” The fives carried out the redistribution locally, managed the threes, and the threes carried out the redistribution and distributed the land to the villages and individual households.

On March 4, 1928, the CEC and the CPC (Council of People’s Commissars) of Kazakhstan adopted a resolution “On the Procedure for Land Management and Regulation of Land-Use in the KASSR,” which established a new procedure for land management works: land management of Kazakh, Russian, or other nationalities was carried out simultaneously. In 1928, the CEC and the CPC of the KASSR decided to hold another socio-economic event – the confiscation of livestock and property of large bais. But often the property was taken away from the middle peasants and even the poor. On March 14, 1930, the resolution of the Central Committee of the CPSU(b) (Communist Party of the Soviet Union (Bolsheviks)) “On Combating the Distortions of the Party Line in the Collective Farm Movement” was published, after which measures were taken to correct the excesses.

In 1929, the Law “General Principles of Land-Use and Land Management of the USSR” was issued, according to which the supervision of the implementation of the All-Union land law was attributed to the competence of the USSR (Documents of the Former Archival..., 2004). The forced settling of nomadic and semi-nomadic cattle herders on the land during the years of collectivisation was accompanied by violent repressive measures. The consequence of the policy was the massive impoverishment and famine of the indigenous population in all regions of Kazakhstan, which led to resistance of the population which was expressed in a number of unrests and armed uprisings (Niyazbekova *et al.*, 2022).

A more detailed review of the conducted research allows drawing the following conclusions on the content of the reviewed papers. The land reforms of 1920-1932 in East Kazakhstan are not singled out as a separate problem. The studies have characteristics of general trends that can be extrapolated to events in the region without involving specific examples, and there are mentions of the region confirming certain information blocks. For example, the protocol of the meeting of the Semipalatinsk District Planning Commission of February 12, 1930, approved plans for settling the Kazakh population,

resettlement, land management, and land reclamation. The history of collectivisation in East Kazakhstan in the 1920s-1930s is presented in the study by A.N. Zhanbosinova. The researcher examines and analyses the policy of forced collectivisation in the region in 1929-1930 using concrete examples. Based on archival materials, the number of those repressed during the grain procurement company, and data on illegal migrations to China are given: from August to October 1929, 82 migrations took place in the Bakhtin and Zaisan districts. In the context of land management works, of particular interest are the records of proceedings of the bureau of Semipalatinsk RK (regional committee) CPSU(b) in 1930. During the discussion, local authorities referred Shemonaikha, Razin, and Zhanasemey districts to the areas of continuous collectivisation, where collectivisation covered about 70% of the farms. The issue of the nature of land management measures in areas of non-continuous collectivisation remained controversial and unresolved (Zhanbosinova, 2012).

The researchers focused on the topics of agrarian transformations in Kazakhstan as a whole, dividing the given period into two stages. N.A. Abdurakhmanov (Abdurakhmanov, 2014) presented the history of land management policy. Kozlov (2015) described the features of agrarian transformations and continuous collectivisation in Kazakhstan in the 1920s. The process of Sovietisation of nomadic regions was revealed by Sinitsyn (2018). Ibragimova (2008) considered the history of studying the problem of land management of the Kazakh population in the first third of the 20th century. The experience of forming the state borders, the main stages of population formation, and the course of ethnodemographic processes are analysed by Krasnobaeva (2004). The specifics of the administrative-territorial structure, changes in the borders, composition, and number of provinces (regions), which led to the unification of the main areas of the traditional settlement of Kazakhs, are described by D.A. Amanzholova (2019). The main stages and problems of collectivisation were revealed by O.E. Bekun (Documents of the Former Archival..., 2004), Zhanbosinova (2012), Anisimova (2017), and Amanzholova (2019) analysed the problems of the organisation of the system of power and management in Kazakhstan in the 1920s and the initial stage of the process of the so-called localisation of the party-state apparatus of the republic, paying attention to the relationship between the centre and the regions in the process of establishment of a new hierarchy of Soviet and party structures. The study by Musagalieva (2019) was devoted to the topic of hunger in Kazakhstan. The studies by S.Sh. Kazieva and Yu.A. Lysenko are related to the land issue in national policy and the main objectives of national policy, the resettlement issue, and the Soviet localisation policy. The experience of scientific development of land management of the Kazakh population was introduced by Tugai (2016).

The question of assessing Russia's influence on the socio-economic transformations in the Kazakh aul in the second half of the 1920s was debated. Kozlov saw an erroneous explanation of the complex issues of history by the Russification policy, which was started by tsarism, and continued during the Soviet period (Kozlov, 2015). The researcher pointed out that the reforms of the second half of the 1920s were a continuation of the policy of land distribution in favour of the indigenous population, initiated in the first half of the 1920s. N.A. Abdurakhmanov pointed to the fact that the anticolonial class orientation of land acts did not allow for paying sufficient attention to the rationality and economic efficiency of land management of the population in 1917-1929. However,



at the same time, the researcher notes that land reforms were considered by the state authorities not as a complex process, which was determined by the totality of the conditions of the natural-climatic and economic plan, but as an administrative impact of the government apparatus on the indigenous population of the suburbs, and local authorities quite reasonably brought to the fore the national aspect of land management (Abdurakhmanov, 2014).

N.A. Abdurakhmanov carried out the analysis of the regulatory and legislative framework of the land management process. The researcher draws attention to the fact that the land norms according to the Regulations of April 17, 1924, were insufficient for the management of a cattle-breeding nomadic economy and doomed the population to a beggarly existence. The land management of the region was started with a ten-verst strip to avoid conflicts due to the complexity of land relations. The land controversies were related to rental relations, land scarcity, eviction and relocation, and the very policy of land management in practice. Conflicts based on rental relations were the most frequent and complex due to the lack of legislative regulation. Kazakh auls, not having a certain territory, could lease the same land, and take a double fee. Lease relations modified the actual size and conditions of land use of individual economic groups. In 1925, the law on land lease was issued, according to which it was allowed to lease and rent land for up to 12-18 years (Abdurakhmanov, 2014).

The researchers paid special attention to the Soviet localisation policy and resettlement policy of the 1920s in Kazakhstan, which was reflected primarily in the field of land relations and had a pronounced national orientation. The national principle of priority of land management works, adopted by the party-Soviet apparatus of the republic, led to serious clashes on inter-ethnic grounds.

The topic of the relationship of land management works with the localisation of the party apparatus of the republic is highlighted. By the mid-1920s, the share of Kazakhs among the heads of regional organisations was 40.2%, among provincial – 22.6%, county – 48.7%. In January 1926, the Presidium of the Kazakh CEC consisted of 12 Kazakhs, 2 Russians, 1 Uzbek, and 1 Karakalpak; 11 out of 16 employees of the CPC KASSR were also Kazakhs (Kaziev, 2014a). The leadership of the republic, which had strengthened its national ranks by the mid-1920s, proposed the most radical measures aimed at correcting the consequences of the colonial policy, up to the complete eviction of the non-indigenous population from the territory of Kazakhstan.

As a result of the Soviet localisation policy, the problems of national policy have become the subject of a number of studies. The main objectives of the national policy of the Soviet state in Kazakhstan were considered by S.Sh. Kaziev. The settlement of open and latent interethnic conflicts required careful consideration of the requests of the country's national minorities. At the end of the 1920s, the national opposition of Kazakhstan in 1927-1928 was defeated and a new forced modernisation of society was launched (Zhansagimova *et al.*, 2022).

A separate topic of research was the problem of social relations of the specified period. The interest of researchers is aroused by the union “Koschi,” in which the committees of poor peasants were united in December 1921 to attract the poorest strata of the Kazakh

aul. No less relevant is the reform of the redistribution of hayfields, which was carried out “from above” and did not meet the support of the peasants. The poor, unable to cultivate arable land on their own, due to the lack of draft and inventory, refused land (Kozlov, 2012b). Peasant demonstrations, and migrations to China as a form of protest against the land policy pursued by the authorities have become the topics of separate studies.

The researchers focus on the fact that the economic, rational process of land management from the standpoint of natural and geographical conditions was not considered (Kaziev, 2014b). However, at the same time, Tugai defines the period of 1920-1925 in the history of Kazakhstan as the first experience of a scientific approach to the Soviet land management policy with the prospect of using agrarian transformation for the expedient and rational development of land resources. Researchers have studied the natural and climatic, landscape conditions of geographical zones, and the socio-economic situation of the Kazakh aul, and put forward a number of theoretical developments on the prospects for the existence and development of the Kazakh economy, on the expediency of settling or nomadism, on possible ways and methods of land management of the population, and the need for the scientific development of land resources of the KASSR. The results of the works were identified by the federal and regional authorities as an anti-Soviet and class-alien experience, which was appreciated only by the Academy of Sciences of the USSR (Tugai, 2016).

The conducted methodological analysis showed that the problem of the activities of land institutions in East Kazakhstan (1920-1932) is not fully presented in scientific publications and requires further development and analysis. The research papers touch upon the socio-political aspects of reforms, to the detriment of the study of their socio-economic content, aspects of the process of land management policy in Kazakhstan and provide an opportunity to study this process within the republic as a whole, but the history of land relations in individual regions needs to be finalised and detailed.

## Conclusions

The definition of land management works as a set of measures related to the survey of the general condition of land, planning, and organisation of its rational use involves a comprehensive study of the problem, and consideration of each event. It is impossible to limit the concept to the consideration of activities for planning and organising the use of land without investigating the general physical and geographical characteristics that determine the further areas of land management activities on a specific territory. The additional semantic load, which changed the socio-philosophical content of the concept itself, determined the specifics of the research. The events that accompanied the implementation of land policy related to social and national problems: the policy of localisation and collectivisation supplemented and expanded the socio-philosophical content of the concept of land management in East Kazakhstan in 1920-1932.

The analysis of methodological aspects of the study of the problem showed that the consideration of the land management of East Kazakhstan, and Kazakhstan as a whole, is mainly related to the socio-political aspect of the concept. The development of the

land-use system is considered in the context of the processes accompanying it, such as national policy, the localisation policy, and social confrontation, which act as causes and prerequisites, but not the very essence of the land management process. Considerable attention is also paid to the consequences of irrationally organised and implemented land policy, such as famine, social and national conflicts, and migrations. The topic of East Kazakhstan in 1920-1932 has not been revealed in terms of content due to the fragmentary approach to the subject matter. The system of land use, and the mechanisms of its development and implementation in 1920-1932 are considered in the context of the history of Kazakhstan as a whole, in the context of national policy, solution of the resettlement issue, the localisation policy, administrative-territorial or demographic problems.

The conducted methodological analysis showed that the complex measures for land management in East Kazakhstan can be largely supplemented by already published archival materials on the region, and materials of surveys conducted in Kazakhstan in the 1920s by agricultural researchers, soil scientists, reclamation engineers, statisticians, most of whom were employees of the People's Commissariat of Agriculture. Thus, the conducted methodological study has shown the degree of knowledge of the problem, approaches to its consideration, and possible solutions.

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