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## SYSTEMATIZATION OF ARCHIVAL DOCUMENTS ON THE CONQUEST OF SOUTHERN KAZAKHSTAN IN THE MIDDLE OF THE XIX CENTURY

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**Abstract. Introduction.** The article presents a chronological list of archival documents, which allows us to clearly trace the scale and forms of Russia's official policy in the southern region. *Aim and objectives.* The aim of the study is to analyse and systematise archival documents on the conquest of South Kazakhstan by the Russian Empire. Objectives of the study: to compile a chronological list of archival documents that allow us to trace the scale and forms of the official policy of Russia in this region. Materials and methods. The study is based on the analysis of archival documents, including the funds of the Central State Archive of the Republic of Kazakhstan (CSA RK) and the Russian State Military History Archive (RSMHA). Dialectical methods, systematic approach and the principle of historicism were used to systematise and critically analyse the archival materials, as well as to reflect objective conclusions on the topic under study. *Results.* The factual material of the studied period allows us to conclude that in the territory of South Kazakhstan the Russian Empire consistently carried out and consolidated the colonisation policy. *Conclusion.* The chronological inventory of documents pertaining to the Russian Empire's conquest of Southern Kazakhstan, along with the typological table of sources, clearly demonstrates that by the mid-18th century, the Russian government had initiated preparatory military measures for the annexation of Kazakhstan's southern territories and Central Asia.

**Keywords:** Archival document, South Kazakhstan, military line, tsarist administration, systematization

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## XIX ҒАСЫРДЫҢ ОРТАСЫНДА ОҢТҮСТІК ҚАЗАҚСТАНДЫ ЖАУЛАП АЛУ МӘСЕЛЕСІ БОЙЫНША МҰРАҒАТ ҚҰЖАТТАРЫН ЖҮЙЕЛЕУ

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**Аңдатпа.** *Kіріспе.* Мақалада Ресейдің оңтүстік аймақтағы ресми саясатының ауқымы мен формаларын нақты бақылауға мүмкіндік беретін мұрағаттық құжаттардың хронологиялық тізімі келтірілген. *Мақсаты мен міндеттері.* Зерттеудің мақсаты – Ресей империясының Оңтүстік Қазақстанды жаулап алуы мәселесі бойынша мұрағаттық құжаттарды талдау және жүйелеу. Зерттеудің міндеттері: Ресейдің осы аймақтағы ресми саясатының ауқымы мен формаларын нақты бақылауға мүмкіндік беретін мұрағаттық құжаттардың хронологиялық тізімін жасау. *Материалдар мен әдістер.* Зерттеу Қазақстан Республикасы Орталық мемлекеттік мұрағатының (ҚР ОМО) және Ресей мемлекеттік әскери-тарихи мұрағатының (РМӨТМ) қорларын қоса алғанда, мұрағаттық құжаттарды талдауға негізделген. Мұрағат материалдарын жүйелеу және сыни талдау, сондай-ақ зерттелетін тақырып бойынша объективті тұжырымдарды көрсету үшін диалектикалық әдістер, жүйелік тәсіл және тарихи принципі қолданылды. *Нәтижелер.* Зерттеу кезеңінің фактологиялық материалы Оңтүстік Қазақстан аумағында Ресей империясы отарлау саясатын дәйекті түрде жүргізіп, бекітті деген қорытынды жасауға мүмкіндік береді. *Қорытынды.* Ресей империясының Оңтүстік Қазақстанды жаулап алуы туралы құжаттардың хронологиялық тізімі және дереккөздердің түрлік кестесі XVIII ғасырдың ортасынан бастап 1858 жылға дейін Ресей Үкіметі Қазақстан мен Орта Азияның оңтүстік аумақтарын басып алу үшін дайындық әскери іс-шараларын жүзеге асырғанын айқын көрсетеді.

**Түйін сөздер:** Мұрағат құжаты, Оңтүстік Қазақстан, әскери желі, патша әкімшілігі, жүйелеу

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## СИСТЕМАТИЗАЦИЯ АРХИВНЫХ ДОКУМЕНТОВ ПО ВОПРОСУ ЗАВОЕВАНИЯ ЮЖНОГО КАЗАХСТАНА СЕРЕДИНЫ XIX ВЕКА

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**Аннотация.** *Введение.* В статье представлен хронологический список архивных документов, который позволяет наглядно проследить масштабы и формы проведения официальной политики России в южном регионе. *Цель и задачи.* Цель исследования – проанализировать и систематизировать архивные документы по вопросу завоевания Южного Казахстана Российской империей. Задачи исследования: составление хронологического списка архивных документов, которые позволяют наглядно проследить масштабы и формы проведения официальной политики России в данном регионе. *Материалы и методы.* Исследование основано на анализе архивных документов, включая фонды Центрального государственного архива Республики Казахстан (ЦГА РК) и Российского государственного военно-исторического архива (РГВИА). Для систематизации и критического анализа архивных материалов, а также отражения объективных выводов по исследуемой теме, были использованы диалектические методы, системный подход и принцип историзма. *Результаты.* Фактологический материал изучаемого периода позволяет сделать вывод, что на территории Южного Казахстана Российская империя последовательно проводила и закрепляла колонизаторскую политику. *Заключение.* Хронологический список документов о завоевании Южного Казахстана Российской империей и видовая таблица источников наглядно показывают, что с середины XVIII века по 1858 год русское правительство осуществляло подготовительные военные мероприятия для захвата южных территорий Казахстана и Средней Азии.

**Ключевые слова:** Архивный документ, Южный Казахстан, военная линия, царская администрация, систематизация

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**Introduction.** Archival materials serve as primary source for researching the expansion of Russian Empire into the South of Kazakhstan. Systematic publication of archival sources on this issue commenced after our country gained its independence. During these years a great number of scientific dissertations, monographs and books have been published, where one can find historical documents reflecting the Russian Empire's systematic expansion into the region. Archival materials reveal that tsarist policies in southern Kazakhstan were implemented through deliberate military and administrative strategies.

The conquest of South Kazakhstan by the Russian Empire in the middle of the XIX century has been studied by many historians. In general, we can distinguish the following stages of this topic's research history: pre-revolutionary, Soviet and post-Soviet. This periodization enables systematic analysis of evolving historiographical perspectives on this issue. Of great interest are the pre-revolutionary works of officers of the general staff of the Russian army who were located in Kazakhstan for 10 and more years, such as L.F. Kostenko [Kostenko, 1871], M.I. Venyukov [Venyukov, 1889], M.A. Terentyev [Terentyev, 1906], A.I. Maksheev [Maksheev, 1890] and others. One of the important periods in the study of this issue is the Soviet period, which was reflected in the works of the following historians: P.G. Galuzo [Galuzo, 1965], E.B. Bekmakhanov [Bekmakhanov, 1992], N.G. Apollova [Apollova, 1948]. In recent decades, new works by researchers have appeared, revealing aspects of military colonisation in Kazakhstan during the period under consideration. Among them we can name the works of B.M. Abdrakhmanova [Abdrakhmanova, 1998], Z.T. Sadvokasova [Sadvokasova, 2005], A. Borsukbaeva [Borsukbaeva, 2005]. Certain aspects of Kazakhstan's history during the colonial period attract particular attention from foreign historians. Here we should pay attention to the works of M. Olcott [Olcott, 2002], H. Robbins [Robbins, 2007], J. Demko [Demko, 1997] and many others.

During the research we made an analysis of archival materials from the Russian State Military History Archive [Moscow: RSMHA] and the Central State Archive of the Republic of Kazakhstan [Almaty:

CSA RK]. Due to the development of mutual cultural exchange between Russia and Kazakhstan, many archival materials from Orenburg, Omsk were transferred to the Central State Archive of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Almaty. Research work in the Central State Archive of the Republic of Kazakhstan allowed to reveal numerous documents on the history of the conquest southern parts of Kazakhstan in the middle of the XIX century [Kaskabasova, 2024: 1011]. Within the framework of the state program «Cultural Heritage», which was initiated by the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan N.A. Nazarbayev, a lot of archeographic work was carried out by historians-archivists and professional researchers-scientists. In the process of this research historical sources in Russian extracted from the largest archives and libraries of Russia, as well as from the Central State Archive of the Republic of Kazakhstan were collected and processed. The result of this work was the ten-volume collection «History of Kazakhstan in Russian sources of the XVI-XX centuries», which includes diverse historical sources and various types of materials [History of Kazakhstan in Russian sources, 2005].

**Relevance.** The systematization and critical analysis of archival materials documenting the conquest of Southern Kazakhstan represent a crucial research gap in current historiography. As this topic has yet to be comprehensively examined as a discrete subject of study, there is a need to identify, analyze, and publish these sources to advance scholarly understanding.

**Materials and methods.** Our methodology combines dialectical analysis, systems theory and historicist principles to examine archival sources and derive evidence-based conclusions on the topic. The systematic review allowed us to consider the archival documents on the topic of the study in the aggregate, i.e. both in the context of general trends in the foreign policy of the Russian Empire and depending on the situation in the southern region of Kazakhstan in the period under study; the comparative-historical method was used to study and evaluate archival sources, enabling the identification of the most credible primary sources for this study; we classified the archival sources by type to identify their key characteristics; for the consistent reconstruction of historical events that took place in the southern regions of Kazakhstan in the middle of the XIX century the chronological method was employed.

**Discussion.** For scientific and practical use, the identified materials and documents were subjected to historical criticism, which includes internal and external criticism of the source. Internal criticism involves the study of the content of the source in order to establish the conformity of the data presented in it to historical reality. External criticism allowed to find out the objectivity of the source's origin. As a result of external and internal criticism of documents, the degree of reliability and compliance of the information given in them with real historical events was established [Tverdyukova, 2015: 42].

During the process of systematization of historical materials and documents, we sorted them according to the chronological order. Documents were categorized according to the main areas of activity of the tsarist administrative apparatus, by types of documents and by their social significance. This task contributed to the differentiation of material by such categories as complexity, importance, volume, types, etc. In the course of fulfilling this task, archival documents were typed onto electronic media, and the texts of the documents were stylistically processed so that researchers could study the identified documents and draw conclusions on the topic. Digitization of primary sources is also of practical value as it can be used by researchers in an electronic version.

The overwhelming part of the archival materials borrowed from the archives listed above, as well as from source works, consists of clerical records, which include the following types of documents.

Directive documents:

1) Previously classified secret instructions from staff chiefs and military detachment commanders contain important historical information. These documents provide valuable insights into both the planning and execution of military campaigns in southern Kazakhstan, also revealing official policies toward the nomadic populations of the steppe. The documents describe the organization of military forces and the state of the armed forces. The secret instructions of the commander of the separate Siberian Corps of the governor-general of Western Siberia, found in CSA RK F.3, C. 33 clarifies the position of the tsarist authorities to the local inhabitants. The actions of punitive detachments to hostile Kazakh clans (Dulat, Shaprashty, Kashkar, etc.) are described. The documents indicate that they were ambushed by Cossack detachments, their territories were constantly watched, and their sultans and elders were lured into Russian fortifications under any pretext, arrested and expelled from the steppe. A large number of sources from this fund confirm the fact that in order to strengthen the power of the Russian state in Semirechye, military troops were sent from the Siberian Corps to the fortification of Verny on a permanent basis. The documents contain information that the detachments conducted topographic surveys in the valley of the

upper reaches of the Chu River, in the western part of the Issyk-Kul and the mountains along its southern bank.

2) Instructions and orders of the commander of the Syrdarya line, found in Fund 383 of CSA RK and in Fund 1441 of RSHA, provide important intelligence information about the situation in the Central Asian khanates and in the Kazakh steppe. It provides data on the Kazakhs who roamed in the neighboring khanates, on the military clashes between detachments of the Siberian Linear Cossack Army and Kazakhs in battle against the Kokandians, materials on the political situation in the Central Asian khanates and the Kazakh steppe. The management of the Syrdarya line, which included military and civilian parts, is revealed in detail. It describes the composition of Kazakh clans that roamed close to the Syrdarya military line, the approximate number of kibitkas at Fort Perovsky in 1860.

Official correspondence. The correspondence between the minister of military affairs, the commander of the Syrdarya line and the commander of the separate Orenburg corps on the situation in the Central Asian khanates in 1853, 1855, 1857, found in the Fund 382 «Administration of the commander of the Syrdarya line of the Turkestan military district» of CSA RK reveals the military activities of the Russian army in Central Asia. A number of documents tell that Russia intended to establish contact with the Bukhara Khanate and use water ways for a military invasion of Central Asia. Detailed plans of the Russian government to connect the Syrdarya line with Western Siberia are presented (three variants of such connection are considered). Archival sources clarify the political and economic benefits of establishing the southern border on the Syrdarya and Siberian sides [Abdirov, 2005: 41].

Important information is contained in the correspondence between the chiefs of military detachments and the chief of the Alatau district and the Kazakhs of the Great Zhuz, found in F.3 of the Central State Archive of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Military reconnaissance campaigns from 1861 to 1863 surveyed the Chu River area, around the fortifications of Pishpek and Aulie-Ata and also explored the territory upstream of the Syrdarya to Turkestan and Suzak. The documents present the scheme of movement of expeditionary detachments, describe the state of affairs in Central Asian khanates, give information about the arrangement of Kokand garrisons (armament and military supplies). In addition, it is indicated which Kazakh clans roamed in these territories and who were their ancestors. Imperial records systematically document both the strategic rationale behind fortification sites and the phased implementation of picket construction, including the forced displacement of local populations.

A large number of identified sources indicate a complex relationship between the Russian Empire and the Kokand Khanate. As Russia decides to establish its positions on the right bank of the Chu River, as well as to take under its patronage Kazakh clans roaming their territories (from the correspondence of the governor-general of Western Siberia and the chief of Alatau district in 1859 [CSA RK. F.3]). Archival materials contain a description of Kokand fortifications, as well as military routes of Russian expeditions with descriptions.

**Results.** In the archives we found a correspondence proving that the tsarist administration resorted to the help of Kazakh spies in order to get data on the situation in neighboring states. Written accounts from the Aday and Chikli clans (which can be found in F.4 of the Central State Archive of the Republic of Kazakhstan) provide valuable indigenous perspectives on the political dynamics of the Central Asian khanates during this period. These records include detailed data on the situation in Khiva, trade relations of Khivans with Bukhara and Turkmens and friendly relations of Khivans with Kokandians. The materials of this fund allow us to evaluate the military strength (number) and composition of the Khiva army, which mainly consisted of Uzbeks, Sarts, Karakalpaks and Turkmens. It is also reported that the Khivans fortified their fortresses because they were afraid of an attack from the British, who by that time had already captured India, Afghanistan, Hajar, Kandygar and Herat, and were approaching Bukhara [Akimbekov, 2018: 345].

There is valuable information in the correspondence of the minister of military affairs with the institutions of the military department on intelligence reports, the military routes with descriptions, information on the formation and equipment of regular and irregular troops. Russian Empire's strategy on military operations on the territory of the Great Zhuz, on the siege, assault and capture by Russian troops of the Ak Mechet fortress, Turkestan, on the suppression of the national liberation movement of the Kazakhs, on the delimitation of lands and the possibility of settlement of the Semirechensk region by immigrants from Russian provinces, etc. [RSMHA F. 435, 1435, 1433 - documents of the Syrdarya line; F. 1441 - Separate Orenburg corps; F. 1442 - headquarters of the Orenburg military district]. Based on the materials of these funds, it is possible to document and analyze Russian Empire's military expansion of the southern part of Kazakhstan and what was its true attitude towards the local population.

Among the materials of the funds of the 'Separate Orenburg Corps' [F. 1441] of the Russian State Archive of Military Historical records include correspondence between Russian military commanders and Ministry of military affairs officials regarding the construction of fortifications on the Raim Peninsula and subsequent settlement by Russian colonists. The documents contain draft regulations on the military organization of the Kazakh steppe and the Syrdarya line.

Reporting documentation. The CSA RK contains reports of commanders of detachments, which describe in detail the following directions of military routes from the fortification Julek in Aulie-Ata to Pishpek and further along the northern slopes of the Karatau mountains; from Ak-Mosque to the lower reaches of the Chu River; the route to Bukhara; from Fort Perovsky to Ulytau fortifications. During the description of the routes valuable information is given about the number of troops by ranks (infantry, artillery), number of horses, camels and many other things. In addition, there is information about vegetation and soil, water resources, topography, ethnic composition of local population, caravan routes. M.G. Chernyaev's campaign to Suzak in 1863 is shown in detail, where the interaction between the Russian military and the local population is described, the strategic rationale for securing this location is outlined, along with the detachment's subsequent military operations [CSA RK. F. 382]. The documents indicate positive moments for the Russian Empire after the occupation of the northern slopes of the Karatau mountains, it is first of all, the development of agriculture in this territory and the collection of the tax per kibitka (nomadic dwelling).

The reporting documentation is represented by various bulletins and annual reports of governors-general, military chiefs and battalion commanders, heads of detachments, which contain valuable information about the relationship of the Russian authorities with the Kazakh clans and Central Asian khanates, information about the construction of military fortifications in the Ili region [CSA RK. F. 3].

Detailed information about the choice and construction of a military fortification on the Ili River is contained in the reports of the commander of the separate Siberian Corps and the acting governor-general of Western Siberia to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. These documents show the choice of construction of a military point on the outer side of the Ili River, indicate all the positive aspects that could be achieved after the construction of the fortification. The economic issues concerning construction materials, fuel, arable fields and hayfields are considered [CSA RK. F. 3. C. 7].

Reports of commanders of military formations, found in F. 1441 'Separate Orenburg Corps' of the Russian State Archive of Military History, represent important information on military institutions. They provide information on the construction of fortresses and forts on the Amudarya and Syrdarya rivers and the formation of the Syrdarya military line. In addition to correspondence with military institutions, there is also information from the chiefs about the condition and activities of the forts, topographical descriptions, various materials on the formation of troops and military expeditions. From these materials it is possible to trace the policy of the Russian government towards the local population, with whom there were constant conflicts. The materials discuss the expansion of the Syrdarya military line, the construction of the Kazaly fort and the transfer of Siberian fortifications to the Chu River to connect with the Orenburg line.

Valuable documents on the construction of the Syrdarya Military Line are kept in the RSMHA, which contains materials on the preparation of the draft regulations on the Syrdarya Line. Among them are the documents: «Draft of the change of the regulations on the military organization of the Kazakh steppe of the Orenburg department and the Syrdarya line»; «Proposals of the commandant of the Orenburg fortification, given to the chief of staff of the troops of the Orenburg region»; «Letter from the chief of staff major-general of the general staff to captain Kuzminsky (a commission was formed to revise the old regulations and make new changes)»; «Draft regulations on the arrangement of the Syrdarya line, presented in the report of the assistant commandant of the line, Lieutenant Colonel Golosov». These materials are also valuable sources for studying the issue of creation and administration of the Syrdarya line.

Huge factual material on the creation, reinforcement and expansion of Russian military forces in the territory of Kazakhstan have reports of military chiefs [CSA RK. F. 3. Case on the movement of the expeditionary detachment beyond the Ili River, on the selection of a place for the construction of the fortification Verny]. Thus, for example, the bailiff at the Kazakhs of the Great Zhuz reported to the governor-general of Western Siberia and the commander of a separate Siberian corps about the study of an appropriate place behind the Ili River for the construction of the Russian fortification. The document reflects the selection of that territory by a number of factors: to capture the nomads of Kazakhs of the Great Zhuz between the Ili and Chu rivers, to have an exit to China and to the Kokand Khanate along the upper reaches of the Ili River. The author also draws attention to the proximity and possibility of acquiring materials to

build fortifications, the availability of fodder for animals, a secure position enabling winter quarters and timber harvesting, protected from Kokandian military incursions.

The report of the commander of the Syrdarya line [CSA RK. F. 382] describes the operational conditions of fortifications and their garrisons, the military unit deployments, and there is also information that Russian troops helped the Kazakhs of the Great Zhuz who had formally accepted imperial subjecthood to migrate to their winter pastures. Russian detachments guarded and accompanied them all the way so that they were not subjected to robbery and baramta by the Kokandians and hostile clans of Kazakhs who were on Kokandians' side.

**Legislative sources.** A significant number of legislative decrees of the period under study allow us to conclude that in the territory of South Kazakhstan the Russian Empire consistently pursued and consolidated the colonization policy. This can be seen in the emperor's decrees on the creation of a special post of commander of the Syrdarya line, who was in charge of troops and fortifications located on the Syrdarya line, as well as the flotilla of the region. In the Semirechensk region, the post of bailiff to the Kazakhs of the Great Zhuz was established, who was the official representative of the imperial authority for the Kazakhs of the Great Zhuz.

Analysis of the imperial decrees published in Legislative Acts of the Russian Empire on the History of Kazakhstan (XIX century) [Otepova et al., 2015: 4] gives us information on the decrees concerned the issues of territorial-administrative structure of military districts, erection of military fortifications in the Kazakh steppe, renaming of forts on the Syrdarya River and assigning numbers to new fortifications erected on the Syrdarya line, etc., and the nominal decrees were issued mainly to the minister of military affairs and military governors.

The Senate decree of 31 October 1855 states the establishment of a postal picket service from Kapal to Verny in the Kazakh steppe of the Siberian department along the Zailiyskiy tract. The document reflects the direction and distance between the pickets, which shows a well-thought-out policy of the tsarist authorities [Kazakh-Russian relations, 1964: 264].

The highest approved regulations on the management of the Syrdarya line are of particular interest for the study. This regulation on the military organization of the Kazakh steppe of the Orenburg department and the Syrdarya line was signed by general D. Milyutin. The source indicates a large staff of military and civil administration officials on the territory of the Syrdarya line, and also defined the main actions of the commander on the military management of this line.

**Record documents.** Of great interest are various journals found in the 846 funds of RSMHA, one of them presents the topographic route of the military detachment from Akmolinsk to the southern part of the steppe, as well as information on the military topographic survey of the Kazakh steppe.

**Planning documentation,** found in the 349 and 424 Funds of the Russian State Archive of Military History is represented by various plans and projects of fortifications and outposts located along the Irtysh River, beyond the Ili River in the tract of Almaty (Verny), and there is also a plan of the fortification of Verny in 1854.

**Visual sources.** Collection of maps of the Central State Archive of the Republic of Kazakhstan [F. 689], which contains 66 items covering the period from 1816 to 1918. Maps of the middle part of Asia, the Inner Kazakh Horde, the Turkestan governor-general's office, the Asian part of Russia with its adjoining possessions, road and bridge designs. Created at different times, these pictorial sources certainly represent an important resource. Their use in combination with written materials allows researchers to avoid possible geographical errors when interpreting understudied historical events. The maps made it possible to trace the stages of formation of linear fortifications, as well as to determine the exact location and status individual settlements [Zhakibayeva et al., 2022: 1142].

Thus, the sources stored in these funds make it possible to reveal understudied historical information. They carry a certain knowledge of the era in which they were created. The above-mentioned funds contain decrees of the Senate, orders of the minister of the Interior, materials of meetings of the Border Guard Department on the secret part and other guiding materials. Of interest are correspondence on the state of affairs in the eastern khanates, instructions of commanders to military corps, reports and notes on the state of affairs in the Central Asian khanates, documents on the preparation and conduct of military campaigns, on the advancement of troops to the south of Kazakhstan and Central Asia. The documents contain instructions of the commander of a separate Siberian corps on the war with the Kokand Khanate, on the attitude of the Russian government to the Kazakhs of the Great Zhuz, on the attack of A.I. Butakov's detachment on the Kazakh auls, etc.

A large number of archival sources proves that there is a significant information potential of new materials in the study and teaching of the history of Kazakhstan. Thus, for example, archival materials on reconnaissance studies in the region of Semirechye and the Syrdarya River will give researchers the opportunity to carefully study and analyze topographical and geographical data and reveal valuable information about the southern regions. A large amount of collected material contains information about the internal structure of the steppe, strengthening of defenses in fortifications, detailed information about the Kazakh clans and the places of their nomads, about the relations of Russian detachments with the Kokandians and hostile Kazakh clans, in addition, the sources indicate various measures to ensure security within the Kazakh steppe. The identified reports of reconnaissance campaigns contain information about Turkestan, Aulie-Ata, Suzak, Tokmak and Pishpek.

The analysis of archival materials shows that the Kazakh clans of the Great Zhuz faced systematic subjugation under imperial Russian rule, while also contending with the Kokand and Khiva khanates.

The list of archival documents allows us to draw a conclusion that the tsarist government of the Russian Empire was carefully preparing for a military invasion and seizure of the territories of South Kazakhstan and Central Asia. According to documentary materials it is possible to trace the whole course of conquest of these territories by Russian troops, construction of fortifications and outposts, suppression of Kazakh resistance movements against the displacement of nomadic communities from their ancestral grazing lands.

In order to identify the issue of how the annexation of the southern territories of Kazakhstan by the Russian Empire in the mid-XIX century was carried out, we classified and systematized the identified and published archival sources by chronology, type of document and brief content (in the form of chronological list).

The chronological list of archival documents on the conquest of the south of Kazakhstan by the Russian Empire in the mid- XIXth century totaled 61 documents from 1763 to 1867. The chronological framework of the list is determined by the fact that the preparation of the Russian Empire for the military conquest of the southern regions began earlier, back in the 18th century, and was finally completed by the 1960s. When compiling the chronological list we used documents found in various funds of the Central State Archive of the Republic of Kazakhstan – 22 documents; from the funds of RSMHA – 28 documents (found by Otepova G.E.), as well as materials of legislative acts in the amount of – 11 pieces, published in the collection of documents “Legislative Acts of the Russian Empire on the history of Kazakhstan (XIX c.)” [Legislative Acts of the Russian Empire on the history of Kazakhstan, 2015: 5].

The analysis of chronological list showed:

1) from 1743-1777, in connection with reconnaissance activities in the north, north-east and west of the Kazakh steppe, a large amount of cartographic material was created and collected, which contains the location of outposts, fortresses of the Siberian and Orenburg military lines, as well as valuable geographical information about the Irtysh River;

2) from 1803 to 1824 the empire conducted military-topographical expeditions in the area of the mouth of the Emba River and on the northern shore of the Caspian Sea, i.e. demonstrating a systematic program of territorial survey and colonial expansion into western Kazakh lands;

3) from 1846-1848 three military fortifications were built on the Syrdarya, a map of a part of Central Asia was created, during these years there was a lively military training in the lower reaches of the Syrdarya River;

4) It is especially worth noting that in the period from 1850-1854 there was an active military expeditionary study of Semirechye, permanent military campaigns were sent beyond the Ili River, construction of the Verny fortification, creation of the Syrdarya military line and renaming of Ak Mechet into Fort Perovsky began;

5) in 1856-1858 the decrees of the Russian emperor on the administration of the Alatau district and the Kazakhs of the Great Zhuz were issued, intelligence gathering and geographical surveys supported the systematic colonial resettlement of southern Kazakh territories;

6) from 1859 to 1860, in addition to the construction of fortifications in the Uzun-Agach tract, an open military operation against the Kokand Khanate began. The documents testify to the confrontation between Russian detachments and the Kokandians near the fortress Kastek, the capture of Tokmak and Pishpek and the expansionist policy of the tsarist authorities in this region;

7) The year 1861 should be singled out separately. Various reports and secret correspondence of military officials provide evidence of military clashes between the Russian army and the Kokandians, military reconnaissance campaigns of A.N. Butakov were conducted, the military structure of the Kazakh steppe of the Orenburg department and the Syrdarya line was described;

8) from 1862 to 1865 the construction of pickets in the Semirechensk region was carried out, reconnaissances were carried out upstream of the Syrdarya to Turkestan and Suzak to connect the Syrdarya line with the border of Western Siberia, the final conquest of the southern territories of Kazakhstan took place, the issues of management of the Cossacks of the Syrdarya line were solved;

9) 1867 – the decree and regulations on the establishment of the Turkestan Military District were adopted.

Thus, the compiled chronological list of sources allows us to clearly trace the scale and forms of Russia's official policy in these regions of Kazakhstan.

**Table 1.** Types and subtypes of sources and quantities

Types and subtypes of documents	Quantity
Official correspondence	18
1) Letters	10
2) Secret letters and correspondence	2
3) Correspondence	3
4) Note	3
Directive documents	5
1) Orders	2
2) Directives	2
3) Decree	1
Legislative sources	12
1) Personal Decrees	7
2) Senate Decree	1
3) Supreme Approved Regulation of the Military Council	1
4) Supreme Approved Opinion of the State Council	1
5) Excerpts	2
Reporting Documentation	9
1) Statement	4
2) Report	1
3) Descriptions of Topographic Expeditions	4
Record documents	3
1) Journals	3
Planning documentation	5
1) Standard Fortification Plans	2
2) Fortification Plan	2
3) Fortification Project	1
Visual sources:	9
1) Maps	9
Total	61

The standard classification of the documents on the research topic (Table 1) also shows that the issues of conquest of the southern territories of Kazakhstan and Central Asia were constantly under attention of the Russian administration. A sufficient number of identified pictorial sources (9 sources) allowed to collect and determine the exact location of fortifications, villages and settlements along the Syrdarya, Novo-Kokand and Semirechensk military lines, as well as to understand the policy and direction of movement of Russian military detachments.

The presence of such types of sources as correspondence, notes, proposals, reports, etc. of military officers and officials with various organisations of the military department (18 pieces) shows that all issues of exploration, invasion and conquest of new territories were constantly under the control of the Ministry of military affairs. According to the reports of the minister of military affairs, which he submitted to the

Governing Senate, the Vienna Council, and the State Council, were carefully studied. Then on the basis of the collected materials, accordingly to the decision of the above-mentioned bodies and the consent of the emperor, the relevant laws were developed and adopted. On the topic of the study identified 12 legislative sources, the content of which also reveals the essence of the official policy of the Russian Empire.

A significant role in the official policy of the Russian Empire was played by the issues of military-statistical study of new territories, which can be confirmed by the fact that the conquest of new lands was carried out with the help and as a result of various military reconnaissance works. As a result of this activity the collection «Military-statistical review of the Russian Empire» (17 volumes) was issued, in which the 14th volume is devoted to the study of the Orenburg region. In the course of the study we identified journals and routes of description – 7 documents [Zhakibayeva, 2023: 132].

**Conclusion.** Thus, the chronological list of documents on the conquest of Southern Kazakhstan by the Russian Empire and the type table of sources clearly show that in the middle of the XVIII century the Russian government carried out preparatory military activities for the further conquest of the southern territories of Kazakhstan and Central Asia. These activities were accompanied by constant reconnaissance surveys, the construction of fortresses and pickets, and the creation of the Syrdarya and Semirechensk military lines. Since 1859, as revealed sources show, tsarist Russia begins a full-scale military operation in the south of Kazakhstan and Central Asia. As a result of these operations, the Syrdarya and Semirechensk military lines were joined, Kokand fortresses and cities of southern Kazakhstan (Turkestan, Chimkent, Tashkent and others) were captured by assault. After the military operations were completed, the Turkestan Military District was created to administer the new territories, and later in 1867 the governor-general's Office of Turkestan.

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RSMHA – Russian State Military Historical Archive

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