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Some Stories about the Activities of the “Red Caravan” Organization during the Famine in Akmola Province in 1921–1923

The article investigates the activities of the “Red Caravan” organization in Akmola province during the tragic period of the famine in 1921–1923. In conditions of an unprecedented food crisis, exacerbated by the consequences of the Civil War, drought and epidemics, the Soviet authorities deployed a network of mobile units to combat famine and strengthen their power. The study analyzes the organizational principles and multifunctional nature of the “Red Caravan” organization that not only delivered necessary food and medical assistance, but also performed political propaganda and gathered information on the ground. The main focus is on the analysis of the crisis’s origin, the organizational forms of assistance delivery to the population, the logistics and routes of the caravan, as well as the effectiveness of its activities in rural areas. Based on the analysis of historical sources, archival materials of the Provincial Executive Committee, Provincial Food Committee and Provincial Committee of the Russian Communist Party (Bolsheviks) of Akmola Province, the article deals with the key aspects of functioning of these units, their impact on mitigating the effects of the famine and their role in maintaining stability in the region. It examines the political and propaganda component of the caravan’s work, reflecting early attempts by the Soviet authorities to introduce centralized governing mechanisms in a humanitarian catastrophe. The study concluded that the “Red Caravan” organization played a significant role as one of the key instruments of the Soviet authority in ensuring population’s survival under catastrophic conditions.

Keywords: “The Red Caravan”, the famine of 1921-1923, Akmola province, food committees, humanitarian assistance, Soviet propaganda.

Introduction

The period of the Civil War and the subsequent famine of 1921-1923 became one of the tragic events in the history of Kazakhstan. Akmola province, like many other regions, was engulfed by these processes. Amid severe food shortages and transportation collapse caused by widespread devastation, the “Red Caravan” played a crucial role in the fight against famine. This unique mechanism, created by the Soviet authorities, was designed to deliver assistance from the center to the most remote and affected areas. The activity of the “Red Caravan” in Akmola province became an example of heroic efforts to save the population from starvation, a demonstration of the ability to mobilize resources in an unprecedented crisis and an important milestone in the history of formation of the Soviet food distribution system. In Akmola province, the situation was quite complicated: by April 1922, almost half a million people were starving, and in some areas, there were awful cases of cannibalism. In response to this disaster, the Soviet authorities took a number of measures, among which the activities of the “Red Caravan” occupied a significant role. These expeditions, intended both to educate and provide assistance, became a symbol of the ambivalence of the policy at that time. This article is relevant in the light of the study of regional history. The article reveals how the “Red Caravan” operated in the conditions of Akmola province, what decisions were made and why, despite efforts, the region was not recognized as famine-affected, which did not fully contribute to a quick problem solution.

A number of telegrams and petitions were received by the central authorities of the republic from Akmola Provincial Executive Committee with the requests to address the issue. In particular, these telegrams noted that the growing famine in Akmola province was caused by the resettlement of 470,000 starving people from other provinces, mainly from Chelyabinsk, Kostanay, Samara, and also from some areas of the Volga region. The influx of migrants exacerbated the problems of economic infrastructure in Akmola province [1]. The state’s use of force-based policies provoked the growing discontent of the aul and the village. In a number of cases, the peasants’ rejection of administrative terror and arbitrariness carried out by the Soviet authorities resulted in acts of open sabotage and armed resistance. For instance, in February-March

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1921, hotbeds of tension began to appear in Akmola, Petropavlovsk, Kokchetav and other parts of the region. The situation in Kazakhstan revealed the overall picture of the economic and political crisis of Soviet authority that engulfed the entire country after the end of the Civil War. In connection with the development of the disaster, there were created official state structures: The Commission for Assistance to the Starving and The Commission for Combating the Consequences of the Famine, as well as Komsomol, trade unions and other organizations. For the purpose of conducting political work, it was decided to organize the “Red Caravan” and mobile red yurts. For instance, at the meeting on May 31, 1921, in the Propaganda Department of the Main Political and Educational Committee, the question was raised of organizing the “Red Caravans” [2; 43]. The first “Red caravan” of the Kazakh Central Executive Committee was sent to the steppe, led by Alibi Zhangeldin. From May 9 to June 12, 1921, the “Red Caravan” covered the distance from Orenburg to Semipalatinsk, passed through 26 volosts and 37 auls, and also visited factories in Ekibastuz and Spassk. There were held 126 meetings, 420 discussions. The Caravan conducted Soviet administrative work in the Kazakh language. This contributed to the strengthening of the state system.

Methods and Materials

The main source base of the article were the archival documents of the Russian State Archive of Social and Political History (Fund 17 — Central Committee of the CPSU). The information is presented in the documents of the central food and transport departments of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic, regulating the general principles of organizing the “Red Caravans” and establishing standards for food provision. There were used the documents (Fund 320 — Central Commission for Famine Relief under the Kazakh Central Executive Committee, 930 — The Commissions of the Central Executive Committee and the Council of People’s Commissars of the Central State Archives of the Republic of Kazakhstan, which contain materials on the activities of local Soviet authorities, food provision committees, transportation organizations and party bodies of Akmola province in the period of 1920–1922. The information from the documents of the North Kazakhstan State Archives (Fund 1616 — Akmola provincial emergency commission for elimination of the consequences of famine).

Additionally, the main sources are collections of published documents and materials: “The famine in Kazakhstan. 1921–1923. The Collection of documents and materials” [2] and “The modern history of Kazakhstan: The Collection of documents and materials (1917–1939)” [3], including decrees, regulations, reports and correspondence of governing bodies of that period concerning the issues of famine combating and organizing food assistance.

In the given article there is used a complex method for the study of the “Red Caravan” activities during the famine of 1921–1923 in Akmola province. The research is based on the analysis of both primary and secondary sources, using methods of source analysis, comparative-historical and systematic approaches. The source analysis is applied to determine the authenticity, origin and context of archival materials. The chronological method enabled historians to build the sequence of events and stages of the “Red Caravan’s” activities. To compare the situation in Akmola province with other regions affected by the famine there was used a comparative historical method to assess the effectiveness of the measures taken by the “Red Caravan” in the context of general trends. The systematic approach made it possible to examine the “Red Caravan” activities as a part of a broader system of governance and famine relief, taking into account the interaction of various structures and factors. Using the above-mentioned materials and methods enabled researchers to form an overall picture of the scale of the famine in Akmola province and to assess the role and effectiveness of the “Red Caravan” in the context of an unprecedented humanitarian crisis.

Results

The investigation of the “Red Caravan” activities in Akmola province during the famine of 1921–1923 revealed an overall picture of the Soviet authorities’ struggle with the catastrophic consequences of the food crisis. The analysis of the archival documents, statistics and the testimonies of AGR 90% contemporaries enable historians to highlight several key aspects that characterize the organization, functioning and impact of this initiative on the fate of the region’s population. The western, northern and central provinces of Kazakhstan, that is, those areas where there had been accumulated a huge number of refugees from Russia, were practically engulfed in famine. At the same time there was observed the largest production decline in all sectors of the economy of the Kazakh ASSR [4; 242]. In July 1922 there was heard a report about ART 90% activity of the Central Commission for Relief of the Starving under the Central Executive Committee of the Kazakh ASSR. In this report crucial attention was given to the situation in Akmola province. In this re-

port the following fact was noted: “The Commission for Organizing Assistance to the Starving in Akmola Province facilitated the creation of special commissions for organizing assistance to the starving in the district towns of Kokchetav, Atbasar and Akmolinsk, which in turn organized volost assistance committees for the starving. From May 1 up to July 15, the number of starving people in Akmola province fluctuated between 400,000 and 450,000. The information received from the local areas indicates that the situation of the population is catastrophic. For instance, in the districts of Petropavlovsk, Kokchetav, Baganalinsky and the Aklinsky area of Atbasar district the population is already doomed to starvation. In some places people eat surrogates and carrion, there are cases of cannibalism” [5; 60].

The measures taken to eliminate the famine of 1921–1923 helped to stop it, but, in essence, the famine turned from a mass phenomenon into a regional one, breaking out in other provinces of Kazakhstan. In these conditions, one of the tools of the Soviet authorities, which aimed to address the problem, including the famine, was the so-called “Red Caravan”. These were the expeditions that had both educational and practical tasks aimed at strengthening the Soviet authority and assisting the population. Thus, for instance, archival sources contain the Regulation of the “Red Caravan” of the Central Executive Committee of the Kazakh ASSR. This document states the following: the objectives of the “Red Caravan” organization are as follows: survey, inspection and instruction of the local party, soviet and trade union bodies and study of local working conditions; political and educational work and agricultural propaganda; medical and veterinary assistance to people; the Caravan is headed by a Board of three people. The members of the Board are appointed by the Central Executive Committee of the Kazakh ASSR and the regional committee of the Russian Communist Party (Bolsheviks); The Board of the “Red Caravan” is the representative of the Central Executive Committee of the Kazakh ASSR and the regional committee and on its behalf carries out the tasks of the Caravan according to the instructions; the administrative and economic part is governed by the Commandant of the Caravan, appointed by the Main Political and Educational Committee; the Board has a political department, composed of responsible representatives of the People’s Commissariats, agitators appointed by the Kyrgyz regional committee of the Russian Communist Party (Bolsheviks). The chairman of the political department is a member of the Political Board; in case of absence of responsible representatives of the People’s Commissariats, the instructors can be nominated who work under the leadership of the Board and form the Instructor Board.

In the area of instruction, inspection and survey of district, volost and rural bodies, the political department of the Caravan examines, instructs and directs the work of local bodies, conducts audits if necessary and, if possible, makes corrections to comments on the spot. The Caravan has a complaints and information bureau, which is managed by a representative of the People’s Commissariat. In the area of political and educational work, the Caravan organizes mass meetings, lectures, interviews, shows films and Soviet records, distributes literature, puts up posters, and also stages performances. Agricultural propaganda is held by an invited agronomist who has an exhibition cart. To provide assistance to the population, there is an outpatient clinic and a veterinary station. The Board has a secretary who sends all the material in the form of reports to the Kyrgyz regional committee of the Russian Communist Party (Bolsheviks) and the Kazakh Central Executive Committee. The Caravan financing is carried out according to the budget of the Kyrgyz Main Political and Educational Committee. The People’s Commissariat for Food and the Industrial bureau allocates the necessary food and materials according to the Caravan’s budget. The Kyrgyz Main Political and Educational Committee fills the Caravan’s staff positions, its structure, and different instructions approved by the Kazakh Central Executive Committee” [6; 4]. A collection of political and agricultural literature in Kazakh, posters, slides for the Caravan were selected. The “Red Caravan” included: an agricultural exhibition cart, a mobile outpatient clinic and a veterinary station.

In order to provide necessary and urgent assistance to the starving population in Kazakhstan, it was decided to send a specially formed humanitarian expedition to the distressed regions. On the 18th of February 1922 at the meeting of the party and governing bodies of the Kyrgyz ASSR, it was decided to arrange a “Red Caravan” to spread communist ideas among the local population. Thus, for instance, at the Interdepartmental meeting of the People’s Commissariats of the Kazakh ASSR the instruction on the work of the “Red Caravan” of the Kazakh Central Executive Committee was approved, which contained the following sections: 1) rights and responsibilities of the Political Committee 2) the representatives of the Kyrgyz regional committee, the People’s Commissariats and instructors 3) the political department of the Caravan 4) route and plan development 5) political and educational work 6) the central information of activities 7) maintenance and security of the Caravan [2; 440]. The members of the Presidium of the Kyrgyz Central Executive Committee and the Kazakh regional committee Dzhangildin, Ataniyazov, Mardarovskiy were appointed as the heads of

the “Red Caravan” [7; 30]. The expedition included representatives of eight People’s Commissariats (education, health, food, agriculture, social security, justice, internal affairs, labor), as well as the Kyrgyz Industrial Bureau, the women’s department, the Komsomol, the veterinary department, and a number of other organizations. Among them there were the specialists assigned to the “Red Caravan” for the purpose of scientific research of the region’s population life and collecting historical and ethnographic data. Additionally, in the Caravan there was a complaints bureau consisting of authorized representatives of the People’s Commissariats of Justice, Internal Affairs, and the State Political Directorate. The archival sources contain information about the staff and the main routes of the “Red Caravan”.

The “Red Caravan” staff of 20 people included one representative from each of the people’s Commissariats and organizations: the People’s Commissariat of Social Welfare, the Kyrgyz Central Executive Committee, the Main Political and Educational Committee, the People’s Commissariat of Internal Affairs, the Kyrgyz Industrial Bureau, the Military Office, the People’s Commissariat for Education, the People’s Commissariat for Agriculture, the People’s Commissariat of Healthcare, the People’s Commissariat for Food, the Central Union, the People’s Commissariat of Justice, the All-Russian Emergency Commission, the Women’s Department, the Komsomol, the Russian Telegraph Agency, the All-Russian Central Council of Trade Unions, the People’s Commissariat for Labor. The technical personnel of 20 people included one representative from: a caravan commandant, an informant secretary, a photographer, a cameraman, a cook, a complaints bureau, a typist, workers and grooms — 3 persons and 10 persons of security guards [6; 1]. Consequently, the “Red Caravan” staff included 40 people, 20 security guards among them.

Over a few months, there were covered three and a half thousand kilometers of caravan roads, part of the way was covered with the rail. The route went along Orsk, Adamovsky, Turgai, Atbasar, Akmola, Karkaraly, Bayanaul, Pavlodar and Semipalatinsk districts, Spassky factory, and the expedition returned to Orenburg through Novonikolaevsk, Omsk, Petropavlovsk, Samara with the rail. The “Red Caravan” carried a large quantity of food, manufactured goods, and medicines. Below is presented the route of the “Red Caravan” across the Kazakh ASSR, where there are indicated the main destinations. The route of the «Red Caravan» was as follows: in Orsk and Orenburg province — 240 versts, Shunkur-kul in Kostanay province — 370 versts, Lyubitskaya area in Akmola province — 240 versts, in Atbasar — 110 versts, Akmolinsk — 200 versts, Chernigovskoe — 80 versts, Kyeviskoe — 20 versts, Zakharovskoe — 80 versts, across Spassky factory — 110 versts, in Bayanaul — 210 versts, across Ekibastuz mines — 100 versts, Kalmansky — 60 versts, in Pavlodar — 65 versts, along the Irtysh — 150 versts, Teksu — 140 versts, Ulkum-Karen — 100 versts, Kenis-Chagly — 120 versts, Poltavskoe — 40 versts, in Petropavlovsk — 55 versts. Consequently, the route of the Red Caravan was 2490 versts [6; 3].

For the purpose of covering the largest number of settlements along the way, sometimes the Red Caravan was divided into two or three units. The Caravan travelled through the territory with poor communication infrastructure, stopping in 26 volosts and 37 auls, including the most remote auls of Turgai, Atbasar, Akmola, Petropavlovsk, Pavlodar, Karkaraly districts.

Along the entire route, there was accomplished considerable propaganda work: mass meetings and lectures were held to familiarize the population with the decrees of the Soviet authorities, they talked with the representatives of auls and village councils, helped in resolving issues, establishing medical and veterinary services, and invited children of the poor to schools. During mass meetings, newspapers, magazines, and brochures (25 poods of literature) were distributed. The caravan had a complaints bureau that received and reviewed more than 600 complaints from the population, taking appropriate measures. And in some of them, the results of the investigation were sent to investigative and judicial bodies to bring the perpetrators to justice. The “Red Caravan” fund provided food and financial assistance to those affected by the famine. As it was reported in the newspaper “Stepnaia Pravda” dated September 16, 1922, “the attitude of the Kyrgyz (Kazakh) working population was most cordial. The local population came out to greet and see off the caravan from dozens of versts away. There were cases when entire villages walked about 50 versts just to get to the place where the caravan was travelling”. Problems were also stated in the article: Comrade Dzhangildin noted that “the work of local authorities was extremely poor. Firstly, due to poor communication with the localities, which meant that authorities arrived two or three months later, when the point of implementation had already been lost. Secondly, due to unauthorized actions of the local authorities, who in their zeal went so far as to completely disregard the orders of the central authorities” [8]. Thus, the organization not only provided humanitarian assistance to the people, but also studied the issues of public administration and executive discipline.

Discussion

In the province newspaper “Mir truda” dated June 11, 1922 Magzhan Zhumabayev wrote: “Since the autumn of 1921, our Akmola province has become the arena of the death march of the silent tsar. Since then, the Kirghiz from our province, due to famine, have been experiencing the same trials and sufferings to which their relatives in the upper provinces of the Kirghiz Republic have been subjected for two years”. M. Zhumabaev saw this picture of famine in Petropavlovsk and Kokchetav districts. Based on the results of his trip to these districts, he presented the report: “On July 16, I went to the famine-affected western volosts of Kokchetav district to assess the situation and carry out assignments for attachment. I was in the Chungurchin, Karachin, Mezgil and Aiyrtav volosts. The situation of the local population in the above-mentioned volosts was truly catastrophic. 90 % of the population was eating only berries. I witnessed many diseases caused by hunger [9; 26]. By the end of the summer of 1921 the central authorities still did not take into account the fact that the population of North-Eastern Kazakhstan was a zone of food crisis and prohibited the use of available food to meet minimum internal needs. In the telegram to the food authorities of Kirghiz region dated August 2, 1921, signed by V.I. Lenin, it was stated: “According to the information of the People’s Commissariat for Food in Omsk, the Kyrgyz Food Committee, without the authorization of the central authorities, independently issues orders for the removal of grain reserved by the Council of People’s Commissars for the center from Semipalatinsk and Akmola districts for consumption within the province. Considering the inadmissibility of using grain intended for supplying the center, during a politically crucial moment, I hereby order: Immediately cancel the orders issued to Akmola and Semipalatinsk provinces for local provisioning without the authorization of the center» [3; 137]. In Order № 2 of the “Red Caravan”, information reports that the nomadic and semi-nomadic population of Atbasar and Akmola districts is subject to taxes on butter and sheep, which are considered a heavy burden [10; 34].

On July 6, 1922 by the decree of the “Red Caravan” under the Kyrgyz Central Executive Committee, Atbasar district was recognized as famine-affected, since there were over 100,000 Kyrgyz and Russian people who were starving. Consequently, it was decided to abolish the state food tax on the harvest of 1921 and apply to the All-Russian Central Executive Committee of the Soviets to approve this resolution [3; 150]. Akmola province was never officially recognized as famine-affected. On the contrary, the Bashkir Republic and Kostanay province were assigned to it for the purpose of receiving assistance [11; 57].

In the archival document, addressed to the All-Russian Central Executive Committee and People’s Commissariat for Food from Petropavlovsk provincial committee, there is information about the manifestation of negative facts in the activities of the organization that “the leaders of the “Red Caravan”, who, being in Atbasar district, issued Order No. 1, which declared that Atbasar district was recognized as famine-affected. This became widely known among the local population, and they stopped paying taxes in butter and eggs. There were cases where people demanded an equivalent return of what was given and theft. The published announcement in the newspaper regarding the petition initiated by the Economic Council to lower the rates to 3 pounds of butter, and to impose the tax on sheep equivalent to one cow, was annulled by us and the Kyrgyz Central Executive Committee protested this decision. The recognition of Atbasar district as famine-affected by the “Red Caravan”, which was more prosperous than Kokchetav and especially Petropavlovsk districts, created confusion on the food front of the province, which disrupted and disorganized food work, posing a danger to the autumn food tax campaign [12].

From the memoirs of contemporaries it is known that, while heading the People’s Commissariat of Social Security, Alibi Dzhangildin devoted a lot of effort to fight unemployment. Leaving for the steppe with the “Red Caravan”, he instructed his subordinates to pay special attention to the issues of helping the unemployed. They were given a certain allowance and food rations at the expense of social insurance funds. Dzhangildin always demanded that the employees of the People’s Commissariat of Social Welfare pay close attention to the needs of the unemployed and severely punished those who did not show the necessary care for them and the starving. In addition to food provision, the expedition members provided assistance to the population in creating educational courses, orphanages, and organizing courses to train medical workers from among the Kazakh youth. Another important area of work of the “Red Caravan” was the solution of the so-called women’s issue: exemption from paying kalym, involving women in social and political life through their access to education. The population was in particular need of medical assistance, as famine and infectious diseases were widespread at that time.

Undoubtedly, the “Red Caravan” led by Alibi Dzhangildin and the provincial caravans that were later created on its model, provided enormous assistance to the people who suffered from famine, diseases and the

tyranny of local authorities during those harsh years. For instance, in the Letter of the Representative of the People's Commissariat for Agriculture under the "Red Caravan" to Kazakh People's Commissariat for Agriculture, there was notification about the situation in Atbasar district: "Among 27 Kyrgyz volosts, only seven volosts received a small amount of grain, and the remaining volosts did not receive any, consequently they were left without sowing, especially the poor. Therefore, the Kyrgyz population will starve during 1922 and 1923. A shortfall in the sowing area amounts to 70 %" [2; 30]. M.L. Strakhovenko-Fabrikant, one of Alibi Togzhanovich's contemporaries and colleagues in the party and Soviet administration, recalled those times of trials and hardships that befell the population of the northern region of the republic in the hungry, crop-poor year of 1921. He went to visit Dzhangildin at the People's Commissariat of Social Security and saw that he was in a dejected mood, holding his head in his hands. When asked whether he fell ill, Alibi Togzhanovich replied: "No, it is even worse. I have just spoken to the Committee for famine relief, entire families are dying. Our help to them is not sufficient. But what should we do? Where can we take grain, when the country is so devastated". Notably, the author of the memoirs characterizes Dzhangildin's condition in the following way: "At the same time, there was deep sorrow on his face; the grief of the people was his grief" [13]. Further, describing the results of the "Red Caravan" expedition, Strakhovenko-Fabrikant writes that A. Dzhangildin returned exhausted and spoke with indignation about the outrages he had uncovered on the ground after returning from the humanitarian expedition with the caravan: "Famine is mowing people down, epidemics are raging, there are no doctors, and the rich continue the merciless exploitation of the poor. When you look at what is happening in certain areas, your heart bleeds. We did everything we could to help the population, but our help was a drop in the ocean" [13].

The tasks of the "Red Caravan" encompassed the study of the life, traditions and language of the Kazakh people, food provision and other assistance. In some sources it was noted that the activities were often limited to study rather than real, large-scale assistance. Internal correspondence and reports from the Soviet and Party bodies could contain criticism if they saw inefficiency, bureaucracy, or a lack of resources in the work of the "Red Caravan". They could indicate the discrepancies between the declared goals and actual results. For instance, if the "Caravan" was focused more on Soviet propaganda than distribution of food, the local workers, who were dealing with the real situation on the ground, could express their dissatisfaction [12].

Despite A. Dzhangildin's rather reserved assessment of the "Red Caravan" activity, its organization and activities became one of the measures to combat famine in the most difficult conditions of the early 1920s. Thus, the tasks set before the "Red Caravan" were successfully completed, mainly thanks to Alibi Dzhangildin's rich life experience. By that time, he already had enough experience in leading similar emergency expeditions.

Conclusions

Despite the catastrophic scale of the famine in Akmola province as a whole, it was never officially recognized as famine-affected. It had serious consequences: The population of the province was not exempted from taxes and did not receive additional food assistance due to starving regions. Moreover, a part of local resources, despite famine, was redistributed to other provinces, for instance, 5,000 poods of grain were sent to Orenburg, and 1,000 poods to the Bashkir Republic. Furthermore, due to non-recognition as famine-affected area, the refugees from the other famine-affected regions continued to arrive in Akmola province, that worsened the situation in further perspective. Within the framework of the "Red Caravan" activities, as a result of the Resolution on recognizing Atbasar district as famine-affected, a decision to abolish the state food tax on the 1921 harvest for this district was made, and a petition to the All-Russian Central Executive Committee of the Soviets to approve this decision was sent. That was an important initiative, because the abolition of the tax gave some respite to the population. Besides combating famine, the "Red Caravans" and "Red Yurts" were used as specific forms of political and educational work, aimed at strengthening Soviet authority and spreading its ideas among the population. Food provision contributed to strengthening of the Soviet authority at the local level, the weakening influence of opposition forces and traditional institutions. Wherever the caravan arrived, there were created or strengthened local food committees, serving as instruments of the Soviet policy. The activity of the "Red Caravan" was actively covered in the Soviet press, becoming part of a broad propaganda campaign to combat famine and build a new society. The ideological message was to demonstrate the advantages of centralized planned supply and contrast it with the "chaos of capitalism". Slogans like "Communism is accounting and control!" often accompanied publications about the arrival of food trains. The activity of the "Red Caravan" in Akmola province during 1921–1923 is an out-

standing example of emergency measures taken by the Soviet authorities in conditions of a deep food crisis. Despite the enormous logistic difficulties, the shortage of resources, corruption, and resistance, the caravan was able to deliver significant amounts of food, saving thousands of lives and alleviating the severity of the famine. The “Red Caravan” demonstrated the ability of the young Soviet state to mobilize resources and organize large-scale humanitarian operations even in conditions of continuing devastation after the Civil War. At the same time, its work revealed deep systemic problems such as inefficient transport infrastructure, weak local administrative structures and persistent social tensions. In the long term, the experience of the “Red Caravan” formed the basis for further development of the state food provision and distribution system, becoming one of the first steps towards the formation of a centralized economy. The study of this initiative offers a deeper understanding of how societies survive in times of catastrophe, as well as the role of the state in overcoming such crises. Further research could be focused on a more detailed study of the fates of caravan participants, as well as on a comparative analysis of the effectiveness of assistance distribution among different segments of the population and areas of Akmola province.

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1921–1923 жылдардағы Ақмола губерниясындағы ашаршылық кезіндегі «Қызыл керуен» ұйымының қызметі туралы кейбір сюжеттер

Мақалада 1921–1923 жылдардағы алапат ашаршылық кезеңіндегі Ақмола губерниясындағы «Қызыл керуен» ұйымының қызметі қарастырылған. Азамат соғысының, құрғақшылық пен індеттердің салдарынан асқынған бұрын-соңды болмаған азық-түлік дағдарысы жағдайында Кеңес үкіметі аштықпен күресу және өз билігін нығайту үшін жылжымалы бөлімшелер желісін орналастырды. Зерттеу өмірлік азық-түлік пен медициналық көмекті жеткізіп қана қоймай, сонымен қатар саяси үгіт-насихат және ақпарат жинау қызметін де атқарған «Қызыл керуеннің» ұйымдастырушылық принциптері мен көпфункционалды сипатын зерттейді. Дағдарыстың туындау жағдайларын талдауға, халыққа көмек көрсетуді ұйымдастыру нысандарына, керуеннің логистикасы мен бағыттарына, сондай-ақ оның ауылдық жерлердегі қызметінің тиімділігіне басты назар аударылады. Ақмола губерниясының губерниялық атқару комитетінің, Губпродкомның және РКП(б) Губкомының тарихи дереккөздерін, мұрағаттық материалдарын талдау негізінде мақалада осы отрядтардың жұмыс істеуінің негізгі аспектілері, олардың аштықты азайтуға әсері және аймақтағы тұрақтылықты

сактаудағы рөлі қарастырылған. Кеңес өкіметінің гуманитарлық апат жағдайында орталықтандырылған басқару тетіктерін енгізу жөніндегі алғашқы әрекеттерін көрсететін керуен жұмысының саяси-насихаттық құрамдас бөлігі зерттелген. «Қызыл керуен» ұйымының апат жағдайында халықтың өмір сүруі үшін күресте Кеңес өкіметінің маңызды құралдарының бірі ретіндегі қызметінің маңыздылығы туралы қорытынды жасалады.

Кілт сөздер: «Қызыл керуен», 1921–1923 жылдардағы ашаршылық, Ақмола губерниясы, азық-түлік комитеттері, гуманитарлық көмек, кеңестік насихат.

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Некоторые сюжеты о деятельности организации «Красный караван» во время голода в Акмолинской губернии в 1921–1923 гг.

В статье исследуется деятельность организации «Красного Каравана» в Акмолинской губернии в трагический период голода 1921–1923 годов. В условиях беспрецедентного продовольственного кризиса, усугубленного последствиями Гражданской войны, засухой и эпидемиями, советское правительство развернуло сеть мобильных отрядов для борьбы с голодом и укрепления своей власти. Исследование анализирует организационные принципы и многофункциональный характер организации «Красный Караван», которые не только доставляли жизненно важное продовольствие и оказывали медицинскую помощь, но и выполняли функции политической агитации и сбора сведений о положении на местах. Основное внимание уделяется анализу условий возникновения кризиса, формам организации помощи населению, логистике и маршрутам каравана, а также эффективности его деятельности в сельских районах. На основе анализа исторических источников, архивных материалов Губисполкома, Губпродкома и Губкома РКП(б) Акмолинской губернии, в статье рассматриваются ключевые аспекты функционирования этих отрядов, их влияние на смягчение последствий голода и роль в поддержании стабильности в регионе. Исследуется политико-пропагандистская составляющая работы каравана, отражавшая ранние попытки советской власти внедрить механизмы централизованного управления в условиях гуманитарной катастрофы. Делается вывод о значимости деятельности организации «Красного Каравана» как одного из важнейших инструментов советской власти в борьбе за выживание населения в условиях катастрофы.

Ключевые слова: «Красный караван», голод 1921–1923 годов, Акмолинская губерния, продовольственные комитеты, гуманитарная помощь, советская агитация.

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