

## Rebellions of 1916 in Kazakhstan and Ireland: General and special

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### Abstract

The national liberation movement in the various colonial countries had their own features, determined by the concrete historical conditions of each country, its level of socio-economic development, ethnic and national characteristics, as well as forms and methods of colonial administration. Last year marked the 100th anniversary of two events – the Easter rebellion in Ireland and the national liberation uprising in Kazakhstan. The Easter rising was fairly local (it was held only in Dublin), and participants were few. Uprising in 1916 in Kazakhstan, was part of a great event that engulfed the whole Russian Central Asia. Is it possible to draw Parallels between these two events? The article is the first attempt to make comparative study of history of the national liberation movement in Ireland and Kazakhstan. The methodological basis for a comparative study of these historical events is the theory of colonialism. Colonialism is considered as a "capture of markets and cheap labor" to maximize profits. Colonialism — a system of domination of the group of industrialized countries over the rest of the world in the 16th-20th centuries. As our studies prove that the colonial policy of British and Russian authorities as well as the nature of the national liberation movement of the peoples of Ireland and Kazakhstan had a lot in common.

The rising of 1916 was the last powerful burst people's spontaneous protest in Kazakhstan, and Ireland. Subsequent stages of the national liberation movement was related to the Irish and Kazakh national political parties.

**Keywords:** colonialism, colonial policy, national liberation movement, the easter rebellion, proclamation of the republic, resettlement policy, land acquisition

### 1. Introduction

The colonial system on the eve of the World War First swept the world, it included the colonies, semi-colonies and dependent countries. Japan was the only country in the East, which not only retained full independence and also participated in world politics under the domination of Western States. China, Iran, Turkey, Siam, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Liberia was able to maintain formal political independence, as an object of economic enslavement through the imposition of unequal treaties and bonded loans. The largest colonial empires were Great Britain and Russia. Enslaved by the colonial policy caused the destruction of the productive forces, delaying economic and political development of these countries and led to the plundering of vast areas and the extermination of entire peoples, which became the reason for anti-colonial rebellions which frequently took place in these countries.

The national liberation movement in the various colonial countries had their own specifics, determined by the concrete historical conditions of each country, its level of socio-economic development, ethnic and national characteristics, as well as forms and methods of colonial administration.

Last year marked the 100th anniversary of two events – the Easter rebellion in Ireland and the national liberation uprising in Kazakhstan. Is it possible to draw Parallels between these two events? The article is the first attempt of comparative study of history of the national liberation movement in Ireland and Kazakhstan. Sources of our research serve as the documentary materials published in the two countries. A collection of "Irish Historical Documents" contains Irish

political and state documents since the establishment of British rule in Ireland until the conclusion of the Anglo-Irish agreement of 1921 (Curtis & Macdowell 2013) <sup>[1]</sup>. A collection of "Irish political documents", compiled by A. Mitchell and P. Ó Snodaigh, contains documents reflecting the history of colonial Ireland from 1869 to 1916 (Mitchell & Snodaigh 1989) <sup>[2]</sup>. In the book "Introduction to Irish History and Civilization: Texts and Documents on Ireland", compiled by E. Epinoux, the documents of Irish history 17th-20th centuries (Epinoux 2007) <sup>[3]</sup>. Sources of the history of the national liberation uprising in 1916 in Kazakhstan, reflected most fully in the book "the Revolt of 1916 in Central Asia and Kazakhstan" (Vosstanie 1960) <sup>[4]</sup>. This collection includes the papers of the Moscow archives. We also used the materials from in the Central state Archive of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

### 2. Methodology

The methodological basis of our research is the theory of colonialism. Colonialism is considered as a "capture of markets and cheap labor" to maximize profits. Colonialism — a system of domination of the group of industrialized countries over the rest of the world in the 16th-20th centuries. Colonial policy is a policy of enslavement and exploitation with the help of military, political and economic coercion against peoples, countries and territories primarily with the non-native population, usually economically less developed. We review the national liberation movement as a natural result of the enslavement of the metropolises of the peoples of the colonial countries.

### 3. Materials and Discussion

#### 3.1 The common features of the policy of the colonial authorities in Ireland and Kazakhstan

The military confiscatory methods played a major role in the exploitation of colonies. For a long time since the beginning of the English conquest of Ireland, the kings of England granted Irish lands to English lords at any times and conditions. And in the 16th and 17th centuries the British government confiscated and gave to English colonists, almost all the Irish land.

In the result of the colonization the Irish rural population was sharply divided along ethnic lines and social position: English Protestants were the landowners, and the Irish Catholics- right less landsmen. English Protestants ousted all urban local posts of the Catholics, which created favorable conditions increasing persecution of Catholics, a policy of religious and political discrimination.

In response to the rebellion of 1797, Irish self-government was abolished altogether from 1 January 1801 by the provisions of the Acts of Union 1800 the Irish got only the right to send a certain number of deputies in the House of Commons. The Union between Britain and Ireland has finally determined the status of Ireland: in political terms, it became a powerless province in the economic — agricultural district, the supplier of cheap labor and raw materials (Kunina 1980:74) <sup>[5]</sup>.

The beginning of entering of Kazakhstan in the Russian Empire dates back to the 30th years of the XVIII century, but the Russian authorities could finally subdued Kazakhstan in the second half of the XIX century. In 1822-1824 the authority of the Kazakh Royal dynasty was abolished and the territory of Kazakhstan was fully integrated in the administrative system of the Russian Empire. The territory of Kazakhstan was divided between several provinces of Russia. In the late 19th early 20th centuries, the colonial authorities were engaged in the removal of land from the Kazakhs to accommodate peasants-immigrants from the European provinces of Russia. The large part of this was the fertile regions of Northern, Eastern and South-Eastern Kazakhstan, the most suitable for farming. Kazakhs were majority and still comprised over three quarters of the local population. They saw in seizure by settlers of their former summer pastures as a threat to their economic existence (Kappeler 2000:219) <sup>[6]</sup>. It is also the policy of the Russian authorities to influence the religion of indigenous people aiming to oppress on centuries-old traditions of Muslim society. For most of the so-called "foreigners" conflicts arising from primarily socio-economic reasons. Later these conflicts objectively took the shape of confrontation with hostile religion, foreign language, and therefore more hostile authorities.

#### 3.2 Uprising of 1916 in Ireland

In April 1912 the liberal government introduced a bill granting Ireland self-government. Despite the limited form of a proposed autonomy, the proposal provoked fierce opposition in Ulster – northeast of Ireland. In compare with other regions this area was a home of many English and Scottish immigrants-protestants. In the late nineteenth century, they created the Union party, whose representatives were opposed to Home Rule and defended the preservation of the Anglo-Irish Union 1800.

In 1914 the British Parliament passed a law on programme of

self-government of Ireland within the British Empire, but under its action fall six counties in the territory of Ulster, which remained subordinate to London, as well as the implementation of the Home Rule Bill was postponed until the end of the World War First. The delay by the ruling circles of Great Britain to give Ireland declared self-government, the deteriorating living conditions of workers during the war led in 1916 to the Irish rebellion, which entered the history under the name the Easter Rising.

A group called the Irish Republican Brotherhood intended to take advantage of the weakness of Great Britain, which participated in the war to organize an uprising in Ireland. Easter day – April 24, 1916, a group of armed Irish volunteers led by Patrick Pearse and the Irish citizen army under James Connolly seized key locations in Dublin. As the General Post Office was clearly visible from a distance, two flags of the new Republic: green-white-orange tricolor flag and the traditional Golden harp of Ireland on a green field was hung. For the first time for 700 years a free Ireland flag was waving over Dublin. Ibid, at the post office, Pádraig Pearse, one of the leaders of the rebels, read the Proclamation of the Republic. This document proclaimed the independence of Ireland from Great Britain: "We declare the right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland, and to the unfettered control of Irish destinies, to be sovereign and infeasible. The long usurpation of that right by a foreign people and government has not extinguished the right, nor can it ever be extinguished except by the destruction of the Irish people. In every generation the Irish people have asserted their right to national freedom and sovereignty; six times during the past three hundred years they have asserted it in arms. Standing on that fundamental right and again asserting it in arms in the face of the world, we hereby proclaim the Irish Republic as a Sovereign Independent State. And we pledge our lives and the lives of our comrades-in-arms to the cause of its freedom, of its welfare and of its exaltation among the nations" (Epinoux 2007:93-94) <sup>[3]</sup>. Proclamation was signed by Thomas J. Clarke, Seán Mac Diarmada, Thomas MacDonagh, Pádraig Pearse, Eamonn céannt station, James Connolly and Joseph Plunkett (later they were all sentenced to death)

In the following days there were violent clashes between British soldiers and followers of Independent Ireland on the streets of Dublin. The Irish hoped that their rebellion would receive military support from Germany, which was at war With England. Roger Casement was to organize the delivery of German weapons and ammunition for the rebels. However, the organizers' plan failed due to the capture of the German transport with weapons by the British. After the defeat of the uprising Roger Casement was convicted of treason and executed in August 1916. After several days of fighting, on 30 April, the uprising was brutally suppressed. 15 leaders of the uprising, including the authors of the Proclamation were executed by a military Tribunal. Some 450 people were killed during the Easter Rising: 116 members of the military, policemen 16, 64 rebels and 254 civilians. A further 2,614 were wounded (Foy & Barton 1999:210-211) <sup>[7]</sup>.

The Irish leader Eamon de Valera Born who was born in USA, imprisoned along with other leaders of the rebellion, and after the liberation they joined the ranks of the party Sinn fein. The British authorities accused the Sinn fein party in the organization of the uprising, although the party had nothing to

do with this event. The identification of the rebels with Sinn fein allowed the authorities to raise a huge noise and arrest anyone that had ever held a prominent position in the party. An armed attempt to overthrow the power of Britain was a landmark in the historical consciousness of the Irish twentieth century and the most important element of forming the ideology of the national state. As historian R. Higgins notes: "Easter 1916 came to represent a moment of possibility against which all subsequent realities could be measured or on which they could be blamed. It has become a conduit for expressions of Irishness and for explorations of the nature of Irish society; a discursive space as well as a historical event" (Higgins 2016:43) <sup>[8]</sup>. The majority of the population did not support the rebellion. However, the mood changed when Britain responded in cruel way with the leaders and participants in the uprising. The leaders of the Easter rising became national heroes and the number of fighters for national independence grew rapidly. After the defeat of the Irish rebellion of 1916, the national liberation movement in Ireland continued. They involved workers, laborers, small farmers, democratic intelligentsia. He headed the struggle of the party Sinn fein.

### 3.3 The revolt of 1916 in Kazakhstan

Russia's participation in the war led totality to national and social contradictions. The colonial policy pursued by the tsarist government such as mass migration movement in Kazakhstan and the consequent seizure of land, as well as the arbitrariness of local authorities contributed to the national liberation movement of 1916 that swept Kazakhstan and the whole Russian Central Asia.

The reason for the uprising was the Royal decree of 25 June 1916 on the conscription into labour brigades and rear works of "the indigenous population". Subject to the mobilization were men aged from 19 to 43 years (Piaskovskii 1960:25-26) <sup>[9]</sup>. From Kazakhstan and Central Asia were to be recruited 400 thousand people. According to the Military Charter of the Russian Empire 1874 non natives, including the Kazakhs, were exempt from military service because they paid a special tax. Representatives of these peoples in large quantities by force never recruited before. Thus the immediate and urgent mobilization of different age people struck the population.

The unrest began on 4 July 1916 with the shooting of the police in Khujand and in some days, the uprising spread to Samarkand, Syrdarya, Fergana and TRANS-Caspian, Akmola, Semipalatinsk, Semirechensk, Turgay and Ural region with more than 10 million people. The movement took different forms: from mass disturbances, leaving their farms, moving into the steppes, the mountains, escaping abroad, destroying the the recruit lists, attacking on administration officials and military units, open mass armed confrontation and guerrilla warfare.

Trying to bring down the intensity of the unrest, Governor-General of the Steppe region Sukhomlinov delayed the conscription of Kazakhs on the rear works until 15 September 1916. However, this decree did not defuse the situation. The leaders of the party of Kazakh national-Democrats "Alash" failed to call people not to resist the implementation of a Royal decree to protect unarmed people from brutal repression. National Democrats repeatedly tried to convince the Russian administration not to rush to mobilization, to undertake preparatory activities. At the same time they

demanded from the authorities a radical change in colonial policy, to stop the eviction from ancestral lands. Simultaneously, a number of radical representatives of the Kazakh intelligence strongly called for armed resistance. In Soviet historiography, the rebellion was presented not only as an anti-colonial uprising, but also as a social protest of the poor against the local aristocracy and rulers. However, there were frequent occasions when the leaders of the rebels were wealthy people, representatives of local authorities. For example in the Zaisan district of the Semipalatinsk region the organizer and the leader of the revolt was Mursalim Bektenov, who worked many years in the public service (Telegramma 1916:2-3, Predstavlenie 1916:3-5) <sup>[10, 11]</sup>.

The death squadswas directed to quell the rebellion. A rebellion broke out in wartime conditions was suppressed with extreme cruelty. Assistant of the Turkestan Governor-General reported that the punitive "troops were systematically exterminating women and children." As a result of these actions by January 1917, the indigenous population of Semirechye fell by 20%, and in some areas 60% (Holkvyist 1999:87-88) <sup>[12]</sup>. By 1916, 347 people were sentenced to death, 168 – to hard labor in Siberia, 129 to imprisonment, 228 – to corrective labor. In addition, their assets and land were confiscated (Ryskulov 1924:273) <sup>[13]</sup>. Punitive dealt not only with the rebels but also civilians. They destroyed dozens of villages. More than 300 thousand Kazakhs and Kyrgyz migrated to China. Local Russian commanders, used the opportunity of the revolt suppression plundered the population.

The uprising of 1916 was the last spontaneous outburst of popular protest in Kazakhstan. Subsequent stages of the national liberation movement was connected with the activities of the Kazakh political party "Alash".

### 4. Conclusion

As it can be seen, in the colonial policy of British and Russian authorities in the character of the national liberation movement of the peoples of Ireland and Kazakhstan had a lot in common. First, the colonial authorities pursued a policy of alienation of land belonging to local communities, which contributed to the increase in the Russian-Orthodox element in Kazakhstan and the Protestant English in Ireland.

Secondly, colonial authorities encouraged the oppression of religion of the local population that subsequently turned into a rather powerful motivating factor that contributed to the rallying and organizing the mobs. With regard to the uprisings of 1916 in Ireland, and Kazakhstan, they were caused by the strengthening of the colonial policy of the metropolis. The fighting Irish and Kazakh peoples for the land became the main form of their social, national liberation and religious struggle. The national movement took a pronounced agricultural character. The Easter uprising was fairly local (it was held only in Dublin), and participants were few. Uprising in 1916 in Kazakhstan, was part of a grandiose event that engulfed the whole of Russian Central Asia.

In the end of March – beginning of April 2016 in Ireland Grand festive events dedicated to the centenary of the Easter rising were held. However in Kazakhstan there were no any official state events devoted to this data. There were some conferences which organized by local regional authorities. The latter indicates a lack of awareness of the new authorities of the value of this event in the history of the country.

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