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УНИВЕРСИТЕТІНІҢ  
ХАБАРШЫСЫ

**ВЕСТНИК**

КАРАГАНДИНСКОГО  
УНИВЕРСИТЕТА

**BULLETIN**

OF THE KARAGANDA  
UNIVERSITY

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## Stages of formation of social harmony in Kazakhstan

The article is devoted to the analysis of the process of forming social harmony during the period of independent Kazakhstan. The authors focus on the historical experience of this process, emphasizing the main stages of the country's socio-cultural development and social changes. The article examines and reviews the works of foreign and domestic scientists. By analyzing the literature on social consent, the article identifies the most important problems of modern Kazakhstani society and presents mechanisms for further consolidation and development of social consent. In conclusion, the authors assert that effective management of modern society requires consideration of the historical context of social harmony and current demands.

*Keywords:* social harmony, harmony in Kazakhstan, interethnic harmony, sustainable development, socio-cultural development, stability.

### Introduction

In its history, Kazakhstan has undergone a challenging path of development to become an independent country. Throughout the transformation processes, significant events occurred that had a profound impact on the social and political development of the nation. The complex social and political transformations linked to the attainment of independence in 1991 have been etched into the country's history as a crucial phenomenon. One of the most important aspects of this period was the process of forming social harmony, as this phenomenon plays a pivotal role in the sustainable development of the nation.

The examination of the dynamics involved in the formation of social harmony in Kazakhstan during the period of independence is a multifaceted phenomenon requiring consideration from historical, social, and political perspectives. Through the analysis of the rich historical heritage associated with this period, namely through research, we can comprehend the changes that have impacted societal stability, understand the circumstances, and mitigate potential negative events.

The concept of social harmony is considered a multifaceted phenomenon and depends on various factors, including political stability, ethnic diversity, economic development, and socio-cultural transformation. From this perspective, this article aims to conduct a historical analysis of the formation of social harmony in Kazakhstan. It covers events that have contributed to the establishment of social harmony, focusing on key occurrences during the country's years of independence.

To conduct this analysis, a critical review of current theories, methodologies, and data from recent years in Kazakhstan and foreign studies was undertaken. The study of the problem of general social harmony requires interdisciplinary connections. It is considered a phenomenon that necessitates consideration not only from a historical perspective but also from political, social, and cultural studies viewpoints. Such an interdis-

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ciplinary approach not only enables a profound understanding of the history of the formation of social harmony in Kazakhstan but also identifies factors that either facilitate or hinder the continuation of this process in modern times.

Thus, our research on this topic will serve as a basis for comprehending the dynamics of social harmony in Kazakhstan during the period of independence and for developing various effective strategies aimed at strengthening social peace in the future.

### *Research methods*

The study of the formation of social harmony in the period of independent Kazakhstan is based on an interdisciplinary research method and requires an analysis based on historical analysis, social and political approaches. This research method provides an integrated approach to the main aspects of social harmony and allows you to take into account historical, socio-cultural and political changes.

The main research method was historical analysis. Here we systematically considered and conducted a critical analysis of the events and processes associated with the formation of social harmony in Kazakhstan. To begin with, we will conduct a separate analysis of the most important moments and periods in the history of the country since the independence of our country in 1991. Here we consider the political, economic and socio-cultural factors that contributed to the formation of public consciousness and collective identity.

Using the method of sociological analysis, we give an overview of public opinion in Kazakhstan at various stages during the years of independence. Surveys of public opinion, data on social changes make it possible to identify trends in the formation of social harmony. It will be important to analyze the changes in relations between different ethnic groups.

Consideration of important political events and decisions that contributed to the formation of social harmony allows us to understand the problem in depth. The roles of state institutions, political leaders and parties in maintaining or, conversely, breaking social peace should be considered in the future. After all, the consideration of this issue allows us to study both political strategies aimed at uniting society and measures aimed at resolving disagreements in society.

In order for the study to be complete, it is advisable to use for comparative analysis the measures that contributed to the formation of social harmony and the experience of other countries that have undergone similar transformations. Here it is necessary to pay attention to studies that mainly relate to countries that were colonies and multiethnic, similar to the history of our country.

In order to understand the formation of social harmony in Kazakhstan and to identify the factors that most influenced this process, it is necessary to use such a mixed research method.

### *Results*

We will consider the issue because of a historical analysis based on studies of the main stages of the formation of social harmony in independent Kazakhstan. In the early 1990s, after the collapse of the Soviet Union, the country faced some public difficulties. The course of solving these difficulties prompted us to look for the basis of our national identity. It can be seen that the country is multinational and, given the geopolitical conditions, this phenomenon has been complex. During the period of consolidation of state power, it was focused on it as the basis for the sustainable development of social harmony.

Studies based on social analysis show that public opinion was not one-sided during the formation of social harmony. During the period of economic and social reforms of the 1990s, the situation of the population in the country worsened. However, in subsequent years, the development of the economy and the increase in living standards gradually formed social stability, and the number of supporters of state initiatives increased.

The analysis of political processes revealed that the State played a key role in the formation of social harmony in Kazakhstan. Strategies aimed at internal stability, such as national programs, anti-crisis measures, and social support policies, have increased public confidence in the authorities and contributed to the development of social stability.

The main goal in the use of foreign literature in the study was to learn from foreign experience, that is, to compare. It turned out that in a society that experienced colonialism and was multiethnic; the tendency for the formation of social harmony was shown to be mutually similar. Successful strategies are aimed at preserving national identity, promoting social justice and effective management of diverse ethnic groups.

Global changes today cannot but affect the formation and stability of social harmony in our country. Globalization, information technologies, and new changes in the world will definitely contribute to socio-

cultural processes in Kazakhstan. However, this trend provides new opportunities for maintaining stability in the country and sustainable development of society.

One of the necessary conditions for the sustainable development of any state is the stabilization of mutual consent of groups in society. In Kazakhstan, this situation has its own specifics. The reason lies in historical, political, socio-economic and cultural factors.

The formation of social harmony in independent Kazakhstan can be divided into several stages.

The first stage includes the first years of independence, that is, the period from 1991 to 1995. A feature of this time is the time when Kazakhstan gained independence and began to form as a rule of law. We call it legal because the main legislative acts that provide legal support for social harmony have been adopted. These are the Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On political parties", the law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On the procedure for organizing and holding peaceful assemblies in the Republic of Kazakhstan", the law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On mass media" and other documents regulating public consent.

The development of civil society and the strengthening of interethnic harmony, which took place from 1996 to 2005, characterize the second stage. In these years, because of the laws adopted in the country as a rule of law, all conditions for the development of political parties and public associations were created. As a multinational state, this process has contributed to the development of social harmony.

The third stage in the history of the formation of a public agreement can be attributed to the period from 2006 to the present day. This is the period of implementation of large-scale reforms. Any of the reforms were aimed at improving the standard of living of the population, ensuring social justice, and developing interethnic harmony.

Given the development of social harmony in neighboring post-Soviet countries and the events of interethnic conflicts, stability in this aspect in our country is a process worth studying. The main force that contributed to the formation of social harmony in the country can be called the historically formed factor. A stable political system also contributed to the historically established tradition of interethnic and Interfaith Harmony. The creation of the Assembly of peoples of Kazakhstan contributed to the stable peaceful development of the interethnic situation in the country. Through this Assembly, the policy of social justice is maintained in socio-economic terms, ethnic groups in Kazakhstan are on an equal footing with the Kazakh people.

Taking into account the listed points, it is necessary to emphasize the important role of the state, which was the basis for all these things. It should be noted that the policy and position of the State play a huge role in the sustainable development of social harmony.

### *Discussion*

A public agreement is defined as a real or hypothetical agreement or agreement that defines mutual rights and obligations between the rulers and those under their control. The theory of this concept includes the greatest theorists of social harmony E. Gellner, Y. Habermas, J. Rawls devoted a lot of work. In their works, these scientists [1–3] analyze various definitions of social harmony and raise the question of its existence and role in society. E. Gellner explains social cohesion by defining that "A large part of society belongs to common values and goals, and they agree with the social institutions and order established in society" [1; 83]. In his concept, he believes that social harmony is a necessary condition for the sustainable development of society, since it provides social stability. Continuing this game, E. Gellner in the mentioned work highlights two main types of social harmony.

The first, consensual agreement is based on a common agreement on core values and the goals of society. This type of agreement is considered the most stable type, as it relies on a solid foundation of common values.

The second, conformist agreement formally agrees with the order established in a society that is often not accepted as true. It belongs to the unstable type of agreement. This is because it can quickly break down when acute social conflicts arise [1; 63].

Habermas explains in his work social cohesion as "A form of social integration in which participants freely discuss and agree on their interests and goals" [2; 23]. According to him, social harmony is the main condition for the establishment of justice in society. The reason is that they consider it possible to participate in all its participants in a decision that affects their own interests. Unlike E. Gellner, Y. Habermas divides the social agreement into two types: in the 1st Democratic agreement, its members can participate in the discussion and all decisions taken. This is considered a typical type. In non-democratic type 2, participants cannot

participate equally in decision-making. This type is an unfair type because one group suppresses another [2; 45].

J. Rawls, however, in his work [3] defines social harmony as “The state of a society made up of people who come to terms with those institutions, believing that the institutions and orders in society share the good fairly equally”. In the indicated work, J. As Rawls considers justice as well as consent, he points out both of the main principles of Justice:

The principle of primary opportunity Justice says that every person, regardless of his or her social origin, has an equal chance of success in life.

The principle of equitable distribution of goods says that all goods must be divided equally in order for each person to satisfy their needs [3; 56].

The three scientists mentioned above have common characteristics in their theories regarding social harmony. These theories consider social harmony as a necessary condition for the sustainable development of society. However, the theories of the three scientists who gave the example are not without exceptions. E. Gellner and Y. Habermas said that the full participation of all members of society is of great importance for the formation of social harmony, and J. Rawls says that without the participation of social consent, the institutions could distribute the good fairly.

Among domestic scientists, K.K. Abildaev in his work “Formation of public consent in Kazakhstan: historical experience and modern problems” notes that the historically established tradition of interethnic and Interfaith Harmony is the most important basis of social harmony in Kazakhstan [4; 28]. In this work, he widely analyzed the historical context of the formation of social harmony. In his research, he touches on both the period of social changes that contributed to the process of forming consent, and the specifics of the national identity of the people.

Baimenov N.B. in her work “Public consent: concept, essence, ways of formation” notes that the formation of social harmony in Kazakhstan took place as a historical process formed under the influence of various factors [5; 73]. However, in the age of globalization, it is also necessary to solve some of the problems that guarantee the stability of the agreement. Shows the most important tools for understanding the essence of the phenomenon of social harmony. The same tools can be used to analyze trends today.

According to Kusainova M.K., the formation of social harmony in Kazakhstan was a natural phenomenon based on historical, political, socio-economic and cultural factors [6]. Analyzing in depth the stages of the formation and development of social harmony in Kazakhstan, the author presents in this work the dynamics of changes in this phenomenon.

You can also consider the article by D. Kacheev and S. Samarkin, “Kazakhstan's Model of Public Harmony and National Unity in a Changing World”. The article highlights the main stages of forming the model of social harmony and national unity in the Republic of Kazakhstan. The authors noted that the foundations of this model were laid long before the declaration of independence of the Republic of Kazakhstan in 1991. In the 20th century, despite tragic historical events, Kazakhstan became a multi-ethnic society with unique cultural practices. An important stage was the renaming of the Assembly of Peoples of Kazakhstan to the Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan in 2007, as well as the consolidation of citizens around the values of Kazakh culture and the Kazakh language, while preserving the unique national-cultural and linguistic specifics [7].

During the preparation of the article, the authors studied the main regulatory documents regulating national relations, interethnic interaction, and the religious sphere. These documents play a crucial role in regulating national relations and interethnic interaction, as they define the legal and political foundations for maintaining harmony and unity in a multi-ethnic and multi-confessional society. Such regulatory documents may include laws on national relations, rights and guarantees for representatives of various ethnic and religious groups, as well as mechanisms for conflict resolution and the maintenance of peaceful coexistence.

One can also give an example of an article by Yakusheva Yu.V. “Ethnopolitics and interethnic relations in the Republic of Kazakhstan in the initial period of state independence” [8], which examines the main stages of the formation of national legislation in the field of ethnic integration and confessional relations in the Republic of Kazakhstan. The author also analyzes the political and legal regulation of the interethnic sphere of the republic in the first years of independence, identifies the main features of the formation and development of the Kazakh model of interethnic interaction.

We agree with the author of this article, who, as a result of the analysis, identified the following main features of the formation and development of the Kazakh model of interethnic interaction in the initial period of state independence:

1. Creation of a consultative and advisory body under the President of the country — the Assembly of Peoples of Kazakhstan (APK) in 1995, which was designed to deal with issues of ensuring interethnic harmony in the republic.

2. Introduction of new institutional foundations for regulating the processes of interethnic integration and interreligious relations.

3. Consolidation in the Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan of the key elements of the unification of all ethnic groups living in the country into a single and cohesive community.

4. Recognition as unconstitutional of any actions capable of violating interethnic harmony, and a ban on the creation of parties based on racial, ethnic and religious affiliation.

These features reflect the desire to form a model of interethnic interaction based on the principles of interethnic harmony, integration and respect for cultural diversity in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

In the initial period of state independence, the Republic of Kazakhstan also used state-legal instruments to maintain ethnic integration and confessional relations:

- Creation of a consultative and advisory body under the President of the country — the Assembly of Peoples of Kazakhstan (APK), which was called upon to deal with issues of ensuring interethnic harmony in the republic.

- The introduction of new institutional foundations for regulating the processes of interethnic integration and interreligious relations.

- Consolidation in the Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan of the key elements of uniting all ethnic groups living in the country into a single and cohesive community.

- Recognition as unconstitutional of any actions capable of violating interethnic harmony, and a ban on the creation of parties based on racial, ethnic and religious affiliation.

- Priority was given to the formation of a legal framework aimed at ensuring the rights and freedoms of all citizens, regardless of their ethnic or religious affiliation.

These tools were aimed at creating an effective mechanism for maintaining interethnic and interfaith harmony in a young sovereign state and forming a legislative framework to ensure interethnic harmony and integration in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

### *Conclusion*

As we can see, the formation of social harmony in independent Kazakhstan was a complex and multifaceted process. There are significant positive changes, such as the development of social harmony, but there are problems that are waiting to be solved. For the further sustainable development of public consent in Kazakhstan, the following measures should be implemented:

- continue the implementation of reforms to improve the welfare of the population and ensure social justice;

- maintain the traditions of interethnic and Interfaith Harmony;

- strengthening the role of political parties and public associations in the process of forming social harmony;

- creating conditions for the development of independent mass media.

A timely approach to these issues will contribute to the further development of social harmony in Kazakhstan and stability and prosperity of our country.

The formation of social harmony in Kazakhstan is a complex and multifaceted process that has gone through several stages. At the first stage, in 1991–1995, the main task was to create new State institutions and ensure stability in the country. At the second stage, in 1996–2005, the emphasis was placed on the development of the economy and the social sphere. The third stage, in 2006–2022, saw the strengthening of civil society and the expansion of public participation in the political life of the country.

At each stage of the formation of social harmony in Kazakhstan, there were achievements and challenges. However, in general, it can be stated that Kazakhstan has made significant progress in this direction. The country has a multinational and multi-religious community of people who share common values and goals.

The main factors that contributed to the formation of social harmony in Kazakhstan include the following:

- A peaceful and bloodless transition to independence;

- The commitment of the country's leadership to the principles of democracy and the rule of law;

- Economic and social development;

- Strengthening civil society.

In the future, in order to further strengthen social harmony in Kazakhstan, it is necessary to continue working in the following areas:

- Development of a dialogue between the government and society;
- Implementation of programs on intercultural and interfaith dialogue;
- Promotion of the values of tolerance.

The creation and strengthening of social harmony is an essential condition for the sustainable development of Kazakhstan.

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Е.Ә. Абдраимов, Т.С. Садықов, М. Шмигель

## Қазақстанда қоғамдық келісімнің қалыптасу кезеңдері

Мақала тәуелсіз Қазақстан кезеңіндегі қоғамдық келісімді қалыптастыру процесін талдауға арналған. Авторлар бұл процестің тарихи тәжірибесіне, елдің әлеуметтік-мәдени динамикасының негізгі кезеңдеріне және өзгеруіне назар аударған. Мақалада шетелдік және отандық ғалымдардың еңбектері қаралған. Қоғамдық келісім бойынша жазылған еңбектерді талдай отырып, авторлар қазіргі қазақстандық қоғамның аса маңызды мәселелерін анықтайды, алдағы уақытта қоғамдық келісімді нығайтатын және дамытатын механизмдерді ұсынған. Мақаланың соңында авторлар бүгінгі қоғамды тиімді басқару үшін қоғамдық келісімнің тарихи контекстін және заманауи сұраныстарды ескеру қажет деген қорытындыға келеді.

*Кілт сөздер:* қоғамдық келісім, Қазақстандағы келісім, ұлтаралық келісім, тұрақты даму, әлеуметтік-мәдени даму, тұрақтылық.

Е.А. Абдраимов, Т.С. Садықов, М. Шмигель

## Этапы формирования общественного согласия в Казахстане

Статья посвящена анализу процесса формирования общественного согласия в период независимого Казахстана. Авторы обращают внимание на исторический опыт этого процесса, основные этапы и изменения социокультурной динамики страны. В работе рассмотрены труды зарубежных и отечественных ученых. Анализируя труды, написанные по общественному согласию, авторы выявляют важнейшие проблемы современного казахстанского общества, предлагают механизмы, которые в дальнейшем будут укреплять и развивать общественное согласие. В конце статьи авторы приходят к выводу, что для эффективного управления современным обществом необходимо учитывать исторический контекст общественного согласия и современные запросы.

*Ключевые слова:* общественное согласие, согласие в Казахстане, межнациональное согласие, устойчивое развитие, социально-культурное развитие, стабильность.

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