

Жапарова А.

НОВАЯ РЕЛИГИОЗНАЯ ПОЛИТИКА В КЫРГЫЗСКОЙ РЕСПУБЛИКЕ: ЦЕЛИ И ОЖИДАЕМЫЕ РЕЗУЛЬТАТЫ

Жапарова А.

КЫРГЫЗ РЕСПУБЛИКАСЫНЫН ЖАНЫ ДИНИЙ САЯСАТЫ: МАКСАТТАРЫ ЖАНА ЖЫЙЫНТЫГЫ

A. Zhaparova

NEW STATE POLICY ON RELIGION IN KYRGYZ REPUBLIC: GOALS AND OUTCOMES

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Бул макала Кыргызстандагы дин багытында болуп жаткан реформаларды жана саясатты чагылдырат. Дин багытындагы көйгөйлөр дагы изилденген.

Негизги сөздөр: Кыргыз Республикасы, дин, ислам, светтик өлкө, мамлекеттик саясат, Атамбаевдин саясаты.

Данная статья анализирует религиозную ситуацию в Центральной Азии, особенно в Кыргызстане. Кыргызстан имеет множество проблем в этой сфере. Радикализация и экстремизм населения растет. Это все, потому что раньше религия не контролировалась из-за светскости государства. После того, как Атамбаев пришел к власти, он начал активно регулировать эту сферу.

Ключевые слова: Кыргызская Республика, религия, ислам, светскость, государственная политика, политика Атамбаева.

This article analyses religious situation in Central Asia especially in Kyrgyz Republic. There are many problems linked to Islam and other religions in Kyrgyzstan, population gets radicalized especially youth. Kyrgyz Republic as a secular state didn't intervene in religion and didn't control it. But when in 2011 Atambaev became president of Kyrgyzstan he agreed that state must control and regulate religious activities.

Key words: Kyrgyz Republic, religion, Islam, Secularism, state policy, Atambaev policy.

ISLAM IN CENTRAL ASIA: HISTORY AND PROBLEMS

Islam came to Kyrgyzstan in 8th century but as nomad people, Kyrgyzs also practiced shamanism – Tengrianism. Even nowadays we can see elements of shamanism in Kyrgyz people, in traditions and mores.

During Soviet time, Islam was forbidden; religious men were punished, arrested and killed. Religious organizations were closed and transformed to schools and other educational organizations. In 1920s Kyrgyzstan has lost a lot of religious intelligence and Islam was not well developed. All religious holidays and mores were prohibited, but population continued practicing them. In 1943 Spiritual Administration of Muslims of Central Asia and Kazakhstan was created and based in Tashkent. All religious activities of five Central Asian states were under the control of this Spiritual Administration till the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. During soviet time there were only 30 mosques in Central Asia.

After the collapse of Soviet Union there was a process of independence of religious organizations from Spiritual Administration and five Central Asian countries began administering their religious life separately from each other. In all five countries Islam developed differently. There were many prohibited extremist organizations and movements in Central Asian states. In Uzbekistan at the end of 1990s Islamic movement of Uzbekistan was created in order to overthrow Islam Karimov and install Islamic state based on Koran and Sharia. Later IMU joined Al-Qaeda and nowadays they are integrated in ISIS. Tajikistan from 1992 to 1997 survived civil war between Islam oriented people that followed Wahhabi idea rose against liberal democratic reformers. By June 1997, an estimated 50,000 to 100,000 people had been killed.

Most of terrorist attacks in Central Asia were organized in Kazakhstan. Turkmenistan as a closed country doesn't give any information about religious problems and situation. Recently, there more than 3000 people from Uzbekistan, more than 2000 from Tajikistan, officially more than 500 from Kazakhstan and the same quantity from Kyrgyzstan left to Syria in order to join ISIS. Joining ISIS and Taliban movements is the most problematic aspect of Islam in Central Asia. Population gets radicalized and Central Asian region is under the threat of Islamic radicalization.

STATE POLICY IN RELIGIOUS SPHERE BEFORE THE ATAMBAEV PRESIDENCY IN KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

The Kyrgyz Republic is an independent state situated in Central Asia. It is one of the post-Soviet republics. According to the Constitution of Kyrgyz Republic, this country is a democratic and secular state. Kyrgyzstan is one of the poor countries in the region and there are many problems in society like unemployment, low salaries, inequality, corruption, political instability, economic crisis. Because of economic difficulties in Kyrgyzstan nearly 1 million Kyrgyz citizens left to Russia in order to earn money. The population of Kyrgyzstan is now more than 6 million people and 90% of them are Muslims.

There are many religious problems in Kyrgyzstan. Kyrgyzstan is a post-Soviet country but most people practice Sunni Islam (90%). During the first 20 years of independence, religion was not a state concern, the State

completely dropped this problem and in our Constitution it was said that Kyrgyzstan is a secular country. But during this time there was influence from third states like Arab states, Turkish, Pakistan, Afghanistan, etc., and now we have a lot of religious problems. People do not understand what is true Islam? There is "a lot of Islam" among us, Egyptian Islam, Saudi Islam, Pakistani Islam, Afghan Islam, etc. Many young people have gone to Syria to help "the brothers" and "save Islam".

Religion is very present in society and is beginning to dominate social and even political life. Even the people do not understand the true Islam. There are many Islamic streams and prohibited movements: Salafism, Tablig Jamaat, Sufism, Sulaimans, Ismails, Ahmadias, Hizb-ut Tahrir, Jaishul Mahdi, Jund-al Halifat, Ansarulloh, etc. And people continue to believe in all these currents of extremist Islam. The majority (81.7 %) of supporters of extremist organizations are members of «Hizb ut-Tahrir» - 1 386 people [3]. In 2005 the proportion of women in the extremist organizations was 1.1 %, by 2016 the figure had risen to 23%. More youth and women get radicalized.

Besides Islam there are many streams of other religions in Kyrgyz society: Christianity, baptism, Jehovah's Witnesses, Protestantism - 11 currents, San Myan Mouns, etc. According to the Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic 90% of the population believe in Islam, 8% Orthodox Christianity, 2% to other religions [4].

In Soviet times, in Kyrgyzstan there were only 39 mosques, and in 2000 - 195. Now there are 2 743 mosques, there are more than 30 different Jamaats. There are more mosques than the secondary schools (approximately 2,200 secondary schools) in the Kyrgyz Republic. The number of mosques in Kyrgyzstan had increased more than 70 times [3]. Most of the mosques are located in the south of the country (67.8 percent). In Kyrgyzstan, religious extremism is distributed mainly in the southern regions - Osh, Jalal-Abad and Batken oblasts [3].

Radicalization of young people is another problem in Kyrgyz society and there are many religious currents forbidden and young people are also attracted and radicalized. Young people because of lack of finances and work are recruited and actively participate in these religious flows without knowing that they are forbidden in Kyrgyzstan and they are destructive.

Among problems linked to religion is the recruitment of Kyrgyz population in Daesh - officially 500, not officially more than 2000 people are recruited and left in Syria to fight for Daesh. Many of them are killed; others have returned to Kyrgyzstan and can organize terrorist attacks on the territory of the Central Asian countries any time. They can also spread the idea of Islamic State in Kyrgyz society and in the future it will conduct to social destabilization because of division of society in two: religious and secular people. The main purpose of Islamic state supporters is to construct Islamic country in Central Asian region.

The activation of religious movements in society and politics - as indicated above there are many religious currents forbidden in our country, but they continue to exist and have become very active in social and political life. Especially, Hizb-ut Tahrir movement is very active in Kyrgyzstan [1].

NEW STATE POLICY: GOALS, INSTITUTIONS, DOCUMENTS AND ITS EFFECTIVENESS

Kyrgyzstan is situated in the region with high terrorist activities. **Afghanistan** was and stays as the main sources of terrorism and religious extremism. We have common border with Chinese Xinxiang Uyghur region that known as separatist region of China and with many terrorist groups and activities. We are also close to Russia with its separatist movements and terrorist groups concentrated in Northern Caucasus especially Chechnya.

To these sources of threats in last time we can add Islamic State that is active in the territories of Syria and Iraq. As mentioned above since 2013 more than 2000 Kyrgyz citizens left country to Syria in order to join ISIS. Most migrants working in Moscow or in Turkey they were recruited to ISIS. In the south of Kyrgyzstan many young people were recruited to ISIS and some of them died. Recently, there was a terrorist attack in Chinese Embassy in Bishkek. It was said that international terrorist groups organized this terrorist attack. The Kyrgyz Service for National Security regularly prevents the terrorist attacks that were going organized in Bishkek. Last year 9 prisoners escaped the prison by killing policemen, five of them were captured immediately but other four disappeared. For one week Kyrgyz security services looked for these prisoners [2].

After this case Kyrgyz society have revealed that terrorism entered even in prisons. Many prisoners were recruited to ISIS or forced to join and support ISIS. Among that prisoners that escaped one of them carried ISIS flag with him. Eight of nine prisoners were killed by security services and prisoner killed one military man during gunshot. These two cases demonstrate us that the terrorism and religious extremism become the biggest threat to our national security.

In order to solve these problems it was decided that State must regulate the religion. The State Committee of Religious issue was created under the president of Kyrgyz Republic. The laws, regulations, concepts of religious security were adopted. In each oblasts the branches of State Committee of Religious issue were installed and they are working actively with local population.

Kyrgyz President Almazbek Atambayev signed a decree "On Kyrgyz Concept of state policy in the religious sphere for 2014-2020."

According to the Decree, based on the Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic, as well as to implement the decisions of the Defense Council of the Kyrgyz Republic on November 3, 2014, on the protection of the fundamental principles of human rights, freedom of conscience and religion, improvement of system of state

regulation and interaction with religious organizations, further strengthening the rule of law and public safety, as well as the need to preserve cultural measures, language and spiritual values of the people of Kyrgyzstan, to ensure the development of the country's identity. In this Concept it was indicated that with the participation of the State Commission for Religious Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic in the period prior to January 1, 2015 to develop a plan of action to implement the concept, taking into account the proposals of members of the Defense Council of the Kyrgyz Republic and to take the necessary measures to ensure the financial implementation of the Action Plan, the definition of authorities and officials responsible for its implementation. The State Commission on Religious Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic in cooperation with the working group of the Council of Defense of the Kyrgyz

Republic on the reform of the state policy in the religious sphere to provide, in cooperation with the media and other institutions of civil society to raise awareness among the population, religious organizations about the basic provisions of the concept and its implementation [5].

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Рецензент: д.филос.н., доцент Насритдинов Э.З.