

DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSFORMATIONS OF THE BELARUSIANS OF THE CRIMEA AT THE END OF THE 19th-FIRST HALF OF THE 20th CENTURY *

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The article examines the specifics of demographic transformations of the Belarusian population of the Crimean Peninsula in the late 19th-first half of the 20th century. The choice of the topic of the work is due to the fact that studies on the demographic processes of the Belarusian population of the Crimean Peninsula are not yet reflected in scientific discourse in detail, despite the fact that Belarusians are the fourth largest ethnic minority of Crimea. The methodological basis of the study was made up of statistical analysis methods, in particular, a summary and grouping of the obtained statistical data, as well as correlation analysis of statistical data were used during the study. The dynamics of changes in the number of the Belarusian population in the context of the administrative-territorial Crimean Peninsula from 1897 to 1939 is analyzed. It is concluded that at the end of the 19th-first half of the 20th century, the maximum concentration of the Belarusian ethnic group was observed in the eastern and southeastern parts of the peninsula. The analysis also showed that if in the first two decades of the 20th century there was a sharp increase in the share of the Belarusian ethnic group in the western part of the peninsula, then in the period from 1926 to 1939 the number of Belarusians in the western part of the Crimea again significantly decreased.

Key words: Crimean Peninsula, Belarusian ethnic group, demographic processes, ethnic minorities.

[Д.И. Узнародов Демографические трансформации белорусов Крыма в конце XIX-первой половине XX века]

Рассматриваются специфика демографических трансформаций белорусского населения Крымского полуострова в конце XIX – первой половине XX в. Выбор тематики работы обусловлен тем, что исследования, посвященные демографическим процессам белорусского населения Крымского полуострова, еще не так подробно отражены в научном дискурсе, несмотря на то что белорусы являются четвертым по численности этническим меньшинством Крыма. Методологическую базу исследования составили методы статистического анализа, в частности, в ходе исследования применялись сводка и группировка полученных статистических данных, а также корреляционный анализ статистических данных. Анализируется динамика изменения численности белорусского населения в контексте административно-территориальных Крымского полуострова с 1897 по 1939 гг. Делается вывод, что в конце XIX – первой половине XX в. максимальная концентрация белорусского этноса наблюдается в восточной и юго-восточной части полуострова. Проведенный анализ также показал, что если в первые два десятилетия XX в. наблюдался резкий рост доли белорусского этноса в западной части полуострова, то в период с 1926 по 1939 численность белорусов в западной части Крыма вновь значительно сократилась.

Ключевые слова: Крымский полуостров, белорусский этнос, демографические процессы, этнические меньшинства.

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Introduction

At present, a certain theoretical and methodological basis for studying the demographic processes of the Crimea, including their historical features, has already been formed. For example, the problems of the Crimean demographic processes are reflected in the works of such scientists as A.M. Bayburtsky [1], A.V. Baranov [2], [3], S.N. Kiselev [6], V.A. Kononirenko [7], R.K. Ovcharenko [8], O.V. Savinova [11] and others. But despite the rather high degree of development of the topic, a number of issues need additional study. In particular, we are talking about the demographic processes of the Belarusian population of the Crimean Peninsula, according to the results of the study of which, so far, not many works have been presented in the scientific discourse.

Belarusians are historically among the largest ethnic minorities in Crimea. According to the results of the 2014 census, Belarusians are the fourth largest ethnic minority of the Crimean Peninsula, second only to Ukrainians, Crimean Tatars and Tatars [10]. The first Belarusian settlements in the Crimea date back to the last decades of the 18th century and were territorially located within the Taurida province. They consisted of people from the free military class who were equated in rights with the Little-Russian Cossacks [11].

The next waves of Belarusian settlers date back to the middle of the 19th and the first half of the 20th century. In the middle of the 19th century, a significant part of the Belarusian settlers was from among the retired soldiers who remained on the territory of the Crimea after the end of the Crimean War, as well as from among the former serfs who moved to the territory of the Crimean Peninsula after 1861 [11]. By 1897, 2,058 Belarusians lived in Crimea [9].

Research methods

The research tools were compiled by methods of statistical analysis, in particular, during the study, a summary and grouping of the obtained statistical data were used, as well as a correlation analysis of statistical data.

Results and discussion

According to the First All-Russian Population Census of 1897, the population of the Crimean Peninsula reached 546,592 people, and the number of the Belarusian ethnic group was 2,058 people, or 0.38% of the total population [9]. The Crimean Peninsula was part of the Tauride province and included 5 counties and 2 townships. At the end of the 19th century, the maximum share of the Belarusian ethnos was recorded in the central and southeastern parts of the peninsula (Simferopol and Feodosiya districts), the minimum one in the west and southwest (Evpatoriya and Yalta districts), as well as in the Kerch-Yenikalsky town administration (practically corresponds to the current borders of the city district of Kerch). Mostly, at the end of the 19th century, Belarusians of Crimea lived in rural areas – 72.93%. The share of Belarusians living in cities was 27.07%.

Administrative-territorial units	All population, pers	including Belarusians, pers.	share of the Belarusian ethnic group in the population structure of the region, %
Yevpatoria district	63 211	165	0,26
Kerch-Yenikalsk city administration	43 698	93	0,21
Perekop county	51 393	199	0,39
Sevastopol city administration	57 455	195	0,34

Simferopol district	141 717	611	0,43
Feodosia district	115 858	586	0,51
Yalta district	73 260	209	0,29
Total in the city administrations and counties of Crimea	546 592	2058	0,38

Table 1. Settlement of the Belarusian population of Crimea, according to the 1897 census [9]

In the 20th century there were two waves of migration from the territory of Belarusian lands: the first wave dates back to the 20-30s of the 20th century and included immigrants from the Vitebsk, Minsk and Gomel provinces, and the second dates back to the 40-50s, the basis of which were immigrants from the Gomel, Grodno and Mogilev regions.

In 1926, the largest concentration of the Belarusian ethnos was observed in the western part of the peninsula: in comparison with the results of the 1897 census, the share of the Belarusian ethnos in the Evpatoria region of the Crimean Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic increased five times (within the borders it practically coincided with the territory of the former Evpatoria district of the Russian Empire), from 0, 26 to 1.28% [4]. The share of Belarusians living in the central part of Crimea, in the Simferopol region (in 1926 it included all the lands of central Crimea) remained unchanged – 0.43%. The share of the Belarusian ethnic group in the southeastern part of the peninsula (the territory of the former Feodosia district of the Russian Empire) was approximately identical – 0.48% (0.51% in 1897). The share of Belarusians in the northern part of Crimea, on the territory of the Dzhankoy district (in 1926 it included all the lands of the north of Crimea, including the former Perekop district of the Russian Empire), decreased from 0.39 to 0.22%. At the same time, in the period from 1897 to 1926. the share of Belarusians living in cities increased significantly – from 27.07 to 58.22%, which was due to the processes of urbanization actively taking place in the country at that time.

Administrative-territorial units	All population, pers	including Belarusians, pers.	share of the Belarusian ethnic group in the population structure of the region, %
Crimean ASSR	706 757	3842	0,54
Bakhchisaray district	36 615	22	0,06
Dzhankoi district	59 322	130	0,22
Evpatoria district	49 346	634	1,28
Karasubazar district	25 925	8	0,03
Kerch district	39 961	343	0,86
Sevastopol region	18 833	57	0,3
Sudak region	15 757	68	0,43
Feodosia district	52 666	88	0,17
Yalta region	36 225	131	0,36

Table 2. Settlement of the Belarusian population of Crimea, according to the 1926 census [4]

According to the results of the 1939 census, the maximum concentration of the Belarusian ethnic group was recorded in the eastern and southeastern parts of Crimea (Ichkinsky, Kirovske, Kolai, Lenine districts) [5]. In the period from 1926 to 1939 the share of the Belarusian ethnic group in the Yalta region increased (almost three times), as well as in the northeastern part of Crimea, in the Dzhankoi region. Of all the cities of Crimea, the largest share of the Belarusian ethnic group in 1939 was recorded in Yalta – 1.01%. In comparison with 1926, the share of the Belarusian ethnics in the western part of the peninsula (Yevpatoria, as well as Ak-Mechetsky, Ak-Sheikh, Saky and Freidorf districts, which were previously part of the Yevpatoria region), has significantly decreased. A certain decrease in the share of Belarusians in the structure of the population in the period from 1926 to 1939. was also observed in the central part of the Crimea. The percentage of Belarusians living in cities increased slightly: from 58.22 to 61.45%.

Administrative-territorial units	All population, pers	including Belarusians, pers.	share of the Belarusian ethnic group in the population structure of the region, %
Crimean ASSR	1 126 429	6726	0,6
City of Kerch	104 443	699	0,67
City of Sevastopol	111 938	615	0,55
City of Simferopol	142 634	1047	0,73
City of Feodosia	45 032	400	0,89
City of Yalta	36 683	370	1,01
Ak-Mechetsky district	15 941	50	0,31
Ak-Sheikh district	14 725	35	0,24
Alushta district	25 996	73	0,28
Balaklava District	23 400	60	0,26
Bakhchysarai district	46 888	133	0,28
Biyuk-Onlar district	18 542	31	0,17
Dzhankoi district	46 626	407	0,87
Yevpatoria district	58 294	258	0,44
Zeysky District	16 324	46	0,28
Ichkinsky district	20 748	208	1
Karasubazar district	33 034	53	0,16
Kirovske district	21 321	175	0,82
Kolai district	16 767	201	1,2
Krasnoperekopsk district	23 529	42	0,18
Kuybyshevsky District	17 759	27	0,15
Larindorfsky district	14 341	90	0,63
Lenine district	23 656	219	0,93
Mayak-Salynsky district	28 415	202	0,71
Saky district	27 800	143	0,51
Seitlersky district	24 984	153	0,61
Simferopol district	41 321	136	0,33
Staro-Krymsky district	20 643	99	0,48
Sudak district	20 081	52	0,26
Telman district	23 535	170	0,72
Freidorf district	14 366	38	0,26
Yalta district	46 693	494	1,06

Table 3. Settlement of the Belarusian population of Crimea, according to the 1939 census [5]

By 1940, the number of the Belarusian ethnic group in the structure of the Crimean population had almost tripled and reached 6,726 people. Since the beginning of the 20th century, settlements with the largest number of Belarusian ethnic groups have been the settlements of Voinka and Ishun, Krasnoperekopsky district, the village of Maryanovka, Krasnogvardeisky district, the village of Shirokoye, Simferopol district, as well as several settlements of the Yalta City Council [11].

Conclusion

It should be noted that at the end of the 19th-first half of the 20th century, the maximum concentration of the Belarusian ethnic group was observed in the eastern and southeastern parts of the peninsula. If at the end of the 19th century one of the maximum values of the share of the Belarusian ethnic group in the structure of the population was also recorded in the central part of the Crimea, then after 1926 the number of the Belarusian ethnic group in this part of the Crimea decreased. In addition, if in the first two decades of the 20th century there was a sharp increase in the share of the Belarusian ethnic group in the western part of the peninsula, then in the period from 1926 to 1939 the number of Belarusians in the western part of Crimea again significantly decreased.

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