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THE PLACE AND ROLE OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE PEOPLES OF KAZAKHSTAN IN PRESERVING NATIONAL IDENTITY

The relevance of the topic under consideration is determined by the need to consolidate civil society, harmonize interethnic relations and support cultural diversity in the context of global transformations and internal social changes. The APK is seen as an important socio-political mechanism that contributes to the integration of ethnic communities and the formation of a common Kazakh identity on a civilian basis. The main purpose of the study is to determine the role in the APK in preserving national identity, as well as to analyze its contribution to the development of a single cultural and historical space, considering international practices, including Turkish experience.

The methodological basis of the study is the principles of a systemic and institutional approach. The methods used include comparative analysis, questionnaires, quantitative and qualitative analysis of empirical data, as well as interpretation of legal and strategic documents regulating the activities of the Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan and similar foreign institutions. The work includes a comparative analysis with Turkey, where mechanisms for preserving national identity through similar social institutions are studied. The legal, cultural and institutional aspects of the work of the APK and Turkish organisations aimed at consolidating society are considered.

Particular attention is paid to public perception of the APK's activities, analysed on the basis of a fundamental sociological survey – a study to identify citizens' assessment of the effectiveness of the APK's work, its contribution to the harmonisation of interethnic relations and the preservation of ethnocultural diversity. The article outlines the main areas of activity of the APK and its prospects for development in the further preservation of national unity. The results of the survey make it possible to assess the level of public trust in the APK and to identify possible areas of work for the Assembly of the Peoples of Kazakhstan. Based on the analysis, it can be concluded that the majority of respondents perceive the APK as an effective tool for strengthening interethnic harmony and the formation of national identity. The practical significance of the work lies in the fact that its results can be applied in the development of state policy in the national sphere and the improvement of institutions of public dialogue in a multiethnic community.

The novelty and relevance of the study lies in a comparative analysis of the practices of similar institutions in Turkey, as well as in relying on empirical sociological data reflecting the population's perception of the activities of the Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan. The results provide an opportunity to assess the degree of public support for the ANC and reveal the scale of its influence in modern cultural and social transformations.

Keywords: Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan, social culture institute, Turkey, national identity, cultural identity, interethnic agreement, cultural diversity, civil unity.

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Ұлттық бірегейлікті сақтаудағы Қазақстан халқы ассамблеясының орны мен рөлі

Бұл зерттеуде Қазақстан халқы Ассамблеясының (ҚХА) ұлттық бірегейлікті сақтау және этносаралық келісімді қамтамасыз ету үдерісіндегі орны мен рөлі қарастырылады. Тақырыптың өзектілігі – жаһандану мен әлеуметтік трансформациялар жағдайында ұлттық, азаматтық бірлікті нығайту, этносаралық қатынастарды үйлестіру және этномәдени әртүрлілікті сақтау қажеттілігімен айқындалады. Қазақстан халқы Ассамблеясы – этностардың интеграциясына және біртұтас қазақстандық азаматтық сананы қалыптастыруға ықпал ететін бірегей қоғамдық-

ретінде танылады. Зерттеудің мақсаты ұлттық бірегейлікті сақтаудағы Қазақстан халқы Ассамблеясының рөлін анықтау және талдау, сондай-ақ оның халықаралық тәжірибені, атап айтқанда Түркия Республикасын ескере отырып, полиэтникалық кеңістікті қалыптастыруға әсерін бағалау болып табылады. Зерттеудің әдіснамалық негізі жүйелік және институционалдық тәсілдердің принциптері болып табылады. Әдістер ретінде эмпирикалық деректерді салыстырмалы талдау, сауалнама жүргізу, сандық және сапалық талдау, сондай-ақ ҚХА мен осыған ұқсас шетелдік институттардың қызметін реттейтін құқықтық және стратегиялық құжаттарды аналитикалық түсіндіру пайдаланылды. Жұмыс шеңберінде Түркиямен салыстырмалы талдау жүргізіліп, сол елдің әлеуметтік институттары арқылы ұлттық бірегейлікті сақтау тетіктері зерделенеді. ҚХА мен Түрік елінің әлеуметтік ұйымдары жұмысының қоғамды шоғырландыруға бағытталған құқықтық, мәдени және институционалдық аспектілері қаралады.

Мақалада Қазақстан халқы Ассамблеясы қызметінің қоғамдық қабылдануына ерекше назар аударылады. Бұл аспект іргелі әлеуметтік зерттеу арқылы азаматтардың ҚХА жұмысының тиімділігіне, этносаралық қатынастарды үйлестіруге және этномәдени әртүрлілікті сақтауға қосқан үлесін бағалауға негізделген сауалнама арқылы талданады. Сондай-ақ, ҚХА-ның негізгі қызмет бағыттары мен ұлттық бірегейлікті сақтаудағы даму болашағы сипатталады. Зерттеу нәтижелері ҚХА-ға деген қоғамдық сенім деңгейін бағалауға және оның болашақтағы ықтимал жұмыс бағыттарын айқындауға мүмкіндік береді. Алынған нәтижелердің негізінде Қазақстан халқы Ассамблеясы көпшіліктің көзқарасы бойынша этносаралық келісімді нығайтудың және жалпыұлттық бірегейлікті қалыптастырудың тиімді құралы ретінде танылатындығы туралы қорытынды жасауға болады.

Зерттеудің практикалық маңыздылығы – алынған тұжырымдарды мемлекеттік ұлттық саясатты қалыптастыруда және көпэтносты қоғамдағы диалогтың институционалдық үлгілерін дамыту жолында қолдану болып табылады.

Зерттеудің ғылыми жаңашылдығы – Түркия Республикасындағы ұқсас институттармен салыстырмалы талдау жүргізуінде және ҚХА қызметінің тиімділігіне қатысты қоғамдық пікірді көрсететін әлеуметтік сауалнама деректерін пайдалануында көрініс табады. Бұл зерттеу ҚХА-ның қазіргі әлеуметтік-мәдени жағдайда атқаратын миссиясының маңызын айқындауға мүмкіндік береді.

Түйін сөздер: Қазақстан халқы Ассамблеясы, әлеуметтік мәдени институт, Түркия, ұлттық бірегейлік, мәдени бірегейлік, этносаралық келісім, мәдени әртүрлілік, азаматтық бірлік.

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Место и роль Ассамблеи народа Казахстана в сохранении национальной идентичности

В данной статье исследуется роль Ассамблеи народа Казахстана (АНК) в процессе сохранения национальной идентичности и межэтнического согласия. Актуальность темы обусловлена необходимостью укрепления национального и гражданского единства, гармонизации межэтнических отношений и сохранения этнокультурного многообразия в условиях глобализации и социальных трансформаций.

Ассамблеи народа Казахстана, созданная в 1995 году, выступает как уникальный общественный институт, способствующий интеграции этносов и формированию единого казахстанского гражданского самосознания. Цель исследования заключается в выявлении и анализе роли Ассамблеи народа Казахстана в сохранении национальной идентичности, а также в оценке её влияния на полиэтническое пространство страны с учётом международного опыта, в частности Турции.

Методологическую основу исследования составляют принципы системного и институционального подходов. В качестве методов использованы сравнительный анализ, анкетирование, количественный и качественный анализ эмпирических данных, а также аналитическая интерпретация правовых и стратегических документов, регламентирующих деятельность АНК и аналогичных зарубежных институтов. В рамках работы проводится сравнительный анализ с Турцией, где изучаются механизмы сохранения национальной идентичности через схожие социальные институты, рассматриваются правовые, культурные и институциональные аспекты работы АНК и турецких организаций, направленные на консолидацию общества.

Особое внимание уделяется общественному восприятию деятельности Ассамблеи народа Казахстана, анализируемому на основе фундаментального социологического опроса – исследования на выявление оценки гражданами нашей страны эффективности её работы, вклада в гармонизацию межэтнических отношений и сохранение этнокультурного многообразия.

В статье излагаются основные направления деятельности АНК, перспективы развития в сохранении национального единства. Результаты опроса позволяют оценить уровень общественного доверия к АНК и определить возможные направления ее работы. Полученные результаты позволяют заключить, что АНК воспринимается большинством респондентов как эффективный механизм укрепления межэтнического согласия и формирования общенациональной идентичности. Практическая значимость исследования заключается в возможности использования его выводов при формировании государственной этнополитики и развитии институциональных форм общественного диалога в обществе.

Научная новизна статьи состоит в проведении сопоставительного анализа с аналогичными институтами в Турецкой Республике и в использовании данных социологического опроса, отражающих общественную оценку эффективности деятельности АНК. Исследование позволяет зафиксировать уровень доверия к АНК и определить значимость её миссии в современных социокультурных условиях.

Ключевые слова: Ассамблея народа Казахстана, Турецкая Республика (Турция), национальная идентичность, культурная идентичность, межэтническое согласие, культурное многообразие, гражданское единство, социально-культурный институт.

Introduction

In the context of globalisation and growing cultural unification processes around the world, preserving national identity is becoming a key factor in ensuring social stability and strengthening state sovereignty. As a multi-ethnic country, the Republic of Kazakhstan has created a unique model of inter-ethnic harmony, in which the Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan plays a key role.

The Head of State, Chairman of the Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, noted at the 34th session of the APK in April 2025: “Unity and peace are among our fundamental values. This is a fundamental principle of state policy, which we will continue to follow in the future. It is thanks to this strategy that representatives of different nationalities live in friendship and harmony, like children of one family, in a common home. This achievement has a profound meaning. It is precisely such important values as patriotism, citizenship, mutual trust and a sense of responsibility that define the unique national identity of our people.” (Speech by Head of State Kassym-Jomart Tokayev at the 34th session of the Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan, 2025)

Studying the place and role of the APK in preserving and developing national identity allows us to gain a deeper understanding of the mechanisms of forming a unified nation and sustainable inter-cultural dialogue. In this context, the experience of Turkey as a country with rich traditions of ethnocultural diversity can serve as a source for comparative analysis.

Polyethnic states develop sustainable mechanisms for interaction and harmonisation of inter-ethnic relations. The intensification of migration processes, cultural globalisation and the growth of

ethnic self-awareness exacerbate the need for scientific analysis of these phenomena in the modern world.

The problem of preserving national identity is a topical and multifaceted issue that attracts the attention of researchers in various fields of science, including philosophy, sociology, political science, and cultural studies. In the context of globalisation and transnational processes, many countries face challenges related to the preservation of cultural identity, ethnic traditions and values. In this context, the role of public organisations such as the Assembly of the Peoples of Kazakhstan in preserving and strengthening national identity becomes particularly important, and research into this topic is becoming increasingly relevant.

Scientific research on the role of the APK in preserving national identity focuses mainly on the political and socio-cultural contexts of Kazakhstan. Works from recent decades emphasise the importance of the APK as an institution that promotes the integration of different ethnic groups and maintains stability in the country through dialogue and interaction between cultures. The APK's activities in the scientific sphere are represented by the works of Kazakhstani sociologists, political scientists and cultural studies scholars.

In terms of political science, this topic is reflected in the works of Abdullaev N.A., Zhusupbekova M.K., Zainieva L.Yu., Musabaeva G.N., Nurtazenov T.K., Toilybekova E.O., Tugzhanov E.L., Tuymebaev Zh.K., Turetsky N.N., and others. The works of these authors contain descriptions of practices and theoretical analyses of issues in the inter-ethnic sphere, including documents such as the Law on the Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan.

Nurtazenov T.K., Karaseva E.M., Kalashnikov A.P. in their work ‘A Unique Body of People’s Di-

plomacy (on the Activities of the Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan for the Revival, Preservation and Development of National Culture)' analysed the purpose, objectives of the ANK, the procedure for convening sessions and the principles of the body's work. This publication was released in 2015 and is descriptive in nature (Nurtazenov, 2015, 182-185). Turetsky N.N. focuses on the role of the Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan in strengthening the authority of the state in the international arena. (Turetsky, 2009, 118-121).

In the study of L.A. Prokopenko "Kazakhstan's experience of strengthening tolerance in the international context," the Kazakhstan model of interethnic relations is considered through the concept of the "Kazakh way," which is associated with internal political stability and social cohesion (Prokopenko, 2013, 45-50).

This circle of authors includes A.S. Dosbenbetova, N.R. Musaeva E.L. Tugzhanova, M.S. Shai-kemelev, who analyze the work of ethnocultural associations, as well as the approaches and mechanisms of functioning of the Assembly as a whole. Especially noteworthy is the work of N.R. Musaeva "Features of interethnic relations and multiculturalism in Kazakhstan," which presents specific examples of successful methods of fostering tolerance in a multi-ethnic society (Musaeva, 2012, 92-97).

However, despite a significant number of studies in this area, there are several unexplored issues. Among them, it is worth noting the need for further research that more deeply analyses the mechanisms of the APK's functioning, as well as its influence on the long-term processes of forming and preserving national and cultural identity in a polyethnic society.

The object of study – activities of the Assembly of People of Kazakhstan in the context of its influence on social processes, as well as a comparative study of the Turkish approach to the formation of an interethnic environment.

The subject of the study reveals the activities of the Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan, which contributes to strengthening the identity of the nation and the formation of a common civic identity in the context of ethnocultural diversity. Particular attention is paid to initiatives aimed at harmonizing interethnic relations and preserving the cultural heritage of all peoples living in the country.

The aim of the study consists in determining and studying the significance of the Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan in the process of preserving national identity, as well as in assessing its contribution to the formation of a single Kazakh nation.

To achieve this goal, the following tasks must be accomplished:

- compare the methodological approaches of the Republic of Kazakhstan and Turkey to issues of national identity and state policy in the interethnic sphere;
- study international experience in strengthening national unity and preserving national identity using Turkey as an example;
- identify the main factors contributing to the strengthening of national identity through the mechanisms of the ANC's activities;
- assess public perception of the ANC's activities in the context of interethnic harmony;
- analyze the role of civil society institutions in the formation of a single national identity in a multi-ethnic environment;
- identify promising directions for the development of state policy in the field of strengthening national identity, considering the comparative analysis of the experience of Kazakhstan and Turkey.

The novelty of this scientific article lies in a comprehensive analysis of the perception of the ANC's activities with an emphasis on its influence on the processes of national identity formation, as well as in the development of practical recommendations for strengthening the role of the ANC in strengthening interethnic unity, considering international experience, that of Turkey.

As a hypothesis, it is suggested that the Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan plays a significant role as a social institution that ensures the preservation of national identity and contributes to the unification of ethnocultural diversity, as well as the formation of a holistic national identity. At the same time, the analysis of Turkish experience can contribute to the improvement of existing mechanisms of interethnic interaction and the development of a culture of interpersonal diplomacy between states.

Methodology and research methods

The methodological basis of this study is an interdisciplinary comprehensive approach that includes cultural, sociological, political and historical analysis.

From a theoretical point of view, this study is based on the following key concepts:

- **the concept of ethnocultural identity**, which reveals ways to preserve the linguistic and cultural characteristics of ethnic groups in the context of global transformations and modernization processes;

- **the theory of a civil nation**, according to which the basis of national identity is formed not at the expense of ethnicity, but through unification based on common civic principles, values and norms;

- **inculturalism** is an approach involving institutional recognition and support for cultural diversity within a single state, which allows for the preservation of ethnic identity within a common political space.

Thus, the study is based on a comprehensive approach that includes **methods of cultural and historical analysis with a focus on comparative research** of the work of the Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan and public organizations in Turkey, as well as a sociological survey entitled ‘Public perception/assessment of the activities of the Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan in the context of inter-ethnic harmony’.

Results and discussions

The formation of national and cultural identity in conditions of mono-ethnicity is one of the most important goals of the state policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Since independence, the country has been building a model of statehood based on the principles of equality of citizens, respect for cultural differences and interethnic harmony. Kazakhstan has earned the recognition of the world community as a state that consistently implements a policy of strengthening interfaith and intercultural dialogue, creating an atmosphere of tolerance for all ethnic groups united in a single nation.

The state policy is focused on strengthening Kazakhstani patriotism and building a single nation, while the emphasis is on recognizing and supporting cultural diversity. In the article “The formation of national identity in Kazakhstan: challenges for the state and society” G. Ibraev and R. Zhanbulatova emphasize that “national identity in Kazakhstan is developing in the context of globalization and the desire of society for national self-identification (Ibraeva, 2024, 26–33). In Kazakhstan, cultural identity is strengthened through various institutional tools, such as the education system, media activities and the implementation of state cultural policies. An analysis based on the Kazakh literary tradition showed that the inclusion of the conduct of famous writers and literary figures in the curriculum contributes to the formation of a stable sense of cultural belonging among students and the development of civic responsibility (Kabylov, 2024, 119–141).

Kazakhstan became a pioneer among the CIS countries, initiating the creation of a special public-

state institution – the Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan, which has no analogues in the post-Soviet space. This structure laid the foundation for the formation of a stable Kazakh model of a multi-ethnic society. Since its inception, the main task of the Assembly has been to ensure harmony in interethnic and interfaith relations, to strengthen dialogue between different cultural communities. It performs key functions aimed at maintaining civil harmony, developing tolerance mechanisms, and integrating ethnic groups into a single national space.

The Assembly of People of Kazakhstan is actively involved in the development and implementation of a national policy aimed at strengthening interethnic stability and harmony. According to the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan “On the Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan” dated October 20, 2008 No. 70-IV (2008, 2018), this institute is endowed with a key function – to ensure a stable ethno-political balance in the country.

The main emphasis in the activities of the APK is on the formation of a national identity and the development of a model of civic identity, which reflects patriotism, solidarity, equality and respect for cultural diversity. The central link in this system is the Kazakh people, who play an integrating role and serve as support for the consolidation of all ethnic groups within a single sociocultural space.

By building a competitive and cohesive nation, the Assembly promotes a sustainable civil society in which ethnic diversity is perceived not as a barrier but as a resource for development.

This approach was a response to historical challenges and the need to develop a new format of national unity, combining the polyphony of cultures with a common civic identity.

The formation of the Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan was a logical step in line with the internal course and international strategy, which the state began to implement after independence. From the very beginning of its sovereign path, Kazakhstan has determined for itself a priority – the construction of a secular, stable society based on the ideals of peace, mutual respect and cultural diversity. The establishment of the Assembly became the formalization of an institutional mechanism designed to regulate and coordinate inter-ethnic relations in the country. It was an innovative phenomenon in the post-Soviet space – a format of interaction between the state and civil society, focused on conflict prevention and the transformation of potential ethnic tensions into resources for dialogue, cooperation and creation (Tugzhanov, 2009, 48–49).

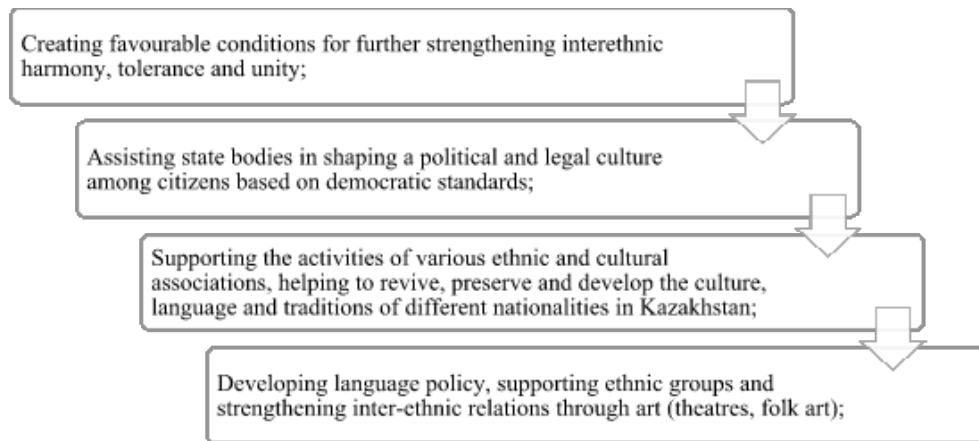


Table 1 – The main tasks of the Assembly

The principles of the Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan are: The Assembly's activities are based on fundamental principles, including unconditional respect for the personal rights and freedoms of every citizen, the priority of the interests of the Kazakh people as a single society and the state as a whole. Particular attention is paid to the principle of equality: all representatives of society, regardless of ethnic origin, religion or language, are considered equal participants in public life. The entire structure and functioning of the organization is built on the principles of transparency and accessibility, which ensures a high level of public trust and strengthens the position of the Assembly as a significant tool for strengthening interethnic stability and civic solidarity.

The main areas of activity of the Assembly are: the assembly is actively involved in the formation and implementation of the state's strategy for the harmonization of ethnic relations. Its key areas include the development of civic identity and the strengthening of a sense of nationality among the population. Particular attention is paid to the promotion of the Kazakh language with the parallel support of linguistic and cultural diversity. A significant place is occupied by participation in the planning and implementation of migration and demographic policies, as well as the adaptation of regional approaches to regulating interethnic processes. The APK systematically promotes Kazakhstan's model of ethno-confessional harmony within the country and beyond, spreading the experience of peaceful coexistence. Its activities include educational initiatives, publishing projects, analytical work to track the state of interethnic

ties, as well as an expert assessment of legislative initiatives affecting national policy issues.

The topic of the self-consciousness of the nation in the Republic of Turkey occupies an important place in the scientific discussion, especially in the light of the transformations launched by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk at the beginning of the last century. These changes, which encompassed the political, cultural and social spheres, became the starting point for the formation of a new idea of the state and society.

It was during this historical period that the restructuring of ideas about identity began: religious guidelines were relegated to the background, and the priority was the creation of a secular, unitary nation united by a common language, history and ideology. The state policy of that time sought to develop a sense of belonging to a single political and cultural community among the population, which contributed to the weakening of ethno-confessional differences in the public sphere.

Turkey's modern identity developed during the establishment of a new state model based on secular tasks, democratic structure and social orientation. The central role in this process was played by the ideas of equality, solidarity and respect for fundamental individual rights, laid down in the ideological foundation of the country by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, who became the architect of national rethinking (Constitution of the Republic of Turkey, 1982, Article 2).

The principles formulated under Atatürk's leadership, the revolutionary ideologies he implemented in the country, as well as policies in the areas of language, history, education and

culture, and state iconography played an important role in the formation of Turkey as a nation state. 'Independence, national sovereignty, republicanism, nationalism, secularism, populism, statism, revolutionism, pacifism, rationality, scientificity and realism' – these are the principles of Atatürk that form the basis of the Turkish Republic. To put these principles into practice, under Atatürk's leadership, the Grand National Assembly of Turkey adopted economic, political (abolition of the monarchy, proclamation of the republic and abolition of the caliphate), social (women's rights, revolutions in headwear and clothing, closure of madrasas, abolition of certain nicknames and titles, adoption of international time, calendar and numbers), legal (adoption of the Turkish Civil Code, adoption of the Commercial Code, etc.), educational, cultural and artistic (ensuring the unity of education, adoption of a new alphabet, language revolution, etc.) These revolutions, carried out between 1922 and 1937, ensured the development of the Turkish Republic as a strong nation state (Kocatürk, 2016, 101–132). Thanks to Atatürk's principles and revolutions, which form the basis of the Turkish Republic, power was unconditionally transferred to the people. Thus, Atatürk is the leader of the Turkish revolution and the founder of democratic Turkey (İnalçık, 2017, 183–197).

One of the key elements of the state system of the Republic of Turkey is the guarantee to every citizen of freedom of religion, worldview and personal beliefs. These freedoms are recognized as inalienable rights, the realization of which is permissible subject to compliance with the requirements of legislation, public order and moral norms. Turkey's 1982 constitution explicitly states in Article 24: "Everyone has the right to freedom of conscience, religious belief and belief." This principle reflects the state's desire to respect human rights in a secular legal system (Constitution of the Republic of Turkey, 1982, Article 2).

The reform of education and training ensured the unity of education, and all citizens were given the right to participate fairly in educational activities. As part of the alphabet reform, the Turkish alphabet was developed, allowing the Turkish language to be written as it is pronounced, and a corresponding education and training system was created, which quickly led to a rapid increase in literacy among the population. To this end, on 12 July 1932, he established the Turkish Language Research Society (since 1936 – the Turkish Language Institute). Thus, written and printed interaction and coordination

between communities and individuals began to develop rapidly.

Gazi Mustafa Kemal Atatürk noted that culture is the foundation on which the Republic of Turkey is built. The importance of this principle is confirmed by the provisions of the Turkish constitutions of 1924, 1937, 1961 and 1982, which stipulate that all residents of the country who have citizenship and have a legal connection with the Turkish state, regardless of their race or religion, are officially recognized by the Turks. This approach reflects the desire to form a single nation based on a common civil identity (Kili and Gözübüyük, 2000, 68–93).

Thus, a definition of the Turkish nation was adopted based on citizenship, without regard to religious or racial differences. This allowed different social strata of society to live in harmony and justice.

The introductory part of the Constitution of the Republic of Turkey, adopted in 1982, states that every citizen of the country from the moment of birth is endowed with the right to a full, decent life, rooted in national cultural values and the principles of the rule of law. The document proclaims the priority of individual freedoms, justice and the right to comprehensive development in both the material and spiritual spheres. Article 10 of the country's basic law proclaims equality of all citizens before the law (Constitution of the Republic of Turkey, 1982, Article No. 2).

Based on the above-mentioned basic structure, it was noted that citizens of the Republic of Turkey express themselves through various sub-identities. In this context, we are talking about sub-identities such as 'modern, liberal-globalist, diasporic, gender, community, regional, religious, political, etc.' All these data indicate that the social strata living in the Republic of Turkey are developing processes of self-expression in the process of interaction.

Within the framework of this analysis, several key forms of national and cultural identity existing in contemporary Turkish society can be identified.

In the Turkish system, aimed at uniting all groups of the population through the principle of belonging to a single civil space, key importance is attached to the work of state structures that contribute to the formation of a common national consciousness and strengthening social solidarity. Organizations such as the Institute of Turkish Linguistics, the Center for Historical Studies of Turkey, the Atatürk Cultural Council, the Department for Religion, the Department for Interaction with the Diaspora and Ethnic Communities, as well as the Yunus Emre Cultural Foundation and several other institutions

are recognized as particularly productive in this direction. These organizations perform a few important tasks, including holding events focused

on the preservation of their native language, historical heritage, cultural traditions and religious values.

Table 2 – Key forms of Turkey’s national and cultural identity

Forms	Description of forms
Kemalist (civic) identity	Based on Atatürk’s principles – secularism, unitarity, Turkish nationalism, Western-oriented.
Religious identity	Identity based on belonging to Islam, often linked to political Islam
Ethnic identity	Preservation of specific cultural practices and elements of ethnic identity
Regional identity	A form of collective self-awareness based on geographic origin, local traditions, dialects, ways of life, and cultural norms specific to particular regions
Diasporic identity	Combination of traditional Turkish cultural values with elements of the host society’s culture
Liberal-globalization identity	This form of identity is characteristic of urbanized youth, intellectuals and the new middle class, and is based on universalist values: human rights, gender equality, freedom of expression, pluralism.
Left-socialist identity	This model is based on the ideas of social justice, anti-imperialism and internationalism.

Table 3 – Social institutions of Turkey

Institution	Main functions	Role in the formation and preservation of identity
Türk Dil Kurumu (TDK) (Turkish Language Association)	Standardization and regulation of the Turkish language	Standardization and regulation of the Turkish language
Türk Tarih Kurumu (Turkish Historical Society)	Research, interpretation, and promotion of the history of Turkey and Turkic peoples	Research, interpretation, and promotion of the history of Turkey and Turkic peoples
Atatürk Kültür Merkezi Başkanlığı (Presidency of Atatürk Culture Center)	Research, preservation, and dissemination of cultural heritage, particularly in accordance with Kemalist principles	Research, preservation, and dissemination of cultural heritage, particularly in accordance with Kemalist principles
Diyanet İşleri Başkanlığı (Directorate of Religious Affairs)	Management of religious activities, training of imams, religious education	Formation of a unified religious discourse, strengthening of Islamic identity as a factor of social integration
Yurtdışı Türkler ve Akraba Topluluklar Başkanlığı (Directorate for Turks Abroad and Kindred Communities)	Supporting the Turkish Diaspora, cultural projects abroad	Preservation of transnational (diaspora) identity, strengthening ties with the historical homeland
Yunus Emre Enstitüsü (Yunus Emre Institute)	Promotion of the Turkish language and culture abroad; organization of cultural events; Turkish language instruction	Promotion of the Turkish language and culture abroad; organization of cultural events; Turkish language instruction

The role of the above-mentioned institutions of the Turkish Republic shows how state structures can shape a symbolic system and strengthen national identity through cultural policy and narratives.

Comparative analysis demonstrates that in Turkey, national identity was formed under the conditions of post-imperial state building and Kemalist modernization, acquiring the features of secular civil nationalism. This understanding is based on the concept of a single national spirit based on the commonality of language, historical memory

and cultural symbols, while limited integration of ethno-confessional differences within the framework of a common state model is allowed.

Modern Kazakhstan is characterised by civic identity in a multi-ethnic environment, and international experience, including the Turkish experience, is presented as a source of reflection and an object of critical analysis.

Turkey demonstrates a successful practice of consolidating the nation through the institutions of language, education, religion and historical

memory, which may be useful in the context of the Kazakh model of integration. For example, the role of Turkish organisations and social institutions such as Türk Dil Kurumu (Turkish Linguistic Society), Türk Tarih Kurumu (Turkish Historical Institute), Atatürk Kültür Merkezi Başkanlığı (Atatürk Cultural Centre Presidency) Diyanet İşleri Başkanlığı (Religious Affairs Directorate), Yurtdışı Türkler ve Akraba Topluluklar Başkanlığı (Directorate for Turks Abroad and Related Communities), Yunus Emre Enstitüsü (Yunus Emre Institute) shows how state structures can shape and strengthen a sense of belonging to the nation through cultural and language policies.

On the other hand, the limited ethnic pluralism in Turkey and the insufficient institutionalisation of the rights of ethnic minorities may be perceived as a negative aspect in the Kazakh context, given the state policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan aimed at preserving ethnocultural diversity through structures such as the Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan. Unlike Turkey, the Republic of Kazakhstan demonstrates a model of interculturalism, where ethnic groups participate in public and political life as citizens of our country.

Based on a comparative analysis, it can be concluded that the understanding of national identity in modern Kazakhstan and Turkey has three directions:

- firstly, as one of the examples of successful mobilisation of cultural resources for nation building;
- secondly, as a subject of methodological comparison, allowing for the development of a more balanced approach to the interaction between national and ethnic identities;

- thirdly, the experience of state institutions and organisations that play an important role in the formation and development of modern national identity can be used.

Conclusion

In the period from March 15 to May 20, 2025, as part of a study on the analysis of the activities of the Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan, a sociological survey was organized among residents of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The purpose of the sociological survey was to determine the degree of involvement of the population in the work of the Assembly, the level of awareness of its activities, and to identify the opinion of citizens on the role of the Assembly in preserving national identity and strengthening interethnic harmony. The survey involved 728 respondents representing various ethnic groups.

The survey was conducted online and covered approximately 728 respondents representing different age groups, genders, ethnicities, and levels of involvement in the activities of the ANC. The questionnaire included both closed and open questions regarding the assessment of the ANC's current activities, awareness of its initiatives, and suggestions for improving its work.

The results of the sociological survey are as follows:

Respondents represented a wide range of ethnic groups – Kazakhs (56%), Russians (11%), Uzbeks (9.6%), Uyghurs (7.5%), Turks (4.8%), Koreans (3.4%) and others – Ukrainians, Tajiks, Kurds (7.28%). The majority of participants were aged between 18 and 45, with an approximately equal distribution between men and women.

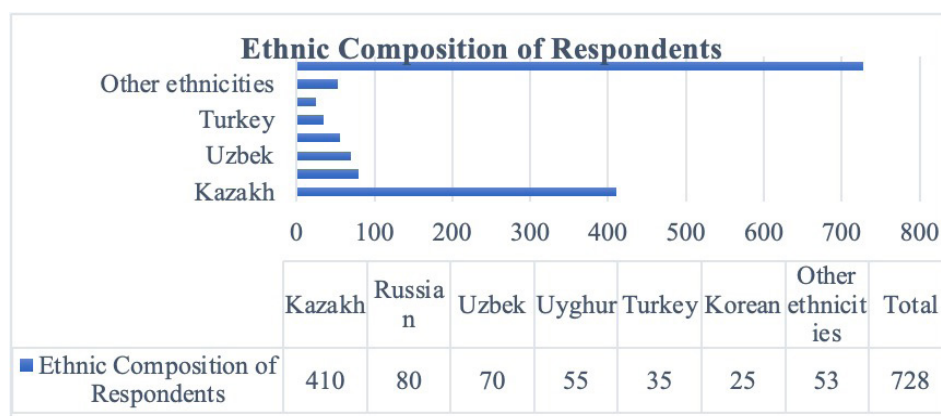
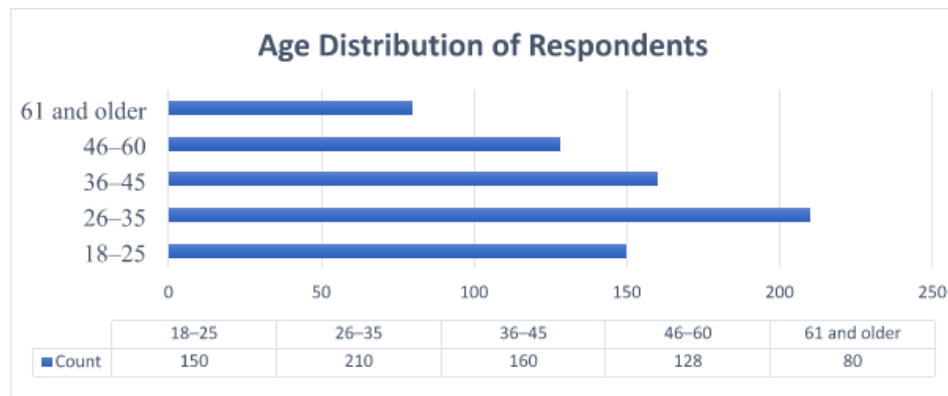
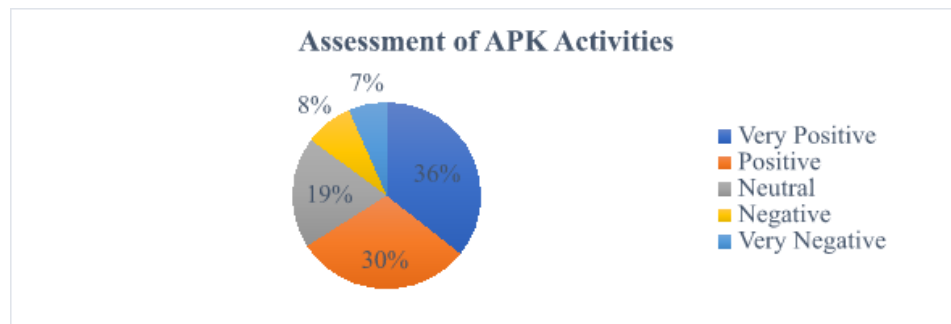


Table 4 – Ethnic Composition of Respondents

**Table 5** – Age distribution of respondents

According to the survey results, the largest share of respondents were people aged 26 to 35, accounting for 28.8% of the total number of participants. In second place was the 36 to 45 age group, accounting

for 22.0%. Young people aged 18 to 25 accounted for 20.6%. Respondents aged 46 to 60 accounted for 17.6%, while those over 61 accounted for the smallest share of respondents, at 11.0%.

**Table 6** – Assessment of APK Activities

The results of a survey on the assessment of the work of the Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan (APK) indicate a predominantly positive attitude of the study participants. Thus, 36% of respondents described its activities as very good, another 30% expressed simply a positive opinion. Together, this accounts for 66% of positive responses. A neutral position was taken by 19% of respondents. At the same time, 8% of the study participants rated the work of the Assembly negatively, and 7% indicated an extremely negative perception of its activities.

These data indicate a high level of public support for the APK's initiatives and its perception as an

important institution in strengthening interethnic harmony and national unity.

According to the results of a survey conducted among 728 respondents, 280 respondents (38.5%) noted the strong positive influence of the APK on the formation of national identity, 230 respondents (31.6%) indicated a moderate positive influence, 110 respondents (15.1%) believe that the Assembly has little or no influence, and 108 respondents (14.8%) found it difficult to answer. Overall, 70.1% of respondents positively assess the Assembly's contribution to the formation of national identity.

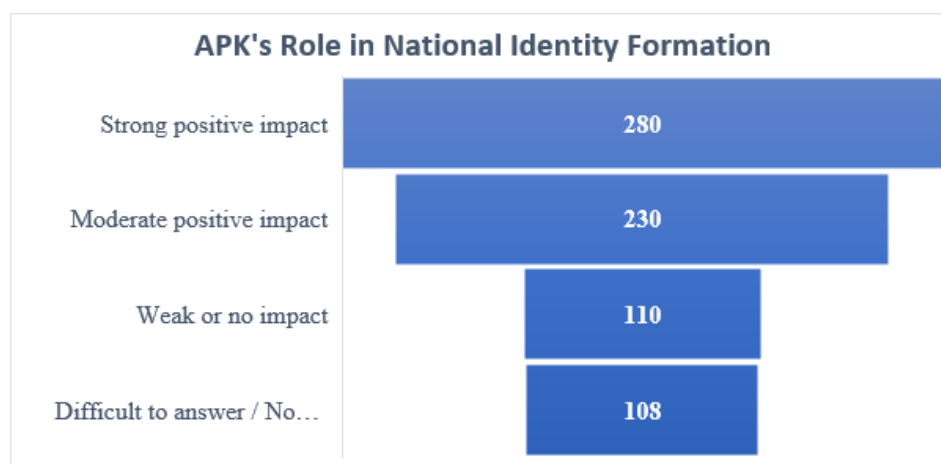


Table 7 – APK's Role in National Identity Formation

Most of the respondents perceive the Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan as a significant mechanism for strengthening national identity. The high level of positive responses indicates that the activities of the APK are perceived by society as effective and in demand.

The final part of the sociological study sets out recommendations aimed at increasing the efficiency of the APK. Among the most common suggestions of respondents are the following:

- strengthening outreach activities;
- expansion and revitalization of youth programmes;

- strengthening work with ethno-cultural associations;

- developing international initiatives.

Respondents note that the activities of the ANC contribute to strengthening trust between ethnic groups, supporting social harmony, and forming civic values that unite representatives of all ethnic groups in Kazakhstan.

Despite existing challenges and the need to intensify certain areas of work, the Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan continues to play a key role in strengthening interethnic interaction, preserving cultural diversity and forming a unified Kazakhstani identity.

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