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SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF MARKET TRANSFORMATION IN KAZAKHSTAN (1991–2000)

Annotation. The study of market transformation and liberalization processes remains a relevant area of interdisciplinary researches. This study is the first to reveal the main problems of economic liberalization in Kazakhstan in the 1990s, in line with its significance. The article examines the social and economic aspects of the transition to a market economy in the country.

The study made extensive use of statistical data from the state authorities of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Analysis of these materials led to the following conclusions. From 1991 to 2000, Kazakhstan's economy was much closer to a mixed type than to a market economy. The development of market relations and the liberalization of the economy in the country were carried out mainly by administrative and command methods, which determined the characteristics of its further social and economic development. Market transformation influenced virtually all spheres of the country's life. Integration into global and regional economic processes, as well as the nature of internal economic processes, had a major impact on the formation of the country's raw materials-oriented economy. The real sector of the economy, the service sector, finance, the tax system, as well as education and healthcare underwent marketization and liberalization. As a result, a modern consumer society was formed in Kazakhstan, dominated by market relations and values.

Since the state was the main implementer of major social and economic reforms from the outset, it was the state authorities that were primarily interested in strengthening their leading position in the economy. This phenomenon had a particular impact on the course and development of socio-political, economic and cultural transformations in Kazakhstan.

Keywords: social and economic processes; demographic processes; market transformation; raw material orientation of the economy; Kazakhstan.

Introduction

As is well known, major political events and reforms in a historical context are often the result of a complex economic situation in the country. At the end of the 1980s, centrifugal political tendencies intensified in the USSR. The centre was unable to find a solution for the continued existence of a large country in the face of growing political ambitions of its multinational population, economic problems and geopolitical confrontation. Kazakhstan gained independence during a severe political and economic crisis. It gradually became clear that optimal change in socio-economic conditions for the better was impossible without reforming the economic basis.

The turning points were exacerbated after the collapse of the USSR. Our country, like other republics of the former USSR and the socialist camp, was faced with the increasingly urgent need for a gradual and consistent transition to a market economy. It seemed that there were practically no alternative options to market transformation.

It is well known that the transition to a capitalist economy is fraught with great difficulties and involves certain risks in achieving the goal [1]. The breakdown of economic relations that had developed in the socialist economy of the USSR was the main cause of the crisis and served as a starting point for reforming various sectors of the national economy. In the economies of the union republics, there was a decline in production in virtually all industries. In the post-Soviet space, there were steady trends of declining living standards, increased migration and population decline.



The most important economic problem at the household level was simply the shortage and lack of consumer goods – food, clothing, footwear, household appliances, household goods, etc. In Kazakhstan in the 1990s, there was a shortage of basic necessities – foodstuffs (bread, beef, drinking milk, granulated sugar, etc.), hygiene products, medicines, household goods (washing powder, cleaning equipment, packaging materials, repair goods, etc.). Inflation rose steadily, accompanied by a shortage of money supply in the country's economy. Services (hairdressing, tailoring, shoe repair, transport, communications, banking, etc.) were either just beginning to develop or were lagging behind, which could not fully satisfy the needs of the population.

The aim of this study is to determine the social and economic aspects of the transition to a capitalist economy in Kazakhstan between 1991 and 2000. The object of the study is the process of market transformation in the country, and the subject is the socio-economic orientation of this phenomenon. This article is part of a larger scientific work – a monograph, the purpose of which is to determine the extent to which market economic relations have been established in the country and how these relations influence the course of social processes in the country.

It should be noted that similar scientific works can be found among both domestic and foreign researchers. Nevertheless, given the above theses, we would like to point out that this study is the first to reveal, in accordance with its significance, the main problems of the marketisation of the economy in Kazakhstan in the 1990s.

Materials and methods

The most important materials for this scientific work were statistical data from the state authorities of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The collected materials cover the period from 1991 to 2000. Among them are population censuses, information and analytical brochures, reference books, statistical yearbooks, etc.

The research methodology consisted of both general scientific methods (description, analysis, synthesis) and special scientific methods (time series analysis, descriptive statistics methods). The theory of transition to a market economy was developed in the works of Russian economists E.F. Borisov, V.I. Vidyapin, A.A. Sobchak, L. Kozik, O.S. Belokrylova [2], American and German researchers S. Fisher, A. Gelb [3], A. Shipke, A.M. Taylor [4], Kazakhstani economists O.S. Sabden [5], B.N. Darimbetov [6], S.S. Satubaldin [7], [8], E.K. Sagadiyev [9]. In this article, the authors rely on the theoretical framework developed by the above-mentioned researchers.

Research results

This study has yielded the following results. It has shown that, overall, Kazakhstan's economy from 1991 to 2000 was much closer to a mixed type than to a market economy. The development of market relations and the liberalisation of the economy in the country were carried out mainly through administrative and command methods, which is their main feature.

The transition to market forms of economy had a key impact on virtually all spheres of the country's life and the course of their transformation. Integration into global and regional economic processes influenced the formation of the country's raw materials-oriented economy. The real sector of the economy, the service sector, finance, the tax system, as well as education and healthcare underwent marketisation. As a result, a modern consumer society was formed, in which market relations and values prevail.

Since the state was the main implementer of major socio-economic reforms from the outset, it was the state authorities that were primarily interested in strengthening their own position in the economy. This phenomenon had a particular impact on the course and development of socio-political, economic and cultural transformations in Kazakhstan.

The economic crisis in the USSR was accompanied by a major political crisis. It should be noted that the most important tasks of the state authorities are to provide social protection for the population and to regulate this process with a view to preventing and mitigating negative consequences, such as unemployment, speculation, excessive property and social differentiation, instability of production, and the backwardness of certain regions in terms of social and economic development [10]. The political circles in power in the USSR in the late 1980s lost control of the country and were unable to fulfil these tasks. Nevertheless, in the new political conditions, the 'people of communism' were faced with the prospects and risks of a new type of economy and new socio-political relations.

In the most progressive strata of society, as well as among intellectuals, teachers and scientists, the need for structural reforms was becoming increasingly apparent. A key aspect or prerequisite for the emerging reforms was that many enterprises in Kazakhstan were under the control of the Soviet Union and their production was oriented not only towards their own domestic market, but also towards the external market (conditionally – other republics of the USSR).

The most important parts of the infrastructure, including all large enterprises, power lines, railways and motorways, were built in accordance with the construction standards and regulations of a huge socialist country. When ties between the union republics (for Kazakhstan, mainly the RSFSR and the Central Asian republics) were severed, many elements of this infrastructure were not modernised and fell into disrepair and decay. Some elements



of this infrastructure have been preserved and continue to be used in remote areas of Kazakhstan to this day. Thus, Kazakhstan continues to experience the flaws and advantages of a command-and-control economy.

The crisis in the industry and the agriculture: regression or stagnation?

As shown in Table 1 below, coal production in the country decreased 2.2 times between 1991 and 1999, reaching its lowest level (58 million tonnes) in 1999. In contrast, crude oil production, including gas condensate, increased slightly (+0.9%), although production showed a downward trend during the period from 1991 to 1998. Natural gas production showed similar trends (10 billion cubic metres in 1999).

There was a significant decrease in the production of iron ore (-2.2%), iron ore pellets (-3.15%), copper ore (-1.2%), chromium ore (-1.5%) and asbestos (-3.7%). Thus, statistical data show that production declined in many sectors of the mining industry.

Important indicators of production of cereals, coarse flour and granules, grain products (-6.4%); grain flour, vegetable flour; and finely ground mixtures thereof showed a decrease (-1.5%). The production of fresh bread also showed a decline (-3.0%), but nevertheless reached its absolute maximum in 1992 (1 million 518 thousand tonnes) [11].

Table 1 – Production in Kazakhstan during the period 1991–1999.

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
coal, million tonnes	130	127	112	105	83	77	73	70	58
crude oil, including gas condensate, million tonnes	27	26	23	20	21	23	26	26	30
natural gas (gross output), billion cubic metres	8	8	7	4	6	7	8	8	0
iron ore, million tonnes	22	18	13	11	15	13	13	9	0
iron ore pellets, thousand tonnes	890	7 892	5 705	822	212	5 465	6 520	2 864	2 814
copper ore, thousand tonnes	35 596	35 559	33 715	25 276	21 592	22 026	31 382	31 044	28 773
chrome ores, thousand tonnes	3 616	3 452	2 968	2 103	2 417	1 103	1 796	1 603	2 406
asbestos, thousand tonnes	517	387	272	140	161	135	182	155	139
Continuation of Table 1									
Cereal grains, coarse meal and pellets, and other cereal products, thousand tonnes	363	342	313	254	141	87	86	79	56
Flour from cereal crops and vegetable crops; mixtures thereof, finely ground, thousand tonnes	2 014	1 970	1 940	1 960	1 575	1 593	1 528	1 546	1 262
fresh bread, thousand tonnes	351	1 518	1 591	1 508	853	631	559	514	450



As shown in Table 2, between 1991 and 2000, gross agricultural output increased 1.6 times, including crop production (2.3 times) and livestock production (1.01 times). For comparison, it should be noted that agricultural production continued to grow in the subsequent period from 2000 to 2007: in 2005, it increased 1.1 times (compared to 2000), and in 2007, it increased 1.13 times. The industry's gross output reached its peak in 1999, amounting to 128%. Overall, the indices of the physical volume of gross agricultural output showed an increase. However, in this case, the statistical data are not explicit indicators of a crisis in agriculture.

Table 2 – Indices of physical volume of gross agricultural output in Kazakhstan in 1991–2007 (as a percentage of the previous year).

	Index of physical volume of gross agricultural output		
	in total	crop production	animal husbandry
1991	72,8	55,6	98,2
1992	121,4	150,4	90,7
1993	91,3	86,7	106,8
1994	82,5	78,6	89,8
1995	75,3	72,8	80,8
1996	91,8	102,4	79,2
1997	97,5	100,6	92,6
1998	79,4	67,1	95,7
1999	128,0	166,2	101,0
2000	95,8	92,0	100,0
2001	117,3	128,5	103,2
2002	103,4	102,9	104,2
2003	102,1	99,9	105,0
Continuation of Table 2			
2004	99,5	95,1	105,6
2005	107,3	109,5	104,6
2006	106,2	107,7	104,5
2007	108,9	113,8	103,8

Contrasting data for the period from 1991 to 2000 showed the main indicators of construction activity (Table 3) – the volume of contract work (an 8.3-fold increase), the total area of residential buildings constructed (a decrease of 0.19%), and the total area of residential buildings constructed by individual developers (a decrease of 0.8%).

As shown in Table 4, there were no dynamic changes in the development of the transport network (Table 4). Having decreased by 0.9%, the length of public railways remained at the same level during the first decade of independence. In contrast, the total length of trunk pipelines increased 5.1 times (including oil pipelines, which increased 1.9 times). Statistical data show an increase in the role of the oil industry (crude oil and gas production) in the overall structure of the economy during the period under review. Indirectly, they demonstrate an increase in the raw material orientation of the country's economy.

Table 3 – Dynamics of key indicators of construction activity in Kazakhstan in 1991–2007.

	Scope of contract work		Total area of residential buildings constructed		Total area of residential buildings constructed by individual developers	
	million tenge	as a percentage of the previous year	thousand square metres	as a percentage of the previous year	thousand square metres	as a percentage of the previous year
1991	18	76,7%	6 130	77,9	1 133	97,3
1992	261	44,2	5 046	82,3	1 122	99,0
1993	3 058	69,8	3 856	76,4	1 057	94,2
1994	41 546	78,9	2 322	60,2	764	72,3
1995	77 624	61,5	1 663	71,6	628	82,2
1996	61 965	63,1	1 407	84,6	699	111,3



1997	65 454	103,3	1 344	95,5	851	121,7
1998	74 803	105,1	1 132	84,2	803	94,4
1999	71 250	88,8	1 105	97,6	843	105,0
2000	150 677	178,5	1 218	110,2	910	107,9
2001	253 690	159,6	1 506	123,7	1 094	120,2
2002	388 977	141,2	1 552	103,1	1 159	105,9
2003	424 994	104,0	2 111	136,0	1 432	123,6
2004	527 793	117,9	2 591	122,7	1 781	124,3
2005	817 821	147,4	4 992	182,4	2 505	145,9
2006	1 441 236	128,6	6 245	125,1	3 680	146,9
2007	1 617 464	105,7	6 679	107,0	3 856	104,8

Table 4 – Length of the transport network in Kazakhstan in the period 1991–1999

	1199 1	11992	11993	1199 4	1199 5	1199 6	1199 7	11998	11999
Public railway tracks ¹⁾ , thousand kilometres	14,5	14,4	14,4	14,4	14,4	14,4	14,4	14,4	14,4
Tram tracks ²⁾ , km	135,5								
Trolleybus tracks ²⁾ , kilometres	297,6								
Main pipelines, thousand kilometres	35,5	5,7	18,5	18,5	18,8	19,7	16,4	7,1	7,9
of which:									
oil pipelines			-		8,9	9,6	6,5	5,8	6,9
gas pipelines	35,5	-		-		0,1	9,9	0,1	0,1
Inland waterways, thousand kilometres	0	4,0	4,0	4,0	3,5	3,5	3,9	3,9	4,3
Motorways, thousand kilometres	6,6	87,3	87,9	7,6	87,3	87,2	83,3	85,2	85,2

According to other statistical data, the country's gross domestic product grew 4.8 times between 1993 and 1996, industrial production grew 31.2 times, and agricultural production grew 2.2 times [12]. The monetary income of the population during this period increased 36.8 times [13]. Therefore, based on quantitative statistical indicators, it can again be concluded that it is not possible that the country was experiencing a deep economic crisis.

The standard of living of the population of Kazakhstan in a transitional economy.

During 1997–1999, the lion's share of the population's monetary income (Table 5) was earned from employment (80% in 1999). Social transfers and other monetary income accounted for 11% and 9% respectively in 1999. In the structure of household cash expenditures (1999), consumer expenditures accounted for 87%, expenditures on food products for 52%, on non-food products for 23%, on paid services for 25%, on taxes, payments and other payments for 5%, and on other expenditures for 8%. Over a three-year period (1997–1999), only consumer spending showed an increase (by 1%), including paid services (by 6%). For comparison, let us look at the data for 2001, when the share of consumer spending reached its maximum (97%), spending on paid services was 22%, and taxes, payments and other payments showed zero values (Table 6) [14].



Table 5 – Structure of cash income of the population of Kazakhstan in 1997–2007 (in %)

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Cash income – total including:	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
income from employment activities	80	79	80	79	77	77	76	76	77	80	82
Social transfers	11	12	11	11	97	18	19	18	18	16	14
Other cash receipts	9	9	9	0	6	5	5	6	5	4	4

Table 6 – Structure of cash expenditures of the population of Kazakhstan in 1997–2007

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Consumer spending	86	87	87	86	97	96	96	95	94	94,1	93,6
for food products	56	54	52	50	54	52	50	46	45	42	42
Continuation of Table 6											
non-food items	25	24	23	26	24	26	27	29	29	32	32
for paid services	19	22	25	24	22	22	23	25	26	26	26
Taxes, payments and other charges	5	5	5	4	0	0	0	0	0	0,1	0,2
Other expenses	9	8	8	10	3	4	4	5	6	5,8	6,2

Statistical data for 1999–2000 (Table 7) show an increase in the number of legal entities by 3,606. In 2000, 76,373 peasant (farmer) households produced goods worth 87,567,000 tenge.

In 1998, the subsistence minimum reached 39%, falling to 31.8% by 2000 (Table 8). Accordingly, the cost of the food basket fell to 11.7% by 2000, the poverty depth index decreased to 10.3%, and the poverty severity index, on the contrary, increased to 4.0% [14].

Table 7 – Key indicators of small business in Kazakhstan in 1999–2000

	Number of entities, units			Number of employed persons, thousand			Output, million tenge		
	legal entities	sole traders	peasant (farmer) households	legal entities	sole traders	Peasant (farmer) households	legal entities	sole traders	Peasant (farmer) households
1999	30 172	...	...	340,7	...	...	...	...	...
2000	33 778	...	76 373	385,0	...	265,5	...	...	87 567



Table 8 – Income inequality in Kazakhstan in 1997–2000 (in %).

	Percentage of population with incomes below ²⁾		Poverty depth ²⁾	The severity of poverty ²⁾	Gini coefficient for 20% population groups ³⁾	Income ratio between the richest and poorest 10% of the population, times ³⁾
	subsistence minimum	cost the food basket				
1997	38,3 ⁴⁾	12,7 ⁴⁾	12,1	3,1	0,338	10,2
1998	39,0 ⁴⁾	16,2 ⁴⁾	12,8	3,8	0,347	11,3
1999	34,5	14,5	13,7	5,5	0,332	9,4
2000	31,8	11,7	10,3	4,0	0,307	8,3

Data on the labour market provide a clear picture of living standards. Between 1991 and 1998, the economically active population fell by 663,600, the level of economic activity by 2.7% and the number of people in employment by 1.588.600. The unemployment rate rose significantly (by 5.6%) to 13.1% [14].

Table 9 – Key labour market indicators in Kazakhstan, 1991–1998.

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Economically active population, thousand persons	7 716,2	7 577,8	6 963,4	7 118,2	7 359,8	7 489,5	7 440,1	7 052,6
Level of economic activity of the population, %	68,6	67,0	61,5	63,5	66,8	68,7	68,8	65,9
Employed population, thousand persons	7 716,2	7 577,8	6 963,4	6 581,8	6 551,5	6 518,9	6 472,3	6 127,6
Employment rate, % of:								
Population aged 15 years and older	68,6	67,0	61,5	58,7	59,5	59,8	59,9	57,3
Economically active population	100,0	100,0	100,0	92,5	89,0	87,0	87,0	86,9
Employees, thousand persons	7 389,5	7 210,2	6 594,4	6 029,8	5 466,4	4 918,4	4 271,3	3 783,0
Share in the employed population, %	4,2	4,9	5,3	8,4	16,6	24,6	34,0	38,3
Unemployed population, thousands of people	-	-	-	536,4	808,3	970,6	967,8	925,0
Unemployment rate, %	-	-	-	7,5	11,0	13,0	13,0	13,1

The mutual influence of social and economic and demographic processes in Kazakh society.

One of the negative consequences of the political and economic crisis of the 1990s was population decline. In scientific and scientific-journalistic literature, this phenomenon has been called the ‘demographic pit’ (‘demographic cross’). The country saw an exodus of skilled Russian-speaking people who had previously been employed in industry, infrastructure, education and healthcare. The loss of former political positions and the change in the dominant ideology had a certain impact on the development of migration processes among the country's ethnic groups of European origin.



According to demographic data, the mortality rate in certain regions of the country (North Kazakhstan Region, East Kazakhstan Region) exceeded the birth rate (a similar trend has persisted in these regions to this day) [14], [15].

In the course of its sovereign political development, the country has become characterised by an authoritarian style of government. This phenomenon is linked to the following fact. Many countries with large territories have authoritarian political regimes [16]. The protection of territory is the most important state interest and the main idea for development strategies. Another feature of large states is that changes in the socio-economic situation in the regions depend on decisions made at the centre. Therefore, for the majority of the population, especially in the regions, a low level of initiative is characteristic feature.

Conclusion

The political aspects mentioned above have had and continue to have a particular impact on the course and development of socio-economic processes. Due to the decline in production in many sectors of the economy, the socio-economic situation in Kazakhstan remained difficult throughout the period 1991–2000. The decline in economic relations had a negative impact on the demographic system and led to increased migration in some regions of the country.

The modern structure of Kazakhstan's economy has also developed largely under the influence of external factors, such as the country's integration into regional and global economic processes and the consideration of the needs of developed economies. Therefore, the socio-economic development of modern Kazakhstan is a promising area for further interdisciplinary research.

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ҚАЗАҚСТАНДАҒЫ НАРЫҚТЫҚ ТРАНСФОРМАЦИЯНЫҢ ӘЛЕУМЕТТІК-ЭКОНОМИКАЛЫҚ АСПЕКТІЛЕРІ (1991–2000 ЖЖ.)

Андатпа. Нарықтық трансформация және ырықтандыру үрдістерін зерделеу бүгінгі күнге дейін пәнаралық зерттеулердің арасында өзекті бағыты болып табылады. Осы зерттеу өзінің маңыздылығына сәйкес Қазақстандағы экономикалық қатынастарды ырықтандырудың негізгі мәселелерін ХХ ғасырдың 90-шы жылдарында алғаш рет ашады. Мақалада елдегі нарықтық экономикалық қатынастарға көшудің әлеуметтік-экономикалық аспектілері ұсынылып отыр.

Зерттеу барысында Қазақстан Республикасы мемлекеттік органдарының статистикалық деректері кеңінен пайдаланылды. Осы материалдарды талдау келесі нәтижелерге алып келді. Біріншіден, Қазақстан экономикасы 1991 жылдан 2000 жылға дейін нарықтық экономикаға қарағанда аралас типке әлдеқайда жақын болды. Екіншіден, елде нарықтық қатынастарды дамыту және экономиканы ырықтандыру басым түрде әкімшілік-командалық әдістермен жүзеге асырылды, бұл оның одан әрі әлеуметтік-экономикалық дамуының ерекшеліктерін айқындады. Нарықтық трансформация іс жүзінде елдің тіршілік әрекетінің барлық салаларына негізгі әсер етті. Өлемдік және өңірлік экономикалық процестердің құрылымына кіру, ішкі экономикалық үрдістер ел экономикасының шикізаттық бағыттылығын қалыптастыруға септігін тигізді. Экономиканың нақты секторы, қызмет көрсету саласы, қаржы, салық жүйесі, сондай-ақ білім беру, денсаулық сақтау салалары маркетингке мен ырықтандыруға ұшырады. Нәтижесінде Қазақстанда нарықтық қатынастар мен құндылықтар басым болатын қазіргі заманғы тұтыну қоғамы қалыптасты.

Мемлекет бастапқы жағдайдағы ірі әлеуметтік-экономикалық реформалардың негізгі іске асырушысы болғандықтан, нақ осы мемлекеттік билік ең алдымен экономикадағы жетекші позицияларды нығайтуға мүдделі болды. Мұндай құбылыс Қазақстандағы қоғамдық-саяси, экономикалық және мәдени қайта құрулардың барысы мен дамуына ерекше із қалдырды.

Кілт сөздер: әлеуметтік-экономикалық үрдістер; демографиялық үрдістер; нарықтық трансформация; экономиканың шикізаттық бағдары; Қазақстан.

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СОЦИАЛЬНО-ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКИЕ АСПЕКТЫ РЫНОЧНОЙ ТРАНСФОРМАЦИИ В КАЗАХСТАНЕ (1991–2000 гг.)

Аннотация. Изучение процессов рыночной трансформации и либерализации до сих пор является актуальным направлением междисциплинарных научных работ. Настоящее исследование впервые раскрывает соответственно своей значимости основные проблемы либерализации экономических отношений в Казахстане в 90-х годах ХХ века. В статье рассматриваются социально-экономические аспекты переходы к рыночным экономическим отношениям в стране.

В ходе исследования были широко использованы статистические данные государственных органов Республики Казахстан. Анализ данных материалов привел к следующим результатам. Экономика Казахстана с 1991 по 2000 годы была гораздо ближе к смешанному типу, чем к рыночной экономике. Развитие рыночных отношений и либерализация экономики в стране осуществлялась преимущественно административно-командными методами, что определило особенности ее дальнейшего социально-экономического развития. Рыночная трансформация оказала ключевое влияние практически на все сферы жизнедеятельности страны. Вхождение в структуру мировых и региональных экономических процессов, а также характер внутренних экономических процессов оказали большое влияние на формирование сырьевой направленности экономики страны. Реальный сектор экономики, сферы услуг, финансов, налоговая система, а также сферы образования, здравоохранения подверглись маркетингке и либерализации. В результате в Казахстане было сформировано современное общество потребления, в котором преобладают рыночные отношения и ценности.



Поскольку основным реализатором крупных социально-экономических реформ из первоначального положения являлось государство, именно государственная власть была прежде всего заинтересована в укреплении ведущих позиций в экономике. Подобное явление наложило особый след на ход и развитие общественно-политических, экономических и культурных преобразований в Казахстане.

Ключевые слова: социально-экономические процессы; демографические процессы; рыночная трансформация; сырьевая ориентация экономики; Казахстан.