

## Physical Culture and Sports in the USSR and Soviet Kazakhstan in 1940-1980

Zauresh Galimzhanovna Saktaganova<sup>1</sup>, Aleksandr Anatolievich Grigorkevich<sup>1</sup>, Zhanna Sabitbekovna Mazhitova<sup>2</sup>, Assem Serikovna Sagatova<sup>3</sup>, Saule Suyundykovna Kassimova<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Karaganda State University named after E.A. Buketov, 100028, Karaganda, Kazakhstan, Universitetskaya Street, 28

<sup>2</sup>University of Astana, 010000, Astana, Kazakhstan, Abai Street, 13

<sup>3</sup>Karaganda State Technical University, 100028, Karaganda, Kazakhstan, Mira Boulevard, 56

### Abstrac

The present article considers the problems of physical culture and sports in the Soviet history. It emphasizes the fact that physical culture and sports had a complicated history. In the pre-war period, sports were considered to serve a narrow utilitarian purpose of establishing healthy society via doing exercises and training bold fighters for the bright new dawn of communism. Later, sports were perceived as one of the key components of social and political life – an effective means to increase labor productivity and bring up a stronger next generation. Analyzing the government actions on establishing sports infrastructure, the authors conclude that physical culture and sports in the USSR and Soviet Kazakhstan transformed into an independent area of cultural development. The conclusion states that high achievements in conventional sports were to prove the benefits of living in a socialist country to its citizens and the rest of the world. In turn, such a circumstance led to the disregard of sports peculiarities of Kazakhstan and the gradual fallback of national sports.

Keywords: Soviet history, physical culture, sports, Soviet Kazakhstan, national sports.

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## Cultura física y deporte en la URSS y la Kazajstán soviética en 1940-1980

### Resumen

El presente artículo considera los problemas de la cultura física y el deporte en la historia soviética. Hace hincapié en el hecho de que la cultura física y el deporte tenían una historia complicada. En el período anterior a la guerra, se consideraba que los deportes tenían un propósito utilitario estrecho de establecer una sociedad saludable a través de ejercicios y entrenamiento de luchadores audaces para el brillante nuevo amanecer del comunismo. Más tarde, el deporte fue percibido como uno de los componentes clave de la vida social y política: un medio eficaz para aumentar la productividad laboral y generar una próxima generación más fuerte. Analizando las acciones del gobierno sobre el establecimiento de infraestructura deportiva, los autores concluyen que la cultura física y el deporte en la URSS y la Kazajstán soviética se transformaron en un área independiente de desarrollo cultural. La conclusión afirma que los grandes logros en los deportes convencionales debían demostrar los beneficios de vivir en un país socialista para sus ciudadanos y el resto del mundo. A su vez, tal circunstancia condujo al desprecio de las peculiaridades deportivas de Kazajstán y al retroceso gradual de los deportes nacionales.

Palabras clave: historia soviética, cultura física, deportes, Kazajstán soviético, deportes nacionales

### 1. Introduction

The actualization of the problem under study at the present stage is determined by the fact that physical culture can be considered a social phenomenon historically reflecting a certain level of material, spiritual, theoretic, as well as practical achievements of the society, being a particular human activity in terms of social and individual creativity. In addition, the physical culture and sports system is represented as a special type of social practice, hence the history of physical culture and sports poses an important aspect of social history. The interest in the history of physical culture and sports is determined by the emphasis on everyday life history which singles out such issues as leisure activity, psychophysical public health, etc.

The regional and national aspects should hold a special place in the knowled

ge of the development of physical culture and sports. One has to agree with the researchers thinking that the loss of centuries-old social and cultural national values is due to the underestimation of the national history of sports and culture movement, as well as undervaluation of peculiar national and regional components that comply with the mentality of different ethnic groups in a multiethnic country (Ageev, 2005).

## 2. Materials and Methods

The methodology behind the study is based on the principle of historicism allowing the examination of the subject matter in its development and interconnection with the main social factors and circumstances. The principle of scientific objectiveness made it possible to analyze the subject of research considering social and political changes. The study used a systematic approach to the examination of sources. It was also used to reconstruct a comprehensive picture of the development of physical culture and sports – as internally inconsistent as it may be – making it possible to identify natural relationships, and take into account the general conditions and specifics of physical culture and sports development in the studied region. The work employs the historical-comparative method, determining the specifics of the development of physical culture and sports in a particular region with a significant degree of credibility.

The article's framework of sources is based on statistical and other data derived from the funds of the State Archives of the Russian Federation (Moscow, Russia), the Archives of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan (Almaty, Kazakhstan), published statistical collections on the national economy of the Kazakh SSR, etc.

## 3. Literature Review

The problems of sports life were presented in the Soviet literature in the form of a public awareness campaign promoting the Soviet lifestyle, the symbol of which was an athlete with impeccable moral qualities. Such literature emphasized the positive aspiration of all Soviet citizens to sports achievements, victories, passion for physical culture in everyday life, as well as the need to conduct educational work among the younger generation aimed to promote the spirit of competition and desire to achieve victories and better results.

The scientific tradition of exploring the problem was established in the previous century. Among the first Soviet historians of physical culture were E.Y. Zelikson, I.G. Chudinova, T.M. Kanevets and others, who laid the foundation for the Soviet history school of physical culture (Chudinov, 1940; Zelikson, 1940; Kanevets, 1946). Since the 1950s, the history of physical culture and sports in

the USSR has been studied as an independent subject, which in turn led to the intensive development of various historical aspects of it. The development of physical culture and sports in different time periods was covered by D.A. Kradman (1950) and G.S. Demeter (1953), N.P. Novoselov, S.D. Sinitsyn and G.D. Kharabuga (1953), G.I. Kukushkin (1953), etc. (Kulinkovich, 1984). From the 1960s to 1980s, there were numerous summarizing works and different publications written on the emergence history of physical culture and sports (Tsukanova, 2012). An increasing number of works published in the USSR in only these three decades allows tracking exact figures. In the USSR has been studied as an independent subject, which in turn led to the intensive development of various historical aspects of it. The development of physical culture and sports in different time periods was covered by D.A. Kradman (1950) and G.S. Demeter (1953), N.P. Novoselov, S.D. Sinitsyn and G.D. Kharabuga (1953), G.I. Kukushkin (1953), etc. (Kulinkovich, 1984). From the 1960s to 1980s, there were numerous summarizing works and different publications written on the emergence history of physical culture and sports (Tsukanova, 2012). An increasing number of works published in the USSR in only these three decades allows tracking exact figures. In 1940, there were 400 titles of sports books, brochures and educational literature published, comprising 3,100 thousand copies; in 1950 – 519 titles and 6,900 thousand copies respectively, while in 1960, there were 839 titles and 11,700 copies (Istyagin-Eliseeva, & Barienikova, 2015).

The authors portrayed the Soviet physical culture and sports movement as a pyramid, mass physical culture being the base of it, placing higher sports achievements on top. Overall, the analysis of the Soviet historiography shows that all Soviet authors associated the successes and achievements in the Soviet physical culture movement with the social policy and prolific socio-economic development of the USSR. Later these achievements became the property of all Soviet republics and all the Soviet nations. Undoubtedly, the ideological component was prevalent to all such works, hence lacking any criticism of the Soviet system, including sports and physical culture.

After 1991, Russian researchers began to actively study the history of Soviet sports and dozens of theses in human sciences have been defended. The current state of Russian historiography on the problem shows a significant amount of factual data introduced alongside the expanded scope and geography of the research. This has resulted in a direction of literature, which can be described as “sports literature”. The topic is considered from various points of view by sociologists, political scientists, psychologists, doctors, etc. The interests of these researchers include the development of physical culture and sports, the health of citizens and the promoting sports culture among the population.

European historiography of the topic also has its distinct research tradition.

Among others, the important works on foreign historiography include the monograph by H.U. Humbrecht (2009) on the philosophy of sports spectacularity, work by J. Huizinga (2011) on the phenomenon of game and game culture in human civilization. The history of spectacular sports in the USSR was studied by R. Edelman (2008); as well as M. O'Mahoney (2010) who studied the visual culture in the aspect of the Soviet sports development. In recent decades, the topic has had longstanding critical regard of international authors, for example, a series of articles were published in "The International Journal of the History of Sport" (Jefferies, 1982; Peppard, 1982; Riordan, 1990).

In the context of Kazakhstan historiography, one has to accept that, unfortunately, the history of Soviet sports has not become the object of special summarizing or monographic historical research.

### 3. Results

The analysis of the problem, which is introduced in the research, certainly, has a multidisciplinary character. The history of physical culture and sports in the Soviet period can be used in the writing of fundamental, complex and special works on the history of Kazakhstan, Central Asia, Russia, etc.

Article materials concerning the legislative framework of the Soviet state policy in relation to sports can be used in the writing of historical, social studies on theoretical and methodological problems of the history of countries in the Soviet period.

The article findings can be used to develop an internal state policy regulating the physical culture and sports development. The use of different forms and directions of state-provided sports support, as well as the achievements of the Soviet and Kazakhstani athletes, should increase the efficiency of sports and physical culture state policy. The key component of such a policy is the previous long-term experience, combined with the wide application of scientific approaches and principles to control and develop the sector.

Presented in this article, the analysis of various athletic events will help the state bodies to revitalize sports club network, form a common calendar plan to organize sports events on different levels, and adopt physical activity recommendations for the public. As a result, these measures should form a nationwide system of physical culture and sports education.

### 4. Discussion

In the 1920s and 1930s, physical culture in the USSR was promoted for military training of the masses. There clearly was a preference of the military application of sports, which didn't facilitate the establishment of such sports aspects as the

development of the maximum possible number of sports, sports fan interests, material support from the state, work on achieving high sports results, national sports in the Soviet republics, etc. Involvement of the population in the physical culture and sports movement took place both on a voluntary and compulsory basis. Sports have become an education tool for the upbringing of Stalin's "homo soveticus". Its purpose was not a sports rivalry, but the engagement and participation, developing a habit of collective action. This policy obviously yielded results, as in the 1930s, the Soviet propaganda posters of muscular young men and women were to motivate to do sports, cultivate the love for a healthy lifestyle, sparking interests in young people towards the physical culture.

The hard war years almost nullified the physical culture and sports activity in the republic. Many specialists in physical culture and sports died, sports facilities were destroyed, sports organizations ceased to exist. It is not by chance that the following types of physical training were in focus, as they were necessary for combat: hand-to-hand combat, swimming, skiing, cross-country running. The motto of Kazakhstani athletes during the war years was "the first in sports, the first in combat and labour!".

In the very first postwar decades, there was an acute need to provide training and retraining for skilled workers in physical culture. Hence, in 1945, a comprehensive system of advanced training courses for physical culture and sports was established for different state bodies and public administration, ranging from the all-union and republican levels to the regional one. New institutes and faculties were created in the country to promote physical education. This was facilitated by the Resolution of the Central Committee of the AUCP(b) (the All-Union Communist Party of Bolsheviks) dated December 27, 1948 "On the work of the Committee of Physical Culture and Sports affairs in executing the party and government directives on the development of the mass sports movement in the country and improving the skills of Soviet athletes", which set the task of "raising the level of sportsmanship and therefore – for Soviet athletes – winning the world championship in major sports".

In the postwar decades, the promotion of sports and healthy lifestyle in the Soviet Union became a matter of national significance. Morning exercises became commonplace, as compulsory physical time-breaks and regular Health Days were organized at workplaces, preschool and educational institutions. The radio, cinema, and television were also part of the sports glorification, but it was the posters by the best Soviet artists that became the most popular means of propaganda. Caricatures of people with an unhealthy lifestyle and not involved in sports appeared in popular magazines of the time such as "Ogonyok",

“Rabotnitsa”, as well as in wall newspapers at factories, plants, institutes and schools. Radio and television programs, posters and propaganda actively propagated into the consciousness of people, portraying the life of a Soviet person incomplete without sports. Socialist propaganda of physical culture and sports aimed at both adults and the younger generation. The media actively planted information about the new achievements of Soviet athletes as mandatory role models. There were booklets for children, collections, poems by famous writers published portraying the need for sports as a means to becoming as “brave and clever” as fathers and grandfathers (Ageev, 2005).

Sports standards were introduced to the school curriculum, which, if failed, could bring serious problems both to the PE teacher and the student. Even honors students would have problems with peers, who would make acid remarks and mock anyone skipping PE classes. It was obligatory for students to attend sports clubs. In fact, the idea of contempt and disrespect for those who did not reach the necessary sports tops was propagated upon the Soviet people. Pioneers and members of the Komsomol condemned and boycotted lazy people and absentees of PE classes. Participation in competitions and outdoor games was not only fashionable but became the lifestyle of the Soviet person in the 1940s and 1950s.

To expand the physical culture and sports movement, the Komsomol made an initiative to develop a system of standards called “Ready for Labour and Defense of the USSR” (abbreviated in Russian as GTO). The GTO system played an important role in the involvement of public organizations in sports life. The core standards of the GTO were gymnastics, athletics, games, wrestling and national sports. The spread of the GTO standard was a milestone in the development of the socialist sports movement. All types of gymnastic disciplines presented in the GTO began to develop rapidly. An initiative was implemented to conduct research at enterprises and institutions in order to ascertain the mutual influence of physical education and labor. It was stated that the introduction of gymnastics in enterprises reduces the fatigue of workers and, as a result, decreases the number of occupational injuries decreases.

From the 1940s onwards, the promotion of physical culture and sports intensified: in 1949, the first post-war All-Union Conference on Agitation and Propaganda was held; in 1951, the All-Union Committee on Physical Culture and Sports issued a directive on the organization and promotion of physical culture; the departments of physical education and sports were restored at universities, and from 1956 onwards, the USSR Spartakiads were organized; in 1952, the Soviet Union became a member of the international Olympic movement. The scope, scale and coverage of such events became ambitious. For example, in 1967, 80 million people, 170 thousand physical education groups participa

ted in the 4th Spartakiad of Peoples of the USSR, whereas the final competitions were held in 23 kinds of sports (Istyagin-Eliseeva, & Barienikova, 2015, p. 55). Sports-related art photography exhibitions were held regularly, while television, radio broadcasting, newspapers and magazines actively promoted physical education and informing the masses on the achievements of Soviet sports. In 1961, 14 sports newspapers, 16 sports magazines, 12 bulletins and 10 periodicals were published in the USSR; reaching 3 million copies printed (Kukushkin, 1962).

It should be noted that the propaganda of physical culture and sports yielded results: the expansion of physical culture and sports movement contributed to the establishment of universities, *tekhnikums* (technical colleges), specialized schools, faculties of physical culture, sports schools, sports committees, associations, clubs and large sports bases. The number of facilities also experienced an increase, as in 1940, there were only 378 stadiums (accommodating 1,500 spectators and more); in 1957 the total number of stadiums amounted to 1,423, 29 of which were large, 269 – medium, and 1125 – small; the number of complex practice grounds stood at 4,685 (The State Archive of the Russian Federation, n. d. a, p. 2); in 1968, there were 2,895 large stadiums, and 206,358 amateur sports teams (The State Archive of the Russian Federation, n. d. b). In the 1960s, there were 84 million people in the USSR systematically engaged in sports activities, i.e. one-third of the Soviet population. The USSR propagated 70 types of sports, organizing up to 500 various All-Union competitions per year, as well as the Spartakiad of Peoples of the USSR every four years. In 1983, the number of participants in mass competitions at the 8th summer Spartakiad of Peoples of the USSR comprised 95 million culturists and athletes, maintaining the abovementioned proportion of one-third (Zlomanov, & Uman-sky, 1984, p. 126). Physical culture and sports were no longer a prerogative of military training but became a recreation activity, a personal interest and a hobby of the Soviet citizen. By 1986, there had been 3,981 large operating stadiums in the USSR (accommodating 1.5 thousand spectators or more), 83 gyms, 2,601 public swimming pools, including 1,554 indoor ones. In addition, there were approximately 600 thousand shooting ranges, football fields, play-grounds and other sports facilities capable to serve about 30 million people per day (The State Archive of the Russian Federation, n. d. a).

The ideological importance of physical culture and sports was well-recognized by the Soviet government. High sports achievements were to prove the benefits of living in a socialist country to both its citizens and the rest of the world. Hence, in order to maintain the development, the Soviet administration centralized the physical culture and sports affairs via centralizing the administration

and direction over the sports movement in the country. For said purpose, a separate union-level institution was created to administer the sports affairs from 1920 to 1959 (the Supreme Council on Physical Culture, the All-Union Council on Physical Culture, the All-Union Committee on Physical Culture and Sports, the Main Department on Physical Culture and Sports).

This centralized body supervised all sports and physical culture affairs in the USSR including the administration and supervision over physical culture specialists training, construction and maintenance of sports facilities, production and distribution of sports equipment, etc. From 1959 to 1968, the administration of sports affairs was in hands of public bodies, namely the Union of Sports Associations and Organizations of the USSR. However, according to the government, these bodies were not able to maintain sports affairs successfully. As a result, in 1968, the Union-Republican Committee on Physical Culture and Sports under the Council of Ministers of the USSR was established, operating from 1968 to 1986. In 1986, it was transformed into the Union-Republican State Committee on Physical Culture and Sports of the USSR, acting until November 1991. The main idea of the Soviet physical education system was the concept of mass-availability of physical culture, which, from our point of view, was an indisputable achievement of the Soviet period.

A big role in the building of the world sports reputation of the Soviet country is courtesy of the Kazakh SSR. One of the national economic plans of the Kazakh Republic was to form the right image of physical culture and sports in the eyes of people. The existing sports facilities were put in order, numerous community cleanup days took place to restore the stadiums and sports fields. Moreover, there were voluntary sports societies established, making a significant contribution to the development of sports in Kazakhstan.

In March 1947, the voluntary sports societies (VSS) called “Krasnoye Znamya” and “Samolet” were established. In June 1947 the “Sadovod” VSS was created, comprised of six physical education groups. In addition, sports teams were formed at such places as a furniture factory, a confectionery factory, etc. By the end of 1947, in Almaty alone, there were 14 VSS functioning: “Bolshevik”, “Urozhay”, “Dynamo”, “Spartak”, “Kairat” and others, including “Kolkhozshy” rural sports society (Chudinov, 1940; Kanevets, 1946). As of January 1, 1948, there were 73 physical education groups in Almaty, comprising 4,323 members, 4,215 of whom were members of VSS. Moreover, in 1947, there also was a significant increase in sports events organized compared to those organized the year before. The preparation to an organization of such events improved, hence big republic-scale competitions took

place in the cities of the Kazakh SSR. During the period from 1946 to 1951, the athletes of Kazakhstan had multiple victories and achievements in big All-Union boxing and horse-riding competitions. Thus, such boxers as M. Omarov and A. Usenov achieved success and the former athlete received master of sports ranking (Kradman, 1950). Memorable were the competitions organized on large-scale holidays, dedicated to such remarkable dates as centenary years of Abay's and Jambyl Jabaev births in 1945 and 1946 respectively. In June 1947, there were city and regional sports events organized in track and field, sports games and national wrestling, totaling in 14,521 participants. Later that year, there were city and regional spartakiads held in such leading kinds of sports as hand-to-hand fighting, swimming, field and track, sports games, shooting etc., totaling in 3,712 athletes (as of July). From 1948 onwards, traditional spartakiads were held among the Central Asian Republics and Kazakhstan. By 1957, there had been nine spartakiads held, in two of which the Kazakh SSR teams came first, coming in a close second in the remaining competitions (Demeter, 1953).

In 1957, 63 different stadiums functioned in the Kazakh SSR: no large stadiums, 11 medium ones, 52 small ones. There were 264 complex sports grounds in the republic, 117 of which were in schools; 1,056 basketball courts and 5,390 volleyball courts (569 and 2,025 of those were in schools, respectively) (The State Archive of the Russian Federation, n. d. a, p. 18). Merely three years later, in 1960, there were 59 stadiums in Kazakhstan accommodating 1,500 spectators or more, 500 sports halls, 25 swimming pools, 1,221 football fields, 10,700 volleyball, basketball and tennis courts.

In 1970, the sports facilities were represented by 98 large stadiums, 2,546 gyms, 43 swimming pools (including 14 indoor ones), 4,623 football fields, over 16,600 volleyball, basketball and tennis courts.

The statistics provided by different sources do not match, having big data differences. For example, according to the State archive of the Russian Federation, in 1969, there were 4,503 amateur sports teams and 846,370 physical culturists in the Kazakh SSR (The State Archive of the Russian Federation, n. d. c, p. 227).

In contrast, official compilations provide much larger figures. Firstly, statistical compilations issued in the republic prior to 1987 did not even show data on the history of physical culture and sports (neither facilities nor culturists mentioned). Secondly, the data in those compilations were overstated with data difference exceeding 100%. According to those statistics, in 1970, there were 10,366 amateur sports teams, 3,620,500 people consistently exercising and doing sports, 1,310,600 of whom were women. In 1970, Kazakhstan had 208

masters of sports of the USSR and over 295,200 officially rated sportsmen. In 1975, the statistics showed 11,470 amateur sports teams, 4,201,500 people consistently exercising and doing sports, 1,554,600 of whom were women, 367 masters of sports of the USSR, 63,640 officially rated sportsmen (The national economy of the Kazakh SSR: Anniversary Annual Statistical yearbook, 1987, p. 240; National economy of Kazakhstan in 1988: Statistical yearbook, 1989, p. 137). It may seem difficult to estimate which data represented the real statistics closer, but the dynamics of physical culture and sports development were positive, growing over the years.

Archival materials indicate the development of sports education in the secondary school system. In 1970, there were the following youth sports schools in the Kazakh SSR: 3 schools with a focus on athletics, 2 – speed skating, 1 – football, 1 – skiing (biathlon and jumps). The number of students in youth sports schools totaled in 3,527 (2.7% of the total number in the USSR). Those engaged in athletics amounted to 1,678 students, speed skating – 721, football – 751, alpine skiing – 210, skiing (biathlon and jumping races) – 167 (The State Archive of the Russian Federation, n. d. d, p. 97).

In 1980, there were 124 stadiums, 4,663 gyms, 76 swimming pools, 8,069 football fields and over 24,500 volleyball, basketball and tennis courts. In 1986, Kazakhstan had 155 functioning stadiums, 5,488 gyms, 113 swimming pools (59 of which – indoor ones), 9,205 football fields and over 26,500 volleyball, basketball and tennis courts. In 1980, there were 12,167 amateur sports teams, 4,891,900 people consistently exercising and doing sports, 2,085,500 of whom were women, and 592 masters of sports. In 1986, there was a slight increase in the number of amateur sports teams, amounting to 14,422, while the number of those consistently engaged in sports and exercising exceeded 5,652,600 people, 2,138,500 of whom were women, 397 sportsmen obtained the master of sports of the USSR rank (The national economy of the Kazakh SSR: Anniversary Annual Statistical yearbook, 1987, p. 240; National economy of Kazakhstan in 1988: Statistical yearbook, 1989, p. 137). In 1986, the capacity of sports facilities in Kazakhstan per ten thousand capita was 1,285 people, being the highest rate among the Soviet republics. It should be noted that the rate of sports facilities provision for population accounted for less than a third of the demand (Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic: Encyclopedic Reference, 1981, p. 376; Goskomstat of the USSR, 1987, pp. 606-607).

The All-Union Spartakiad of Peoples of the USSR in 1949 brought 38 new records to Kazakhstan. The documents of the 10th All-Kazakhstan Spartakiad in 1960 inform on 24 new republican records. A significant event in sports life was the USSR championship in athletics in 1965. Among the athletes from Kazakhstan, A. Tuyakov achieved great success in sprinting, winning a gold

medal in the 200 m race. In Soviet times, the first Olympic medal was brought to Kazakhstan by athlete G. Kosanov, who became the silver medalist in Tokyo in 1964. In 1972, the best athletes of the republic were members of the USSR national team competing in the 20th Olympic Games in Munich. Wrestler V. Ryazantsev became the Olympic champion, wrestler A. Nazarenko, athlete V. Soldatenko, volleyball player V. Kravchenko and swimmer V. Aboimov became silver winners. The archival materials on the 22nd Olympic Games in Moscow (1980) inform on 16 medals won by Kazakhstani athletes. Among them were wrestler J. Ushkempirov, water polo player S. Kotenko, basketball player N. Olkhovaya, wrestler S. Serikov, weight-lifter V. Mazin, runner V. Muravyov, boxers S. Konakbayev, V. Demyanenko, A Bykov, T. Lesovoy, M. Azimov, F. Zigangirov, M. Myasnikov, O. Zagorodnev, M. Nechipurenko and A. Goncharenko (Sataeva, 2017).

One stage in the development of physical culture and sports in Kazakhstan was to give new birth to national sports, which had been long and “happily” forgotten. Just before the start of the war, the traditional sports of the Union republics were rediscovered and national competitions gained massive popularity as the skill and achievements of the participants grew. National competitions began to acquire a massive character. Representatives from almost all regions of Kazakhstan took part in championships in Kazakhsha-kures wrestling, tayakzhugurtu (throwing sticks in the snow), Toguz-kumalak board game and many equestrian sports. A new stage in the development of national sports in Kazakhstan began in 1944. Republican physical education organizations developed new competition rules for the main national sports and games (Archive of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, n. d., pp. 53-54).

Consequently, from 1934 to 1957, traditional spartakiads were held on a regular basis in Central Asian republics and Kazakhstan. The activity of the participants in the 9th Central Asian Olympics proves the decision of the Soviet leadership to end the competition in this direction to be wrong (Table 1).

Table 1. Central Asian teams' results in spartakiads (1934-1957)

Republic	1934	1943	1944	1945	1948	1950	1952	1954	1957
	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX
Uzbek SSR	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
Kazakh SSR	Out of competition	1	2	2	2	1	2	2	2
Kirghiz SSR	2	3	3	3	3	3	4	3	3
Tajik SSR	4	5	5	4	4	4	5	4	4
Turkmen SSR	3	4	4	5	—	5	3	5	5
Karakalpak ASSR	3	As part of the Uzbek SSR							

From 1948 onwards, the emphasis was put on reinforcing activity of republican physical culture organizations, especially of the rural ones, on the creation of sports sections of national sports, the improvement of training, as well as the involvement of Kazakh youth in sports. In 1949, "Concise collection of national sports" was issued, definitively confirming their status and supporting their further development. In 1958, in Moscow, the 1st All-Union equestrian sports competition was held among kolhozs (collective farms), sovkhozs (state farms) and stud farms, where participants competed in kokpar, sayis, baiga on 7-kilometer distance, kyz-kuu, kyz-zharys. In 1960, anniversary Spartakiad in national sports was held dedicated to the 40th anniversary of the Kazakh SSR, where baiga on 7- and 16-kilometer

distances, zhorga-zharys, kazaksha-kures, kokpar, sayis, and togyz-kumalak were introduced as obligatory qualifying sports (Sholomitskiy, 1972). Organization of national competitions did correspond with the entire sports life of the state. Through setting records, athletes were to prove the achievements of the Soviet state in general and particularly in sports. The role and importance of national sports were gradually decreasing since their traditional component was not tied to the international sports movement, and, as a consequence, the national sports were replaced by conventional sports.

## 5. Conclusions

The absence of summarizing works on the history of physical culture and sports in Kazakhstan historiography needs the professional address of historians. Regarding the history of Soviet sports and physical culture in the period from the 1940s to 1980s, its rapid development should be taken into account. The unprecedented high popularity of physical exercise among the strata of the Soviet population still seems impressive. However, no matter how intensively the sports were promoted by the state, such a quick success of sports in the country would have been impossible without the wide "bottom-up" movement. An ordinary Soviet citizen used physical education as a means of coping with difficulties, a way to distract himself or herself from everyday worries. For some, sports became a career, professional paid work.

The supervision over physical culture and sports often had campaign nature. Physical activity developed under such slogans as "Mass scale is the foundation for mastery!", "It's not the winning but the taking part that counts". During the period from 1960 to 1970, physical culture and sports in cities were successfully developing. The same characterizes rural regions as well but to a

smaller extent.

To summarize, national sports did not become widespread, yet were revisited to a certain extent in the 1940s and 1950s. Having analyzed the Soviet model of state policy on sports, one can conclude that the Soviet “exemplars” of physical culture and sports were considered to be a fetish, which led to the expansion of mass sports movement. This, in turn, led to ignoring national sports and the real potential of the republic. We conclude that when setting objectives to maintain the physical culture and sports in the Kazakh SSR, the republican interests “national in their form and socialist in content” gradually merged into the background. Instead, those interests were replaced by the following Soviet ideological concept: “The USSR is a powerful united sports state”.

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