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Demographical properties of West Turkistan

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Abstract

After 1990, fifteen states gained their independence from the former Soviet Union. The Central Asian countries which include Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan were among those states. These five countries cover an area of 4 million square kilometer and have a population of 60 million.

The population of West Turkistan was 49.4 million according to the last census statistics during the former Soviet Union period in 1989. This number has risen up to 59.3 million according the latest census in 2005. During the same period, the population of Russian federation decreased from 147 million to 143.4 million and the population in Ukraine declined from 51.7 million to 47.4 million. In the last fifteen years not only the population increased but also the demography changed in West Turkistan. While the population rate of Turks and Muslim ethnic minorities increased the Orthodox Christians and Slavic (Russian, Ukrainian etc.) population rate has decreased. The main cause is the birth rate and the migrations to Russian federation.

In this study, these five countries in West Turkistan have been investigated in details in terms of population, population density, age and gender properties, birth rate, population growth rate, rural and urban population, migrations, language, religion and ethnic structures in population growth effect between the years 1989-2005.

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Keywords: demography; west turkistan, independence; population

1. Introduction

Turkistan means the homeland of Turks and is situated in the Middle Asia. The borders of Turkistan start from the Caspian Lake in the west and includes *Tarım* and *Chungaria* basins in Uygur autonomous regions in the east of China, following Kopet mountains, Iran – Turkmenistan border in the South, containing North part of Afganistan towards east. Kazak plateau in North Kazakhstan forms the North border of Turkistan. This region covering 6 million km square with a semi-dry climate and wide steppe areas is called Turkistan.

The eastern part of Turkistan covers nearly 600.000 square km and is called Uygur Autonomous Region (Sing Yang) in the borders of China. The region containing mostly Uzbek Turks that is located in the North part of Afghanistan remains in the South borders of Turkistan. West Turkistan can be called as Soviet Turkistan, Eastern Turkistan as Chinese Turkistan and Southern Turkistan as Afghani Turkistan.

2. Study Area

The border distinguishing west part of Turkistan from the east contains high mountains starting from Alay Mountains in the North to Pamir mountainous area towards the northeast-southwest direction. Caspian lake in the west, high mountains in the South and in the east, covering 4 million square km. land surrounded by low plateaus of Kazakhstan in the North is called West Turkistan. West Turkistan is consisted of the Kazakhzstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan Republics became independent after the collapse of USSR in 1991 .

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Table: 1 The Areas, Population and Density of the Countries in West Turkistan

Name of the Country	Area km2	Population (000) 1989 Census	Population (000) 2009 Guess	A rithmetic Population Density km2
Kazakhstan	2.717.300	16.536	15.400	6
Turkmenistan	488.100	3.534	4.885	11
Uzbekistan	447.400	19.905	27.606	62
Kyrgyzstan	198.400	4.290	5.432	25
Tajikistan	143.100	5.190	7.349	49
Total	3 994 300	49 455	60 672	15

Source:The Agency on Statistics of the Republic of Kazakhstan: http://www.kazstat.asdc.kz/



Figure 1. Commonealth of Independent States- Central Asian States

3. Method

In this study, the changes and factors that were influential in this process that took place in the demographic structure of five countries in west Turkistan in 1989 – 2009 periods were examined.

Out of the census statistics made in the U.S.S.R period on 12th January, 1989, the data related to population was estimated according to uncertain guesses. In west Turkistan region, Turkmenistan, which gained independence after 1991, the census statistics were done in 1995 and 2012, in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan 1999 and 2009, in Tajikistan 2000 and 2010. The data about Uzbekistan was based on guesses.

4. Findings

4.1. Demographic Structure of West Turkistan in Russian Tsardom and U.S.S.R Periods.

In the period of Russian Tsardom, The Russian followed a policy to make Turkistan region that was invaded gradually throughout the 19th century. 300.000 people before 1896, 206 thousand people in between 1896-1905 and 834 thousand people between 1906-1916 were placed to West Turkistan. Most of this population were Slavic race and placed to the most beneficial lands of West Turkistan whereas the Muslim Turkish population was relegated to deserted and poor lands [1].

This migrations went on during the U.S.S.R. period in the mentioned republics at significant rates of communities of Russian and Slavic race. In the Middle Eastern Republics, the local communities were dealing with agriculture and Slavic people were dealing with industry in big cities. This economical structure caused the Middle Eastern parts be dependent to other industrial regions of U.S.S.R mainly The Russian Federation. As a natural result of this, financially underdevelopment of the region and being too much dependent to the centre was inevitable [2].

The effect of U.S.S.R over the demographic structure of West Turkistan in the 20th century became more than in the Tsardom period. As seen in table 2, in the 1926-1959 periods, the demographic structure forced to alter against Turkish population with compulsory communal migrations after the Second World War. Significant rates of people from Russian origin placed to the fertile agricultural basins and big cities of West Turkistan. Even in the reign of Stalin, a number of German, Korean and such minorities as political opponents were sent to some parts of west Turkistan especially to Kazakhstan. In this process, not only political opponents but also

ordinary prisoners were sent to the region and west Turkistan was used as a place for refugees.

In table 2, although Slavic people in between 1959 and 1989 period raised from 6 million 265 thousand to 9 million 517 thousand but proportionally decreased from 27.2 % to 19.4%. Besides some factors, the high fertility rates of the Turkish compared to the Russian became influential. In this period, being nearly half of the population in Kazakhstan belong to Russian origin and in the regions of fertile agricultural lands and mine deposits, nearly half of the total population are the Russian is the result of this migration policy.

4.2. West Turkistan's Population Features after Independence

Population increase in 1989-2009 period reached to the highest rates in Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. Tajikistan had the highest population increase as a result of agriculture based economy and with a high rural population. The government in Turkmenistan supports population increase. Consequently Turkmen ethnic group has an increasing rate in the total population. The lowest rate of population increase is in Kazakhstan. The Slavic population with 30 % rate in the population has a low rate of population increase and their movement to their own countries after 1991.

The country with a highest percentage of birth is Tajikistan. This caused a high rate of young population in the country. When the death rates examined the highest rate of death is in Kazakhstan. With the influence of Russian culture the high rate of alcoholism caused especially males have a high percentage of death. Some of the people from varied ethnic groups placed or relegated in the reign of U.S.S.R started to go back from West Turkistan to their countries. In Kazakhstan, which contain the most varied ethnic structure caused The Kazak people increase in number whereas the whole population of the country decreased as a result of migration of ethnic groups mainly the Slavic communities to their countries.

Table: 2 The Number of Russian Population in West Turkistan according to the U.S.S.R census statistics

Name of the country	1926		1959		1979		1989	
	Population	%	Population	%	Population	%	Population	%
Kazakhstan	1 214	20	4 014	43.1	5 991	40.0	6 228	37.8
Uzbekistan	273	6	1 011	13.6	1 665	10.8	1 652	8.3
Kyrgyzstan	120	12	624	30.2	911	25.9	916	21.5
Turkmenistan	79	8	263	17.3	349	12.6	334	9.5
Tajikistan	10	0.8	263	13.3	395	10.4	386	7.6
Total	1 698	12.3	6 265	27.2	9 312	23.2	9 517	19.4

Women Fertility Rates: Fertility is a term used that take place in a particular region or in a country's population and expressing the number of births. In under developed and developing countries in the world, the birth rate is high whereas in developed and wealthy countries it is less. The fertility may indicate short term increase and decreases in the population structure of countries. Opposite of the deaths, births can be determined by a manageable series of social, political and financial reasons as well as physiological and psychological factors. In the fertility rate, the number of children in a family and in decisions about birth, many factors are influential. The main reasons of them are cultural and moral values, beliefs, financial conditions, education level, social environment etc.

Table: 3 Population Properties of Turcic Republics in West Turkistan, Russia and Ukrain

name of the country	population increase rate %	birth rate (1000)	death rate (1000)	migration rate (1000)	woman fertility rate
Uzbekistan	1.67	26.22	7.95	-1.61	2.94
Kazakhstan	0.30	15.78	9.46	-3.34	1.89
Kyrgyzstan	1.29	22.48	7.13	-2.47	2.70
Turkmenistan	1.81	27.68	8.78	-0.81	3.41
Tajikistan	2.15	32.58	8.39	-2.67	4.05
Rusya	-0.37	9.80	14.52	1.03	1.27
Ukrain	-0.63	10.49	16.42	-0.38	1.40

As seen in table 3, the population increase rate is at the highest level in Tajikistan and Turkmenistan as well as indicating the highest fertility rate. In the countries where the fertility rate of women is over 2, 2 there is a

tendency of population increase and in the countries under 2,2 there is a tendency of decrease. This is noticeably clear in Russia. The negative population increase in Russia has taken place since 1985. If this tendency goes on, the Russian population will decrease to 98 million in 2050, 125 million in 2025, from 143.4 million according to 2005 statistics. According to Anatoly Vishnevski, the chairman of Russian Sciences Academy, Demography and Ecology centre, the only choice in order to protect this level of population is accepting 700000 to 1000000 immigrants every year [3]. .

Median Age: When all the individuals forming the population of a country, arranged according to their ages in other words from the youngest baby to the oldest one, the age of the individual just in the middle called the median age. This way, half of the population is under the median age, the other above it. It is clear that when the median age decreases the population is young whereas it is considered old when it increases [4].

In west Turkistan, the highest median age of the population is Kazakhstan with 28.52 averages. It is not because of the average living Standard, the reason for that is the birth rates and young population in Kazakhstan are at a relatively low level. In other four countries out of Kazakhstan the median age values are noticeably low; in Kyrgyzstan 23.39, Uzbekistan 22,36, Turkmenistan 21.56 and Tajikistan 19.73 (table 4). When the median age is 38.15 in Russia and 38.22 in Ukraine, considered population age percentage in West Turkistan is twice less than those countries mentioned.

Table: 4 Population Properties of West Turkistan Republics, Russia and Ukraine

name of the country	median age	average life time (Year)			baby deaths (1000)
		male	female	average	
Uzbekistan	22.36	60.82	67.73	64.19	71.10
Kazakhstan	28.52	61.21	72.20	66.55	29.21
Kyrgyzstan	23.39	64.16	72.38	68.16	35.64
Turkmenistan	21.56	58.02	64.93	61.39	73.08
Tajikistan	19.73	61.68	67.59	64.56	110.76
Russia	38.15	60.55	74.04	67.1	15.39
Ukrain	38.22	61.6	72.38	66.85	20.34

Average Life Time: Average life time in industrialized and high welfare countries is long, in underdeveloped and developing countries this period is relatively short. In this, such factors as nutrition, working conditions, health services etc. are influential. It is also observed that female population among the old population are more and the average lifetime of females is more than 5 or 10 years more than males.

Average lifetime throughout West Turkistan is below 70 years and this rate is rather lower than the developed countries. Kyrgyzstan has the highest average life time of 68.16 years. Then comes Kazakhstan 66.55 years, Tajikistan 64.56 years, Uzbekistan 64.19 years and Turkmenistan 61.39 years. Although the national income is lower, the population in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan has a longer life time due to some reasons as the average elevation is high, the land structure is mountainous, lands with rich vegetation and clean air, water resources and relatively less damaged environment etc. The water of The Seyhun (Siriderya) and Ceyhun (Amuderya) rivers that feed Lake Aral started to be used in cotton agriculture in arid areas of desert character such as Karakum in Turkmenistan and over use of water caused decrease in water level and chemical waste led to a big environmental disaster after the recession of Aral, then rapid increase of cancer cases took place with deaths in very young ages in the region [5].

4.3. Age Features in West Turkistan

Age structure of the population: When the population of West Turkistan is classified according to the age groups, it indicates a young and improving structure. As a matter of fact, when the mentioned five countries' age structure is examined, it is clear that the children rate is high, old population rate is low and the population tends to increase.

As seen in table 5, in five countries that form West Turkistan, the highest young population with 34.3 % is Tajikistan. This country is at first sight in terms of population increase and birth rates. Then come the following countries; Kyrgyzstan 29.7, Turkmenistan 28.9 % and Kazakhstan 21.8 % with the lowest rate. 28-30 % of the total population is young population. Kazakhstan has the lowest rate of young population. Especially that Slavic population's below zero birth rates led this condition. When the young population rates 14 % in Russia and % 15 in Ukraine is considered, the difference between the former Soviet Republics can be seen.

Adult Population: Kazakhstan has the highest rate of adult population (70.2 %). But because the number of young population is low and less birth rates will cause the decrease of adult population rates. But the adult population rate will inrease in countries as Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. Adult population rate is 67 % and below 65 % in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Because of the fact that young population will be involved in active population and the young population in age structure will have a decreasing rate however there will possibly be a particular increase in adult population rates [6].

Table-5 The Percentage of Population over Age Groups in West Turkistan (% 2009)*

Country	0 - 14 age young population	15 - 64 age grown population	65 years and over old age
Uzbekistan	28.1	67.0	4.9
Kazakhstan	21.8	70.2	8.0
Kyrgyzstan	29.7	64.5	5.8
Turkmenistan	28.9	66.8	4.3
Tajikistan	34.3	62.1	3.6

* Bulletin of Eurasia - 2004, Ankara

Old population, 65 years and more is below 10 % in all of the five countries. The old people rate is at highest in Kazakhstan with 8 %. Then come Kyrgyzstan 5.8 %, Uzbekistan 4.9 %, Turkmenistan 4.3% and Tajikistan 3.6 % with the lowest rate. The reason of Kazakhstan having old population at higher rates is the effect of Russian, Ukrainian and German originated Kazaki citizens in the North parts of the country. With the developments in urbanization, health and the increase in welfare standards, in the future the old people rate is supposed to be increasing. In between 1940 and 1945, during the war years, the population decreased relatively and then increased rapidly after 1945. According to this in all countries the old population will increase rapidly after 2010. The old population rate is low at rapidly growing countries and high at non growing populations respectively. Consequently, with the population rates, Russia 14% and Ukrain 15 % are examples for this.

4.4. Age structure and Gender Features of Population

Male population is more at 0-40 age group and female population is more over 40 year old age groups in general. In the 0-14 age group, male population is more among young population. Among 15-64 age group female population is slightly more than males. But females are clearly more than males over 65 year group.

Table: 6 The Number of Population According to Age Groups and Gender (Thousand)*

Name of the country	0-14 age		15-64 AGE		65 years and over	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Kazakhstan	1 884	1.807	5 028	5 268	405	750
Uzbekistan	4 583	4.418	7 990	8 157	513	748
Turkmenistan	905	858	1 424	1 477	77	123
Kyrgyzstan	835	804	1 535	1 595	120	190
Tajikistan	1.384	1.361	1 958	1 976	146	187
Total	9 591	9 248	17 935	18 473	1 281	1 998

* The Agency on Statistics of the Republic of Kazakhstan: http://www.kazstat.asdc.kz/

As seen in table 6, male population is clearly more in young population whereas there is a balance relatively in 15-64 age groups. In 65 years and over, the number of women is noticeably twice as much as Kazakhstan.

4.5. Rural - Urban Population

In west Turkistan rural and urban settlements vary between regions and countries to a great extent. The general features of rural areas with a high population are relatively poor districts that people deal with agriculture and stockbreeding and have underdeveloped industry. In the countries where the rural areas have more than 50 % population increase is rapid, national income for individuals are low, average life time is short and the number of baby deaths are common. Social, cultural and financial reasons are influential in that.

Table: 7 Rural and Urban Population Rates in West Turkistan (1990-2010)

Name of the Country	1990		2010		1990		2010	
	Rural Population	%	Rural Population	%	Urban Population	%	Urban Population	%
Uzbekistan	12 274	59.8	17 720	43.8	8 241	40.2	10 075	36.2
Kazakhstan	7 229	43.7	6 587	41.5	9 301	56.3	9 217	58.5
Tajikistan	3 624	68.3	5 213	73.7	1 679	31.7	1 862	26.3
Kyrgistan	2 734	62.2	3 633	65.5	1 660	37.8	1 918	34.5
Turkmenistan	2 015	54.9	2 614	50.5	1 653	45.1	2 562	49.5
Total	27 876	55.3	35 767	58.2	22 534	44.7	25 634	41.8

Source: United Nations – Depertman of Economic and Social Affairs Population Division, 2009, Urban and Rural Areas

Rural population increased to 35.767.000 from 27.876.000 in between 1990 and 2010 period. Rural population rate again rised up to 58.2% from 55.3 %. The highest rate of rural population is in Tajikistan is 73.7 %. The countries; Kyrgyzstan 65.5 %, Turkmenistan 50.5%, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan have the lowest rate of rural population. Rural population is widely seen in the semiarid steppe areas of Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, mountain skirts and valley bases in Tajikistan [7].

While the urban population rates are rising with rapid migrations from rural areas to the cities, conversely, in West Turkistan the urban population decreased from 44.7% to 41.8 % in the last 20 years. Kazakhstan has the highest urban population with 58.5 %. The populations of most of the cities dealing with mine as Karaganda city are influential in this. Although the city population increased to 25.534.000 from 22.534.00 in between 1990 and 2010 period, proportionally it is decreased from 44.7 % to 41.8 %. The Russian and other non Turkish ethnic groups' moving to their homelands and the low rate of fertility became influential in that.

The biggest cities are the capital cities in the region in2009. The population in the capital cities are; Tashkent-Uzbekistan: 1.383.000, Bishkek-Kyrgyzstan: 854.000, Dushanbe-Tajikistan: 704.000, Asghabat-Turkmenistan: 637.000. Almati city, the former capital of Kazakhstan was in the southeast and in the earthquake line so Astana (650.000) was chosen as the capital city which is located in the central part of the country. Astana is a rapidly growing city with its modern buildings in West Turkistan [8]. .

In the Russian sovereignty the region became a relegation place with the Russian immigrants and Slavic policies the population relegated to West Turkistan in Stalin's time from the World War II to 1957 when Stalin died. The population from Germany, Korea, Ahıska Turks were settled to other republics along with Kazakhstan. In 1990-2010 period most of the ethnic population out of Turks and non Muslims (Russian, Ukrainian, Belarus, German, Korean, etc.) moved to their own countries. As seen in Table 8, 1.641.000 Russian population moved only from Kazakhstan in 7 years [9].

Table : 8 The Population of the Russian moving from Kazakhstan

Year	Population
1993	170.000
1994	283.000
1995	162.000
1996	121.000
1997	175.000
1998	280.000
1999	450.000
Total	1.641.000

Source: IOM (Yiğit A. 2001)

Table: 9 The number and Rates of Slavic and Kazakh Population (000)*

Year	1926	%	1939	%	1959	%	1970	%	1979	%	1989	%	1999	%
Kazak	3.628	58,5	3.090	50,3	2.787	30,0	4.112	32,0	5.289	36,1	6.497	40,1	7.985	53,5
Russia Slavla	2.165	34,9	2.877	46,8	4.830	52,0	6.438	50,1	7.070	48,2	7.116	43,9	5.139	34,4
Others	405	6,5	179	2,9	1.678	18,0	2.300	17,9	2.296	15,7	2.586	16,0	1.829	12,1
Total	6.198	6.146		9.295		12.850		14.655		16.199			14.953	

* The Agency on Statistics of the Republic of Kazakhstan: http://www.kazstat.asdc.kz/

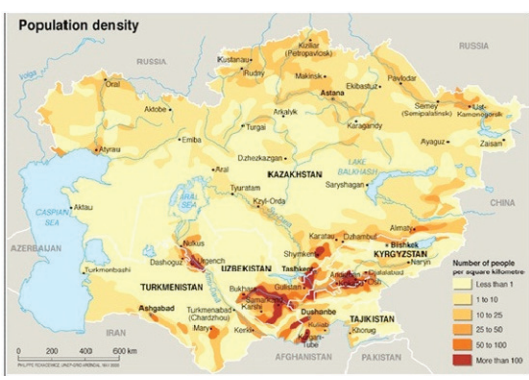


Figure 2. West Turkistan Population Density

Table: 10 Ethnic structure and Beliefs in the Countries in West Turkistan (2004)*

name of the countryı	religion
Kazakhstan	Etnich structure: Kazak people 53.4, % Russian 30 % Ukrainian 3.7%, Uzbek 2.5 %, German 2.4 %, Uygur 1.4%, others 6.6 % (1999 sayımı) Religion : İslam 47%; Russian Orthodox 44%; Protestant 2%; others, 7%.
Turkmenistan	Etnich structure:Turkmen 85%, Uzbek 5%, Russian 4%, Russian 6% (2003) Religion : İslam 89%, East orthodox 9%, unknown 2 %.
Uzbekistan	Etnich structure: Uzbek 80%, Russian 5.5%, Tajik 5%, Kazakh 3%, Karakalpak 2.5%, Tatar 1.5%, others 2.5% (1996) İslam % 88, East orthodox % 9, diğer % 3.
Kyrgyzstan	Etnich structure: Kırgız, 64.9%; Uzbek 13.8%; Russian 12.5 % and others 8.8% (1999 population census) İslam 75%; Russian Orthodox 20 %, others 5 %
Tajikistan	Etnich structure: Tajik 64.9%,Uzbek 25%, Russian 3.5 %, others 6.6%. İslam 90 (% Sünni 85%, Şii 5%) others 10%.

*The Agency on Statistics of the Republic of Kazakhstan: http://www.kazstat.asdc.kz/

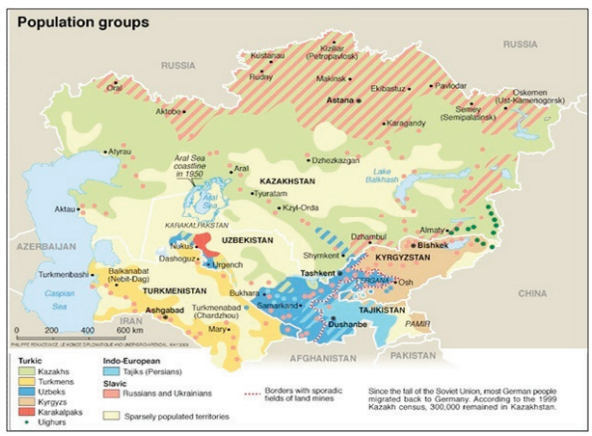


Figure:3 Regional Distribution of Population over Ethnic Groups in West Turkistan

4.6. Financial Structure of population in West Turkistan

Financial structure of the population of the region varies according to countries. Settlement features, urban-rural population rates are also influential in that. When the general financial activities of the population are examined, agriculture is very important in the countries with varying rates. In some countries, agriculture has the biggest portion while it is the secondary activity in other countries. In West Turkistan region, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan are the countries where agriculture is the most important activity. Industry has an increasing level of importance with the recent investments and activating basic resources with capital. Most of the population is employed in the industrial activities in Kazakhstan and other countries. With the contributions of these factors the service sector is getting developed especially in Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan [10].

Table -11 Sectorial Distribution of Working Population in West Turkistan Countries

Country	Year	agriculture	industry	service
Kazakhstan	2009	% 5	% 40.5	% 54.5
Uzbekistan	2009	% 26.8	% 39.5	% 33.7
Turkmenistan	2009	% 10	% 34	% 56
Tajikistan	2009	% 23	% 24.1	% 52.8
Kyrgyzstan	2009	% 3 0.7	% 15.9	% 53.4

Source: http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/kz.html

5. Conclusion

Five countries taking their independence in West Turkistan after the separation of USSR have a dynamic population structure that young population is at high rates whereas old population is at lower rates. The high young population rate indicates that the population will continue to increase. Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan have

lower population despite the natural resources and the area they cover. Uzbekistan has the highest population. Population increase is restrained with financial resources in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. There will be a migration process in the future because of the different financial structures of the countries and regions. Although there is a rapid urbanization trend in the world, rural population increased more in between 1990-2010 period.

There is a changing process in the ethnic and religion structure in the period after the 1991. Because the fertility rate of Muslim groups is high, their population growth is increasing whereas the Slavic –orthodox Christian population rate is decreasing. A part of the Slavic population is moving to Russia so the highest rate of population change takes place in Kazakhstan. On the other hand since there are no employment alternatives in the countries as Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, there is a workforce migration to Russia and Kazakhstan. West Turkistan has a capacity to shelter more than its current 60 million population with its wide farming lands, pastures, mines and energy resources.

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