

considered that children should not be spoiled with parents' attention, especially on the father's part. In many families (mainly in villages) the original hierarchy of relations was preserved: if children have a request they address it to the mother, who passes it on to the father. In modern families, the tradition of supporting the father's authority is preserved. Tatar families are quite stable. In Tatarstan the level of divorce is on average 1.5 to 2 times lower than in the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Latvia and Estonia. Along with emotional and spiritual factors, which provide stabilisation for the family, a definite part in the reinforcement of matrimonial unions is played by public opinion, which preserves a negative attitude towards divorce.

At the far extreme, the unacceptability of divorce is typical of representatives from elder generations. The close family ties among the Tatars are also a factor, contributing to the tightening of matrimonial relations. On the whole, at present the fundamental tendency in Tatar family life is a widespread distribution of more progressive norms of family life, combined with the preservation of many traditional elements.

Ethnic migration of Tatars: the historical picture restores in 400 years

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Tatars are the second ethnos in Russian Federation by the number. They constituted 3,8% from the total number of the population of Russia according to the All-Russian population census of 2002. In some regions of Russia their part in the total number of population was especially significant. It is proved by the following values: in the Republic of Tatarstan (52,9%), Bashkortostan (24,1%), Ulyanovskaya area (12,2%), Orenburgskaya area (7,6%), Tumenskaya area (7,4%), Udmurtia (7%), the Republic of Mari-El and Penzenskaya area (6%), Chelyabinskaya area (5,7%), Mordovia (5,2%).

According to the census of 2002, 73,2% of Tatars lived on the territory of the Privolzhsky federal area and 11,5% lived on the territory of the Urals federal area [8].

Tatars are connected with all Eurasia by its deep history and 1000 years old traditions and the script as well. Being the most northern outpost of Islam, Tatars and Tatarstan serve as the part of Islamic world and the great civilization of the East.

According to L.N.Gumilev theory of ethno genesis they can be included into strong ethnic systems that do not let alien elements come into their environment. Slow development of assimilation processes and absence of relict sub-ethnic groups among them proved it¹⁰⁶.

The Republic of Tatarstan is the center of Tatar nation and it is inconceivable to talk about them without each other. They have the most compact living in the Republic of Tatarstan. Two republics of Russian Federation – Tatarstan and Bashkortostan – have 53,8% (36% and 17,8%) of Tatars registered in Russian Federation. It is not by chance that in the base of the name of the Republic of Tatarstan lays the ethnic name of native population - Tatars¹⁰⁷.

Geography of Tatar settlements has peculiarities on the territory of the Republic of Tatarstan. Even in 20s of XX century it was hard to find Tatar settlements in the basins of the Volga river and in cities situated in this land. The explanation comes from the historical events that happened after Kazan khanate joined Russian state in 1552. Tatars were sent 50 miles far inland in order to provide safety of conquered lands by the decree of Ivan the Terrible¹⁰⁸.

There existed 3 main settlement distributions or territorial concentration of population. First of all, it is a land near Kazan that is a historical territory of Tatar nation, a field of formation of its national community. Secondly, Tatars have lived in the western part of Predvolzhie for a long time. Thus this territory is viewed as the second huge massif of Tatar population settlement. The main regions of settlement of Tatars since historical times have been Zakazanie and Predkamie (poor areas of the Republic) – was founded in the period of XV-XVI centuries¹⁰⁹.

The third massif is situated in the extreme eastern part of the Republic of

¹⁰⁶ Gumilev L.N. Ethno-genesis and biosphere of the Earth/L.N.Gumilev. – Saint-Petersburg: Crystal, 2001. – 640 p.

¹⁰⁷ Biktimirov N.M. Ethno-demographical development of population of the Republic of Tatarstan in XX century. A monograph / N.M.Biktimirov. – Kazan: Editorial-publishing center 'School', 2008. – 195 p.

¹⁰⁸ Tatars of Middle Povolzhie and Priuralje. – M.: Science, 1967.

¹⁰⁹ Lyalikov N.I. Povolzhie (Middle and Low)/N.I.Lyalikov. – M.: Central Press named after Voroshilov, 1946. – 43 p. – p.10-11.