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## Censorship of the Soviet Union in Kazakhstan

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## Abstract

**Relevance.** The relevance of this article is conditioned upon the study of the mechanism of censorship of the Soviet Union as a factor of distortion of the historical reality of Kazakhstan during the Soviet period and the need in the conditions of independence of Kazakhstan to restore its authentic history.

**Purpose.** The purpose of the article is to study the mechanism of censorship of the Soviet Union in Kazakhstan.

**Methodology.** The leading method to study this problem is the ideographic method, which allows reconstructing the phenomenon of censorship in the Soviet period and to investigate it comprehensively, studying the mechanism of censorship simultaneously in the Soviet Union as a whole, and in Kazakhstan as one of its republics, in particular. Both in the theoretical and empirical part of the study, analysis and synthesis were used as necessary general scientific methods. To organise the information obtained during the analysis of archival documents, the method of systematisation was used.

**Results.** The article suggested a classification of censorship by the type of information to which it is applied; the penalties applied to "violators" of censorship in the USSR are determined; 578 documents from four archival collections of Russia and Kazakhstan containing data on the period of development of Soviet censorship in Kazakhstan are selected and examined; the main directions that fell into the hands of archival sources are established under the censorship of the Soviet Union in Kazakhstan.

**Conclusions.** The materials of the article can become the basis for further research in the field of history, political science, etc., devoted to the study of censorship in Kazakhstan, both exclusively during the Soviet Union, and when comparing

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various historical stages. The results obtained in the course of the study can be used in universities of Kazakhstan in the preparation of classes in history, political science, etc.

**Keywords:** total control; totalitarian regime; prohibition; state ideology; archival data.

## **Introduction**

When studying the history of the state as a whole or its individual aspects, historians, political scientists, jurists, including researchers in other fields, strive to get closer to the historical truth and display it in their scientific works. Censorship imposed at the state level has a mechanism of action that directly affects the change of historical, political, philosophical, scientific and other aspects of public life. The study of such phenomena that can significantly affect public consciousness and historical reality is a necessary task for researchers seeking historical accuracy in the study of certain facts, events, periods in history [1].

In the history of the development of Kazakhstan as an independent state today, there are many gaps that need to be filled. These, in particular, include information that was censored during the Soviet Union. Censorship of the Soviet Union, or the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), is defined as the control of Soviet and party organs of the USSR over the content and dissemination of information, including printed materials, musical and stage works, works of fine art, cinematographic and photographic works, radio and television broadcasts, to suppress all sources of information, alternative official, limiting or preventing the dissemination of ideas and information considered harmful or undesirable [2].

From such a definition of censorship, it is difficult to establish an exclusively negative meaning of the phenomenon under study, since the system of legal regulation of the state requires a mechanism regulating the dissemination of such information, such as: state secrets, propaganda of violence, hatred, cruelty, enmity, etc. However, in the conditions of the totalitarian structure of the state, imposing the state ideology, censorship goes beyond the normative, adequate control and takes on a total character. During the Soviet Union, almost all publications, radio and television programs were censored, only information calling for state ideology and propagandising it was allowed to be published, since, according to the authorities of that historical stage, it was she who contributed to the development of the correct public consciousness. The high role of the press in the dissemination of information and the fact that in the Soviet Union all publishing houses were state-owned ensured the smooth functioning of the censorship system in the USSR.

Book publishing, materials from library collections, the education system and other sources of information affecting the public masses also succumbed to censorship. A high-ranking employee of the Main Directorate for Literature and Publishing in the Soviet Union (Glavlit) V. Solodin claimed that "censorship has never controlled technical and scientific literature", however, a number of researchers note that entire areas in such sciences as nuclear physics, psychology, sociology, cybernetics, biology and genetics have been censored [3].

The main advantage of the censorship of the USSR, ensuring its inviolability and permissiveness, was the assistance of the repressive organs of the party, which,

firstly, had a decisive role in the mechanism of Soviet political censorship, and secondly, as an organ occupied a place in the system of public administration. The lack of clear legislative bases of activity, the dictates of party bodies inherent in the bureaucratic environment, led to the fact that almost any information could be declared ideologically incorrect [4]. Some researchers resort to the study of censorship to study the technology of this phenomenon, that is, directly the mechanism of influence on society, the methods and techniques used in this. This research is aimed at studying censorship as a tool of political influence for processing, concealment, prohibition, destruction of information important for understanding historical reality.

The main difficulty in studying this topic is the massive secrecy of censorship archives. In addition, according to the Decree on the Press, Glavlit destroyed a huge number of censored documents [5]. In 1990, by a secret decree "On the archives of Glavlit", it was allowed to move all archival files related to office work with the party and state bodies of the republic from the list of cases subject to permanent storage to "not to store for more than three years" [6]. Since a temporary period was set for the storage of archival files, the heads of local authorities were given the right to liquidate them in any order. As a result, many valuable historical and literary documents were lost. Thus, the study of censorship of the Soviet period in Kazakhstan is relevant for the reconstruction of the historical realities of the state.

## **Materials and Methods**

Analysis and synthesis are general methods of scientific cognition. In the course of writing this paper, the theoretical data necessary for further practical research were selected and studied. By the method of analysis, various aspects of the object, which together form a single whole, are identified and investigated. The synthesis method was used to combine previously selected aspects of the object. The use of such methods together allows a comprehensive study of the object, examining all sides of the analysed problem at the first stage and evaluating it as a whole at the second stage. This determines the subsequent holistic study of the object. Analysis and synthesis are applied at all stages of scientific cognition, are used both in thought and in practical, in particular experimental, activities [7].

To study the history of the Soviet Union and Kazakhstan in the framework of this work, various documents of historical significance were examined in archival collections, such as: the Russian State Library (fund of rare and valuable editions of manuscripts, branch of Khimki); the Municipal State Institution "Center for Documentation of Modern History"; the National Library of the Republic of Kazakhstan (fund of rare books and manuscripts); Regional Museum of Local Lore of Semey (archive). 578 archival sources for the period from 1917 to 1956 were selected and studied for the study. The selected time period is notable for pivotal historical events in

Kazakhstan, including its integration into the RSFSR in 1917 and its subsequent shift to the Kazakh SSR in 1936. The timeline encompasses key milestones such as the formation of the Soviet Union in 1922 and the rise of N.S. Khrushchev as the first secretary of the CPSU Central Committee in 1953. The period of his reign is not fully covered for study in the framework of this work, but until 1956, when at the XX Party Congress N.S. Khrushchev criticized the cult of personality and Joseph Vissarionovich Stalin. To organise the scientific knowledge obtained during the study of archival data, systematisation is used. Thus, by the method of systematisation, archival documents are structured by type, and the main directions that fall under the censorship of the Soviet Union in Kazakhstan are highlighted.

The study of censorship in Kazakhstan is based on an ideographic method – a method of cognition based on emphasizing the uniqueness and even uniqueness (uniqueness, absolute uniqueness) of each of the real phenomena, processes and events [8]. The main means and operations of this method are the description of a cognizable object with its binding to a specific space and time, the reconstruction of this object as a relatively closed, integral system of properties and relationships, its immersion as an element in some equally unique, but broader reality – the context of being a cognizable object [9]. This method is used to study the censorship of the Soviet period in Kazakhstan as a system functioning in accordance with the general mechanism of censorship of the Soviet Union, but having its own characteristics.

## **Results and Discussion**

In Kazakhstan, as in all states of the Soviet period, any information could fall under censorship – from an entire article, a literary work to individual sentences or phrases of a text. Among the spheres of public life, censorship has had a greater impact on the system of mass media (mass media) and publishing. The prose and poetry of Kazakh authors of the early twentieth century, affecting social issues, was subjected to large-scale censorship by the state. Employees of the Glavlit or the Kazan Provisional Committee for Press Affairs, which was charged with the duties of applying censorship to Kazakh books before their publication, checked the meaning of the works submitted to the editorial office for "tendentiousness", "questionable places", "bad hints" [10]. Finding such moments in the books later entailed the application of mandatory measures to eliminate them. Such measures could serve: before printing – cutting out the text of "inappropriate content" from the book, replacing the "anti-state" text with more acceptable for printing, confiscation of the work; after printing – seizure and destruction of books, prohibition of their sale and distribution, prosecution.

As noted earlier, the state policy of the Soviet Union was aimed at the use of censorship in all areas of social reality. In accordance with this, the following types of censorship are distinguished by the nature of regulated information: military, state, economic, commercial, political, ideological, moral, spiritual [11]. In conditions of total control of information, it seems appropriate to classify censorship by the type of such information. Thus, censorship can be distinguished: personal correspondence (perlustration), works of art, the press, educational

literature and scientific works [12]. Each type of information is of interest for research, because during its study it is possible to discover previously unknown facts that may have important historical, political or social significance. In Kazakhstan, in the period from 1917 to 1956, censorship was applied to all types of information.

According to some researchers, the system of perlustration in the USSR was quite developed, only in 1923-1924 more than 5 million letters and more than 8 million telegrams were viewed by special bodies [13]. Archival documents related to perlustration were not subject to public review, and, accordingly, publication. When studying the phenomenon of perlustration of the Soviet period, researchers can rely solely on the few data provided by eyewitnesses of that time. One of these was L. Avzegez [14], who worked in 1946-1952 in the Department of Political Control in Chita. In his memoirs, he writes: "I am ready to be a witness at any trial where there will be a question of violation in the USSR of one of the most elementary human rights – the right to secrecy of correspondence. I am ready to present evidence that a citizen of the USSR does not have such a right. More precisely, it formally exists and is even written down in article 128 of the Soviet constitution, but next to this there is a secret, widely branched political organization armed with the most modern technical means in the country, which negates this right of a Soviet person".

L. Avzegez [14] notes that there was no such language that could become a barrier in the work of Soviet censorship: "In our national group... there were censors who spoke almost all the languages of the peoples of the USSR: Tatar, Uzbek, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Mongolian, Yakut, Chuvash, Mordovian, Georgian, Armenian, Azerbaijani, Yiddish, Polish". Thus, it becomes obvious that the personal correspondence of the Kazakhs was part of the general system of perlustration of the Soviet Union.

The largest number of artistic works subject to censorship in Soviet Kazakhstan are literary texts of various forms and genres, however, many works in the field of music and theater also fell into the "black list" explained by inconsistency with Soviet ideology. Thus, Kazakh plays and operas written on the theme of war are forbidden to be shown on stage: A. Abisheva and M. Auezova "Namys guards" ("Honorary Guardsman"), M. Auezova "Son of sagata" ("Critical hour"), S. Mukanova "Guard alga" ("Guard forward"), A. Abisheva "Kyragylyk" ("Vigilance"), etc. The book of the Kazakh musicologist A. K. Zhubanova "Kazak sazgerlerin omiri men shygarmashylygy" ("The life and work of Kazakh folk composers"), for which he was later awarded the degree of art critic, was also subjected to thorough censorship, its pages 3-13 were deleted "for propaganda of hatred against the Russian people" because of Kenesary Khan [15].

The information published in the print media did not at all stages of the existence of the Soviet Union succumb to the censorship that preceded the press. In 1956, during the reign of N.S. Khrushchev, the newspaper "Kazakh Adebieti" ("Kazakh Adebieti" or "Kazakh Literature") published articles that raised acute social national issues of Kazakh society. Among such issues were: culture and literature of the Kazakh nation, the decline of Kazakh schools, a sharp reduction in the number of hours of Kazakh language and literature, the translation of some

republican newspapers and magazines ("Kazakhstan mugalimi", "Kazakhstan Kommunisi", etc.) from Russian into Kazakh, the destruction of the normal language environment of Kazakhs in the central and northern regions of Kazakhstan and others. In the designated year, R. Berdibayev's articles "En ulken madeni baylyk" ("The greatest spiritual wealth"), A. Narymbetova "Ana tilin ardaktayyk" ("Let's honor the native language"), M. Karataeva "Kaita karady kazhet etetin masele" ("A question requiring revision"), an article by a group of researchers at the Institute of History – T. Kakisheva, R. Sarsenbayeva, H. Khasenova, T. Alimkulova, A. Baishina, A. Mukhtarova, K. Abildaeva, K. Aliaskarova – "Til madenieti" ("Language culture"), etc. In connection with the published articles at the end of 1956, the Central Committee of the CPSU adopted a secret resolution "On the mistakes of the newspaper "Kazakh Adebieti", by which the editor of the newspaper "Kazakh Adebieti" S. Maulenov, his deputy Zh. Moldagaliev, Executive Secretary T. Abdrakhmanova, researcher T. Kakishev were dismissed "for ideological mistakes" [16].

The functioning of censorship in the conditions of the totalitarian regime affected the activities of Kazakh schools and the content of educational literature. The process of education in educational institutions has become one of the tools of the state for the approval of the state ideology. The information given to schoolchildren in textbooks was aimed at educating the younger generation of a sense of commitment to everything Soviet and vice versa, a sense of patriotism based on faith in Soviet ideology, affirmation in the minds of students of the immutable truths of the political system of the USSR. Books by representatives of the Alash party and those who were considered "enemies of the people" were excluded from the curricula of the 1930s of the twentieth century (S. Seifullin, H. Dosmukhamedov, A. Baitursynov et al.). Kazakh schools were also affected by repression as a consequence of the state censorship of the intelligentsia. In the 1935-1936 academic year, the first 11 children graduated from Kazakh secondary school, in the 1936-1937 academic year the number of graduates almost reached 40 children [17], Scientific activity in the Soviet Union was also carried out under the direct control of the state. Thus, the works of the Kazakh historian of the twentieth century, Ye. Bekmakhanov, in particular his works "XIX g. 20-40 lj. Kazakhstan" ("Kazakhstan in the 20-40s of the XIX century") and "History of the Kazakh SSR" fell under censorship.

In 1951, 2.5 thousand copies of the book "XIX g. 20-40 LJ Kazakhstan" were seized and destroyed from libraries and book collections, 12 articles of the newspaper "Izvestia" were destroyed, of which 10 were published, 499 copies of the journals "Bulletin of the Kazakh SSR" and "Scientific Notes". The reason for such a censorship purge was the accusation of the historian of "bourgeois ultranationalism", reflected in the book "XIX. 20-40 lj. Kazakhstan", and the presence of inappropriate information in the "History of the Kazakh SSR – a section about the uprising led by the Kazakh figure of the XIX century Kenesary Kasymov. Some sources note that 97,750 books on the history of Kazakhstan alone were destroyed in the 1950s [18].

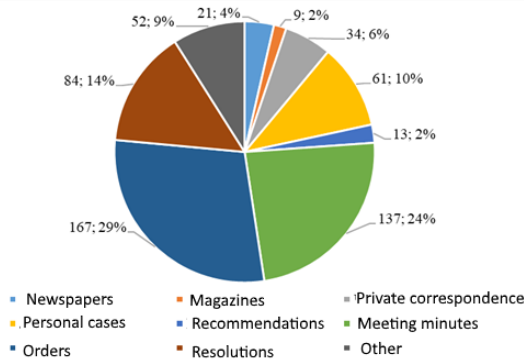
The analysis of the use of censorship of various kinds in the USSR makes it possible to classify it according to the methods of implementation. In accordance with this, there is a distinction between preliminary censorship and subsequent (punitive) censorship [3; 19]. Preliminary censorship in the Soviet Union is a prerequisite prior to the publication of any information, which the author of such information must fulfill in order to obtain permission to distribute it. Subsequent censorship consists in evaluating already published information and taking restrictive or prohibitive measures against a particular publication or work, withdrawing it from circulation, and applying sanctions against individuals or legal entities who violated censorship requirements when publishing it [20-23]. In the USSR as a whole, and in the Kazakh SSR in particular, subsequent (punitive) censorship was applied to printed publications after their publication, but before public publication. Non-compliance with censorship restrictions was accompanied by the seizure and destruction of information inconsistent with Soviet ideology, and the prosecution of its authors and publishers [24; 25].

The initiation of legal proceedings against such persons was carried out to a greater extent on charges of counter-revolutionary actions described in Article 58 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic [26]: "Any action aimed at overthrowing, undermining or weakening the power of the Workers' and Peasants' Soviets and the Workers' and Peasants' Councils existing on the basis of the Constitution of the RSFSR of the Peasant Government is recognised as counter-revolutionary, including actions aimed at helping that part of the international bourgeoisie that does not recognise the equality of the communist property system replacing capitalism and seeks to overthrow it through intervention or blockade, espionage, financing of the press, etc". According to part 1 of Article 58 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic [26], such an action was also recognised as counterrevolutionary, which, while not directly aimed at achieving the goals specified in Article 58 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic [26], but at the same time deliberately committed and contains an attempt on the main political or economic gains of the proletarian revolution.

Thus, in the Soviet Union, the censorship mechanism was an established system that consisted of daily checks of various sources of information in two designated ways and in case of detection of unacceptable content of subsequent punishments for those involved. The highest penalty in the territory of the Soviet Union was repression [27]. During the period under study – 1917-1956 – about 40 million citizens of the USSR were subjected to various degrees of repression. Among them, about 100 thousand people were convicted in Kazakhstan, more than 20 thousand of whom were shot, and other thousands were sentenced to imprisonment with the wording "without the right of correspondence" [28-30]. The first victims of repression were such Kazakh scientists and writers as A. Baitursynov, A. Bukeyhanov, M. Dulatov, M. Zhumabaev, Zh. Aimautov, K. and Zh. Dosmukhambetov, M. Tynyshepaev, K. Kemengerov, Sh. Kudaiberdiev [6]. In 1928-1931, during the period of the beginning of repressions against "counter-revolutionaries" in Kazakhstan, the authorised

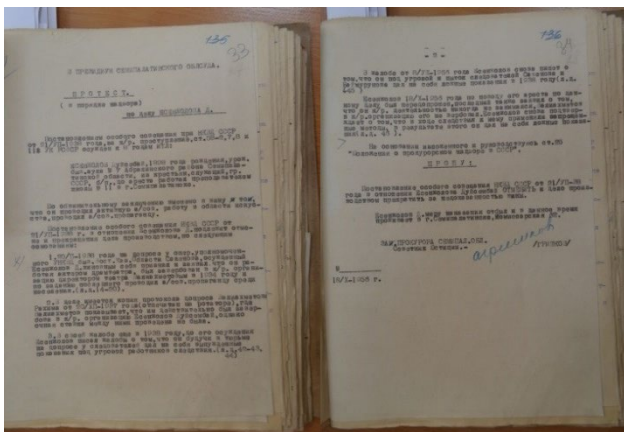
body of the Soviet government identified 193 "organizations of counter-revolutionaries", 9906 "participants" of which were arrested.

When studying the censorship of the Soviet Union, archival materials of the Soviet era, previously kept secret, are of particular importance to the researcher, since they provide basic information about the events of that period in history. As part of this research work, 578 documents were studied, which are contained in four archival funds of Russia and Kazakhstan. Among such archival documents: newspapers, magazines, private correspondence, personal files, recommendations, minutes of meetings, orders, resolutions, other (Fig. 1).



**Figure 1.** Archival documents studied in the framework of the study

The studied archive materials confirm that the censorship mechanism in the Soviet Union was based on strict criteria by which any person could be accused of committing "counter-revolutionary" actions, the only proof of which were the words of another person. An example of this can be the involvement in 1938 to the responsibility of D. Yesenzholov, who was sentenced to 8 years in a correctional labour colony (CLC) by a resolution of a special meeting at the People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs of the USSR for a counter-revolutionary crime under parts 2, 7, 8, 11 of Article 58 of the Criminal Code of the RSFSR. D. Yesenzholov was accused of conducting anti-Soviet propaganda in the field of art and agitation of anti-Soviet ideology [31]. During the interrogation of 18.XII-56, the convicted man pleaded not guilty and claimed that he was forced to sign the confession under threats (Fig. 2).



**Figure 2.** Archive file of prisoner D. Yesenzholova at KSU "Center for Documentation of Modern History"

Among the archival documents of the KSU "Center for Documentation of Modern History" there is a protocol of the Semipalatinsk correctional labour colony No. 7, which contains a list of works mandatory for seizure and destruction conditioned upon the fact that these books do not correspond to the ideological direction of the Soviet Union.

The recommendations of the authorised commission refer to persons serving sentences in a colony who have too free access to undesirable literary funds, and at the same time restrict them to newspaper information that propagandises the ideology of the USSR on a daily basis. This is indicated in the protocol of the Semipalatinsk correctional labour colony No. 7 dated 10/20/1932 No. 7: "The CLC absolutely does not justify the appointment of a correctional labour colony. Until now, it have not set itself the task of political education. As an example, the literary fund located in the library of the CLC can be cited. The prisoner was deprived of newspapers, as a result of which it turns out that people leave the CLC and do the same thing they did before the CLC... Therefore, it is necessary to introduce cultural methodological guidance on a daily basis... Publicly available books (a list is attached) used by the politically unpublished should be withdrawn" [32]. At the same time, it should be borne in mind that many persons serving sentences in the CLC in Semey in Kazakhstan were Alash-Orda figures, scientists, writers and educators of the Kazakh people, who were subsequently shot or sent to Siberia in 1937-1938. It was at this time that the active activity of the Alashordin people also began, who were authors of fiction and works in all scientific fields, made artistic translations into the Kazakh language for the development of education and independence of the Kazakh people [33; 34].

Thus, according to Protocol No. 7, 1 magazine "Atheism" and 47 books, including 35 with a famous author, were withdrawn from the library of the correctional labour colony No. 7 of Semey in 1932. These are such works as: "About the Trade Union" by V. I. Lenin, "Woe from Wit" A. S. Griboyedov, "Stories" by N. V. Gogol, "Peaks" and M. Maysky, "At the Source of the River" by Kerwood James Oliver, "Fables" and A. Krylova, "The Hound of the Baskervilles" by Arthur Conan Doyle, "In the View of the West" by Joseph Conrad, and others. Another 12 seized books had an unknown author, this is: "The basis of a profitable economy", "Do not allow Embezzlement", "How the tsarist government persecuted the Jews", "Who are the Decembrists", "Blast furnace", "Commissars", "Simple life", "Golden Cage", "Under the mask of religion", "Prophets miracle workers", "Does the soul exist?" and "Human Miracles".

Analysis of the seized publications and institutional records from Semey in 1932 reveals the extensive censorship of various categories of literature and information in Kazakhstan during the Soviet period, encompassing fiction, economic, medical, and religious texts, as well as data related to the Semipalatinsk test site and material supply indicators. As can be seen from the list of sources removed from the archive, among other things, there were works of art by famous world authors. Regarding the reasons that prompted the relevant state authority in the USSR to impose a ban on this or that literary work, one can only assume. One of the reasons for

this, among other things, may be the presence in literary texts of descriptions of universal values, such as freedom of speech and choice, humanism, descriptions of other cultures, etc., and may also have an impact on human consciousness, which contradicted the state ideology and could be regarded by the Soviet censorship authorities as anti-Soviet [35-37].

In the Soviet Union, no religions were welcomed and the atheistic direction was supported. That is why all literature related to religion or the explanation of metaphysical categories, such as "soul", "body", "God", etc., was banned [38]. The reason for getting on the list for the seizure and destruction of a magazine called "Atheism" remains unknown. It can be assumed that the editorial board of the journal tried to externally meet the requirements of that time, but internally - the content of the journal (published articles, notes, etc.) - was not aimed at promoting the idea inherent in the title [39]. Economic literature was banned conditioned upon the fact that the understanding of personal property was not allowed in the USSR, and only individual specialists were trained in specific methods of economic analysis according to certain criteria [40-42]. The list of literature prohibited by Protocol No. 7 also included books on healthcare. From the reasons that served this, it can be assumed that these books contain statistical data or certain descriptions related to undesirable information for dissemination. Thus, the analysis of archival data allowed forming a distinctive characteristic of the censorship of the Soviet Union in Kazakhstan and drawing appropriate conclusions.

## Conclusions

The basis of censorship in the Soviet Union was the state ideology, the main function of which was considered to serve the interests of one class, its protection, expansion of its social base, opening the way to the ruling structures to its followers and giving them the opportunity to govern. The censorship of the Soviet Union has penetrated into all spheres of public life in Kazakhstan. With its help, monotonous regulation of public consciousness and the cultural level of citizens was carried out, any opposition was suppressed. In Kazakhstan, as in the USSR as a whole, there was a mechanism of centralized censorship, which was a one-sided information system that prohibited access to the outside world. The interference of censorship in the spiritual life of society has lost its trust in the executive power of the USSR and the official media. In this aspect, the study of censorship of the Soviet period is necessary to

search for truths that reflect the position and actual attitude of the people of that time

In the course of the study, it was suggested to classify censorship by the type of information to which it is applied. In accordance with this, it is advisable to single out censorship: personal correspondence (perustration), works of art, the press, educational literature and scientific works. If the information was found to be inconsistent with Soviet ideology, penalties could be applied to the author or editor of such information: before printing, cutting out the text of "inappropriate content" from the book, replacing the "anti-state" text with more acceptable for printing, confiscation of the work; after printing, seizure and destruction of books, prohibition of their sale and distribution, prosecution, repression. The article presents the results of a study of 578 archival sources from four archival funds of Russia and Kazakhstan for the period 1917-1956. Such sources were: newspapers, magazines, private correspondence, personal files, recommendations, minutes of meetings, orders, resolutions, etc. The analysis of archival data allowed identifying the main directions that fell under the censorship of the Soviet Union in Kazakhstan.

Thus, all authors of artistic or scientific materials who had any discrepancy with the Soviet ideology did not have the opportunity to publish freely. Thus, fiction, medical literature, statistical data and indicators of logistics could not be published without the permission of the Central Committee of the CPSU. Economic, religious and military literature were also under the special control of the party. Especially classified during the period of Soviet censorship was the information about the Semipalatinsk test site, as evidenced by the absence of any articles, works, books, etc., containing mention of it in the press during the period under study.

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## Conflict of Interest

None.

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## **Анотація**

**Актуальність.** Актуальність цієї статті зумовлена дослідженням механізму цензури Радянського Союзу як чинника спотворення історичної реальності Казахстану в радянський період та необхідністю в умовах незалежності Казахстану відновити свою автентичну історію.

**Мета.** Метою статті є дослідження механізму цензури Радянського Союзу в Казахстані.

**Методологія.** Провідним методом дослідження цієї проблеми є ідеографічний метод, який дозволяє реконструювати явище цензури в радянський період і дослідити його комплексно, вивчаючи механізм цензури одночасно в Радянському Союзі в цілому і в Казахстані, як одній з його республік, зокрема. Як у теоретичній, так і в емпіричній частині дослідження використовувалися необхідні загальнонаукові методи - аналіз і синтез. Для систематизації інформації, отриманої під час аналізу архівних документів, використовувався метод систематизації.

**Результати.** У статті запропоновано класифікацію цензури за типом інформації, до якої вона застосовується; визначено покарання, що застосовувалися до “порушників” цензури в СРСР; відібрано та досліджено 578 документів з чотирьох архівних фондів Росії та Казахстану, що містять дані про період розвитку радянської цензури в Казахстані; встановлено основні напрямки, які потрапляли до рук архівних джерел під цензуру Радянського Союзу в Казахстані.

**Висновки.** Матеріали статті можуть стати основою для подальших досліджень в галузі історії, політології тощо, присвячених вивченню цензури в Казахстані, як виключно за часів Радянського Союзу, так і при порівнянні різних історичних етапів. Результати, отримані в ході дослідження, можуть бути використані у вищих навчальних закладах Казахстану при підготовці занять з історії, політології тощо.

**Ключові слова:** тотальний контроль; тоталітарний режим; заборона; державна ідеологія; архівні дані.