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Original Article

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THE STUDENTS' EVERYDAY LIFE IN KARAKALPAKSTAN IN 1960–1970'S

The focus of the study is the daily life of Karakalpak students in the 1960s-1970s. This social group emerged with the foundation of the first higher educational institution in the republic — the Teacher Training Institute in 1934, which was later, in 1956 transformed into the Pedagogical Institute. The article analyzes the main elements of the Karakalpak students' everyday life — activities and leisure — reconstructed from the interviews with residents of Kegeyli, Shumanai and Khodjeyli regions of Karakalpakstan. These were conducted by the author during historical and ethnographic expeditions in 2018–2022. The interviews on the main aspects of leisure and domestic practices served to recreate the student life of the studied period. The survey involved respondents who studied not only in Karakalpakstan, but also outside the republic. Unlike other population groups, students lived in rather favorable conditions. They were provided with housing, and the scholarship was sufficient to fully cover food expenses. However, the situation with clothing was complicated, as the need for it at that time was poorly addressed by the state. Therefore, all segments of the population, including students, experienced the shortage of clothing.

Keywords: Karakalpaks, students, everyday life, household practices, leisure practices

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Original Article

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PRIVATE FUNERALS IN THE SOVIET UNION: FROM INFRASTRUCTURE TO GRASSROOTS REGULATION AND SELF-SUPPLY PRACTICES

The article shows how the breakdown of the funeral infrastructure that occurred in the first post-revolutionary years led to the emergence of grassroots funeral practices. The article describes the causes of the crisis. Based on materials from sources of personal origin and archival sources, the reaction of contemporaries to the difficulties of burying the dead is shown, as well as the emergence of grassroots funeral practices, including those where relatives and friends of the deceased solved the problem of lack of professional assistance during burial. In fact, the families of the deceased had to assume the main responsibility for providing funerals for ordinary citizens. Funeral homes were replaced by handicraftsmen who provided separate funeral services as a source of additional income. Although the most acute manifestations of the funeral crisis disappeared relatively quickly, the practices of self-sufficiency that arose as a result of the crisis took hold and became systemic in later periods.

Keywords: funerals; infrastructure; USSR; diaries; crisis; revolution; grassroots practices.

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