

THE KAZAKH TRAGEDY IN CHINA: “IT WAS DESTROYED, BUT NOT DEFEATED”

Damir Issirgepov

*Kazakhstan, Kostanay,
Nazarbayev Intellectual School of physics and mathematics in Kostanay, teacher of history*

Abstract. *The article highlights the national liberation movement of the Kazakhs of China under the leadership of the Ospan batyr which is part of the national liberation movement of the Kazakh people and the last armed resistance in the history of the national liberation movement of the Kazakh people. The character of Ospan Batyr is surprising and unusual, especially in an age of increasing globalism and total control over the human mind and spirit. He dared to challenge several totalitarian Empires and was destroyed, but not defeated. He made a special contribution to the formation of the free Republic of East Turkestan and became a victim in the struggle for the independence of Kazakh people.*

The article can be used in higher education as a supplemental material for lecture courses and seminars, as well as in schools while studying national liberation movements.

Keywords: *Ospan batyr, The national liberation movement, East Turkestan, China, USSR*

The character of Ospan Batyr is surprising and unusual, especially in an age of increasing globalism and total control over the human mind and spirit. He dared to challenge several totalitarian Empires and was destroyed, but not defeated. He made a special contribution to the formation of the free Republic of East Turkestan and became a victim in the struggle for the independence of Kazakh people.

A few educated people know that Ospan Batyr was one of the leaders of the national liberation movement in Eastern Turkestan. The bulk of the documents confirming the events of that time are kept in foreign archives. Until now, China has unannounced information about the batyr, waiting for its researcher. Some sources in England and the USA also contain valuable data about him. Turkish has shown interest in Ospan batyr as well. Now that Kazakhstan has gained sovereignty and we are gradually filling out the "white spots" of our history, which we have not talked about before, we need to return the names of forgotten heroes. It's time to study foreign sources, to systematize.

Ospan batyr Islamum was born in 1899 in the winter residence of Ondikar Koktogai district of the Altai county of the Qing Empire. There is little information about his childhood, but already in his youth he was filled with the desire to make his land free. This idea became more clearly traced as he grew up and mastered military affairs.

In 1938-1939 in complete accordance with the idea of "world revolution" leader of the Soviet Union I.Stalin turned his attention towards Shynzhan and Mongolia. The greater part of intellectual elite of Kazakhstan was destroyed by that time. The same policy of "red terror" Stalin enacted in Shynzhan as well. Department of public safety and Department of political control created there were governed by people from the USSR under total supervision from Moscow. More than 60 thousand persons were killed and abandoned in prisons. The "cream of society" was destroyed.

Whoever tried to resist the terror was annihilated. In this time of bloodshed and cruelty, relying on Allah and taking the call "Willing to die for freedom" for a slogan, Ospan batur took action, and raised a rebellion against kuomintang's invaders. He believed in the power of the oppressed, offended people, that would gradually start to follow him. From the beginning just seven people stood with Ospan batyr – his brothers-in-arms Keles, Toktagan, Suleimen, Zhamitkhan, Kapas [1, p.6]. At first they attacked enemy with quick charges, in two's and tree's, which is a usual tactic for a guerrilla. However, as their strength and numbers increased, enemies began to fear them. The rebels of Altai gained glory and recognition.

In 1940 warriors Ospan batur freed the city of Koktogai, overwhelming the military forces of China. However, after a while the Chinese army won the city back again, making an absolute slaughter: eight Ospan's children out of eleven were cut down. His wife Memei, jumping in the river with the other children, managed to escape. However, warriors were only hardened by the grief and ready to fight till the end.

The Great Patriotic War began in 1941. Chinese government was sure that Hitler be victorious, and began to tear off all connections with the USSR. In these circumstances Ospan batyr's rebellion against the Chinese was handy for Stalin. All this time the national hero fought in the saddle without any firearms, and while compromising with the Soviets, he never forgot that they also established their rule with fire and sword, destroying his people and their religion. The aim of Soviet leadership was not only to cause as much as trouble to the great Eastern Empire as possible but also to contain the unruly batyr. They used the government of Mongolia to carry out this task. [2, p.180].

In 1943 on the special conference it was decided to send an envoy to Ospan, which was made up of forty delegates with a certain Pakhomov as their leader. The meeting took place, however both parties obliged to keep its results in secret. Exactly after this meeting the supply of weapons and provisions began. Firstly, 27 guns, 2600 bullets, 10 mausers, were sent, and the English automat and thousand cartridges to him were gifted personally to Ospan batur. However, all these gifts didn't cloud Ospan batyr's judgment. Knowing that those supplies were meant to make him completely dependent, he did not remain in a debt: 38 horse, 8 carpets, 137 grammes of gold, were gifted in return [3, p.24]. At this time the authority of Ospan batur among the people rose swiftly. He knew the local land well and had a rich military experience. Soviet leadership in every way tried to secure support and to take advantage of military talent and fearlessness of Ospan batur. The opportunity soon presented itself. Failing to withstand the terror of kuomintang's military forces, 360 families from Ospan batur's forced native settlements migrated to Mongolia. They were given shelter and any required help. After that the dialog with Ospan batyr continued easily enough.

1944 to the year at the frontier outpost, at the inflow of Bulgin of the river Kobdy the meeting between Ospan batur, marshal Choibalsan, the ambassador of Soviet Union in Mongolia Ivanov, commander of Baikal front Rubin, leader of secret service Lanpanyk, minister for internal affairs of Mongolia Shagoyrzhan and his adviser Grednev took place. This time rebels were presented with 395 five barrel of gun, 200 thousand, 30 easy machine guns, 6 heavy machine guns, 45 automats, 2 thousand grenades [4, p.174]. All weaponry was presented as a token of respect on behalf of son of Suhe batur - Galsyn, colonel and chief of Department of defense. In the same year in a specially geared-up for this purpose nomad's tent the personal meeting between Choibalsan and Ospan batur took place. Batyr was told that the militarized group is formed in Mongolia to help the rebels, and also the temporary independent government of Altaian Kazakhs was created. The rank of "Baturkhan" was given to Ospan batur. Later there were rumors, that he was lifted up on white felt, like a khan [5, p.9-10]. Ospan batur, conscious of the ultimate goal of Soviet leadership, became weary and said to Choibalsan: "While I live beneath the clean sky, I will not be anyone's vassal, especially not China's". At this time kuomintang's armies began to prepare for war near a Soviet border. Ospan batyr was instructed to meet them on the battlefield with his people. He and his division of air forces of Lizukhana destroyed the opponent. After this victory Soviet leaders began give him more council and commands to Ospan batur, which, presumably, indicated their favor to him. But Stalin understood that Ospan batur would never let go of his aim to achieve national independence - and tried not to lose him from to his sight, sent spies to him, which had to earn batyr's trust, track his thoughts and give a report about every his step to the leadership. With the same aim Choibalsan sent a certain Nogai Shymshuruly to Ospan batur.

In summer of 1944 batur's of Gani and Akbar, went out of the Or and Tarbagatai district and joined together with the warriors of Ospan batur. Soon three north shynzhan district were released from a kuomintang's rule. In autumn of the same year the creation of the East-Turkestan temporary government was announced, under the leadership of Alihan-tore. And in the same year the Altaian region was fully purged from a kuomintang's army. Ospan batur was appointed as the deputy of leader of the Altaian region Dalelkhan Sugirbaev.

He saw that did not reach his aim - his people did not become completely free and independent. Sometimes he wanted to raise up the white banner of Zhanibek once more and go away to war. Eventually, he left the new home, his position and moved to the steppe. Batyr settled near the coast of Black Irtysh and didn't leave his tent, he felt like a chained up tiger. He was called back many times to work in acimat, but his unchanged answer was: "I fought both in snow and in an intense heat for the sake of the people. And garden-stuffs reap red. Give my position to Dalelkhan. I am a Kazakh, and I do not play your games, do not want to be your puppet". Dalelkhan Sugirbaev, consulting by general Victorov, sent to Ospan batur of colonel Dosekev with orders "For a fight for independence" of I and II degrees and by gifts. Ospan batur did not accept a messenger for a long time, and even when he did, he answered harshly and briefly: "I fought not in order to strengthen the Red Army.

Don't linger here for long, go back to your people. I do not see the real freedom of East Turkestan. I said everything I care to say." The pain of Ospan batur can be understood. More than ten years he fought for the independence of the region, lost his children and brothers in battles, and now he didn't know how to proceed.

The tragic part of his life soon began. From 1947 to 1949 it was attempted to present him as an enemy to the Soviet State. Moscow gave a task to Ulan batur to destroy Ospan batur. After that hired assassins began to seek out the national hero. His own uncle was sent to murder Ospan batyr, but no plan has succeeded. Aware of what his enemies are capable of, Ospan batyr kept his eyes wide open. After his nomad's tents were attacked, Ospan batur escaped to the mountains. Cavalry made up of kazakhs and uigurs was sent out to capture Ospan batyr. The number of warriors left to batyr became less and less, all more difficult to resist this army. Eventually, Ospan batur comes face a hard decision for him: through a kuomintang government he wanted to ask help from the American consulate. However, he wasn't yet ready to bow to the enemy and hesitated. Knowing about a difficult situation their sworn enemy got in, kuomintang's leadership sent an envoy to Ospan batyr. A deal was made. Through a government of kuomintang Ospan batur contacted the deputy of the American consulate in Urumchi Douglas Makaran and treated with him - Douglas sent to batur one hundred dungan's warriors. But whatever they were, it was not enough for the batyr's plan to succeed. Soon the Chinese folk army entered in Shynzhan, and a kuomintang laid down arms peacefully.

In spring of the year of 1950 Ospan batur's position became unbearable and he was forced to step back toward the Tibetan mountains. To 1951 in the province of Haizy Gansu Ospan batur got surrounded by the Chinese folk liberation army and was captured. Soon after it he was placed in Urumchi prison. An opened court hearing was conducted. In april of 1951 Ospan batur was executed in front of a large crowd. Such is the fate of the national hero, fighter for independence. Ospan batur was a great war-lord, warrior, ready to die for the sake of freedom of the earth and people. Information about Ospan Batyr began to appear on the pages of Western publishers immediately after his death. In his book "Kazakh refugees", published in 1956, the English writer Godfrey Lias wrote: "Appear Ospan batyr 5-6 centuries ago, he would certainly have been a great commander of the level of Monk, Genghis Khan, Tamerlane" [6, p.5]. This man entered the lists to the most cruel totalitarian modes of XX of century, and was destroyed, but not beaten. It is today tried him to do justice. But first of all it is needed to revive memory about him on his motherland. The case with Ospan batyr testifies that the history of the Kazakh people is disjointed, territorially limited, although in the past it was integral, as evidenced by historical sources.

The national liberation movement of the Kazakhs of China under the leadership of the Ospan batyr is part of the national liberation movement of the Kazakh people and the last armed resistance in the history of the national liberation movement of the Kazakh people.

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