

**PREVENTING THE MONGOLIAN PEOPLE FROM IMPOVERISHMENT IN THE
NORMS OF QING IMPERIAL LEGISLATION
(XVIII – FIRST HALF XIX CENTURY)**

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Abstract: *the legislation of the Qing Empire in China in XVIII - XIX centuries contained numerous provisions aimed at maintaining the economic prosperity of the Mongols, subject to the Manchu dynasty. The article analyzes the effectiveness of such legal norms. As a result, the author came to the conclusion, that the disastrous impact of the Qing fiscal press on the Mongolian traditional economy had consequences, contrary to the doctrine of the proportionality of the fiscal burden to the material capabilities of the wage earners. Thus, by the middle of the XIX century Qing legal norms on countering the mass destruction of nomads who inhabited Mongolia gradually turned into an empty formality.*

Keywords: *Qing Empire, legislation, Mongolia, pastoral economy.*

The desire to protect fiscal revenues from ruin, that transformed the tax-payers and soldiers in paupers, who became useless for Treasury, is characteristic for the political doctrine of state control, as well as for the administrative practices of the Central authorities in the Qing Empire. The embodiment of this doctrine in the rules of the Qing law, intended for control of Mongolia, was focused on implementing forces and means possessed by local Mongolian authorities in order to prevent depletion of the common people, who inhabited the lower administrative units, especially aimags and khoshuuns. For the first time, the Imperial decree that obliged Mongols to save themselves from the extreme situation, helping each other in the event of natural disasters and the exhaustion was published in 1644. Then without certain changes such legal norms were included in all of the four editions of "Established by All Highest Command the Assembly of Legal Precedents to the Collected Statutes of Lifanyuan" (钦定理藩院则例), compiled until the middle of the XIX century.

Checks of the property status of the Mongolian population, regularly practiced by the Central authorities of the Qing Empire in the XVIII - first half of the XIX century, repeatedly ended with the publication of Imperial decrees reminding the local Mongolian authorities about the responsibility for "feeding the poor". In addition, the government periodically, especially in the first half of the XVIII century, released the state-owned silver, grain and cattle for distribution to poor residents of the Mongolian regions. With the same purpose the Imperial authorities drove extraordinary wages to the Mongolian princes and commanded them to use these subsidies in order to save the subordinate population from extreme forms of impoverishment. The war-bound Mongols, who from official point of view performed the most important duties, were provided with the monetary allowance and provisions which were intended as a relief of the material difficulties connected with their services.

In general the Mongols primarily interested the Manchu dynasty as a powerful armed force, which subject to the necessary conditions could bring significant help to the Qing emperors in carrying out active foreign policy and maintaining stability inside the huge multi-ethnic empire state [1; 2]. From the late XVII to the beginning of the XX century population of Southern and Northern (Khalkha) Mongolian aimags was not considered by the Imperial administration as an object of direct fiscal taxation, multiplying the revenues of the Treasury. Instead, all the Mongols, from princes to commoners, were entrusted with the duties of performing numerous public services. Its purpose in peacetime was to maintain the combat readiness of the militia, in the placement of necessary order and peace in the neighboring regions of the Great Steppe, in establishing the system for protection of the Northern borders of the Empire. But to fit their purpose of the junior military-political "allies" of the Manchu dynasty the Mongolian people could only under the condition that they remained nomads. Therefore, according to the Qing political theory, the population of Southern and Northern Mongolia must be isolated from any effects that carry the risk of undermining the traditional way of nomadic pastoral life, whether it be external, coming from the Russian side, or internal, which had a Chinese origin.

However, the disastrous impact of the Qing fiscal press on the Mongolian traditional economy had consequences, contrary to the doctrine of the proportionality of the fiscal burden to the material capabilities of the wage earners. Moreover, the above mentioned fiscal burden nullified all, and already not so effective, the efforts of the authorities to assist the increasingly and apparently impoverished Mongols. At the same time first southern, and then Northern Mongolia in the II half of the XIX century became the object of growing Chinese colonization. Thus, by the middle of the XIX century Qing legal norms on countering the mass destruction of nomads who inhabited Mongolia gradually turned into an empty formality.

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