



UDC 93/94

IRSTI 03.81.25

DOI 10.37238/2960-1371.2960-138X.2025.97(1).29

Ayapbergenuly Ernur**Sapienza University of Rome, Rome, Italy**

E-mail: Ayapbergenurnur@gmail.com

BERISH CLAN: HISTORICAL ROLE IN KAZAKH SOCIETY

Annotation. This article examines the historical role of the Berish clan in Kazakh society. It analyzes the origins of the clan, its place in Kazakh statehood, and its contributions to military, political, and cultural life. Special attention is given to the period of the Kazakh Khanate, the colonial era, and the Soviet period. The study relies on historical sources, archival materials, and works of Kazakh researchers.

Keywords: Berish clan; Kazakh society; Kazakh Khanate; historical role; clan structure.

Introduction

The Berish clan is one of the significant branches of the Baiuly tribal union within the Junior Zhuz. Historically, this clan has played a crucial role in military, political, and economic life. Studying the historical development of the Berish clan allows for a deeper understanding of Kazakh society's structure. The Berish clan is among the most populous clans of the Junior Zhuz. According to P. Keppen's data (1851), there were 3,600 households in the Bukey Horde alone, which, assuming five people per household, equates to 18,000 individuals.

The first known mention of this clan appears in 1748 in a list of the tribal composition of the Junior Zhuz compiled by A. I. Tevkelev. The Berish clan is also mentioned in the 1829 report by official Larionov and in the list of clans provided by A. Levshin. Later sources, including archival and literary materials, frequently reference this clan. The Berish clan consists of the following nine subdivisions: Jayik, Esengul, Karatokai, Kulkesh, Begis, Esen, Zhanbyrshy, Sebek, and Beskaska. Unlike the data provided by N. Khanykov and M. Tynyshbayev, these findings are considered more accurate. However, genealogical records indicate that the Baybakty clan is a foundational component of the Berish clan. Studying the history of the Baybakty clan suggests that its origin may trace back to the Kipchak tribe (Middle Zhuz) [1].

Materials and Research Methods

The presence of the Baybakty within the Berish clan suggests that part of the Baybakty people once separated and formed an independent clan. This connection supports the hypothesis that the Berish clan also originates from the Kipchak tribe. This view is reinforced by S. A. Amanzholov, who, referring to the Arab writer Al-Ayni, mentions that the Mamluk sultans Baybars (1260–1279) and Qalawun (1274–1290) were Kipchaks from the Berish clan [2].



We do not intend to confirm or refute Amanzholov's hypothesis that some Kipchaks migrated westward to Egypt in the 13th–14th centuries, as it is beyond the scope of this study. However, the mention of the Berish clan in historical records from the 12th–13th centuries indicates its existence at that time and its inclusion in the Kipchak confederation. This supports the view that the Baybakty and Berish clans are related and both originate from the Kipchak tribe [3].

The Berish clan also includes the Bessary subdivision, which is found among the Karakalpak Khitai tribe [4].

Research Results

Origins and Structure of the Berish Clan. The Berish clan traces its roots to ancient Turkic tribes and played a significant role in Central Asian history. Some historical sources indicate that this clan was known as early as the 13th century. Some researchers note the Berish clan's connection to the military of the Golden Horde. There are also hypotheses suggesting that Sultan Baybars, the famous Egyptian ruler, belonged to the Berish clan, given his Kipchak origins.

The Berish clan is one of the 18 clans descended from the Alshyn tribe and is part of the Baiuly tribal union of the Junior Zhuz.

The Berish clan is divided into several branches:

Jayik – Settled along the Ural River, engaged in livestock breeding, and maintained trade relations with neighboring nations.

Esengul – Known for its military prowess and famous warriors.

Karatokai – A warrior subdivision that played a key role in battles, particularly against the Dzungars.

Kulkesh – Notable for diplomatic skills, often serving as mediators among Khans and Biis.

Begis – Maintained the clan's martial traditions, with many leaders and commanders emerging from this branch.

Esen – Focused on economic activities, agriculture, and craftsmanship.

Zhanbyrshy – Held significant positions in governance and the Biis' council.

Sebek – Produced many traders and artisans, particularly in western Kazakhstan.

Beskaska – Known for military and administrative achievements, with several prominent warriors and political figures.

Role in the Kazakh Khanate. The Berish clan played an active role in the military and political affairs of the Kazakh Khanate (15th–18th centuries). Many Berish warriors distinguished themselves in battles against the Dzungars. Notable warriors of the Berish clan include:

Agatai Batyr

Kulbarak Batyr Tabildyuly

Tagatar Batyr Etekbayuly

Makhambet Otemisuly

Isatai Taimanuly

These figures played a crucial role in defending Kazakh lands.

Isatai Taimanuly and Makhambet Otemisuly Uprising



The Berish clan actively participated in the 1836–1838 uprising led by Isatai Taimanuly and Makhambet Otemisuly against the policies of Zhangir Khan of the Bukey Horde. Many Berish warriors fought against Tsarist and Khanate rule [5].

Following the suppression of the rebellion, many members of the Berish clan faced persecution and were forced to migrate across the Kazakh steppe. This event marked an important phase in the Kazakh people's resistance to colonial oppression.

Soviet Era and World War II. After the establishment of Soviet rule, representatives of the Berish clan contributed to various fields, particularly in science, education, and culture. During World War II (1941–1945), many Berish warriors displayed heroism, including:

Kairgali Smagulov – Hero of the Soviet Union, tank commander in the Battle of Berlin.

Ali Abdikov – Fighter pilot, distinguished in aerial combat.

Zhumagali Kaldykaraev – Scout decorated for bravery.

Sattar Yerubaev – Writer and frontline soldier who documented the bravery of Kazakh soldiers.

Mukhtar Zhangaliyev – Machine gunner in the Battle of Stalingrad.

These individuals upheld the Kazakh tradition of heroism [6].

Conclusion

Today, the Berish clan remains an integral part of Kazakh ethnic identity. Its descendants contribute to Kazakhstan's development, holding prominent positions in various fields. The clan's traditional values—respect for elders, loyalty to the homeland, and a warrior spirit—continue to be passed down through generations. The history of the Berish clan is an essential part of Kazakhstan's history. Its members have made significant contributions to nation-building, military affairs, politics, and culture. Their participation in major national liberation movements and efforts to preserve traditions highlight the clan's role in shaping Kazakhstan's historical heritage. Understanding their contributions provides deeper insights into the historical processes of the region and the role of individual clans in Kazakh statehood.

REFERENCES

- [1] Mukhamedzhan Tynyshbayev. "Kazakh Genealogy." Almaty, 1993.
- [2] Kazakh Soviet Encyclopedia. Vol. 5. Almaty, 1974.
- [3] Koishyghara Salgharayev. "Kazakh's Complex History." Almaty, 1992.
- [4] Chuloshnikov A.P. "Essay on the History of the Kazakh-Kyrgyz People." Orenburg, 1924.
- [5] Wikipedia.org – Articles on the Berish Clan.
- [6] National Archives of Kazakhstan.

Аяпбергенұлы Ернұр

БЕРІШ РУЫ: ҚАЗАҚ ҚОҒАМЫНДАҒЫ ТАРИХИ РӨЛІ

Аңдатпа. Бұл мақалада Беріш руының қазақ қоғамындағы тарихи рөлі қарастырылады. Ру тарихының пайда болуы, оның қазақ мемлекеттілігіндегі орны, әскери, саяси және мәдени өмірге қосқан үлесі талданады. Әсіресе, Қазақ



хандығы дәуірі, отаршылдық кезеңі және кеңестік кезеңдегі белсенділігіне ерекше назар аударылады. Зерттеу барысында тарихи деректер, архив материалдары және қазақстандық зерттеушілердің еңбектері пайдаланылды.

Кілт сөздер: Бериш руы; қазақ қоғамы; Қазақ хандығы; тарихи рөл; рулық құрылым.

Аяпбергенолы Ернур

БЕРИШ РОД: ИСТОРИЧЕСКАЯ РОЛЬ В КАЗАХСКОМ ОБЩЕСТВЕ

Аннотация. В данной статье рассматривается историческая роль рода Бериш в казахском обществе. Анализируются происхождение рода, его место в казахской государственности, а также вклад в военную, политическую и культурную жизнь. Особое внимание уделяется периоду Казахского ханства, колониальному периоду и активности рода в советское время. В исследовании использованы исторические источники, архивные материалы и труды казахстанских исследователей.

Ключевые слова: род Бериш; казахское общество; Казахское ханство; историческая роль; родовая структура.