The State Policy in the Field of Preserving the Historical and Cultural Heritage in the 1990s in the Republic of Tatarstan

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Abstract

The study describes the main outcome of the state policy in the field of protection of markers of past and culture in the 1990s in the Republic of Tatarstan. In the period under review, there was a transition from centralized management of culture to various forms of cultural activities, partnerships and financing. Identified the main problems of preserving the historical and cultural heritage in this period and highlighted such important issues, as the adoption in 1996 of the Law of the RT “On the Protection and Use of Cultural and Historical Values” [Law of the Republic of Tatarstan, 1996], the formation of the Kazan Kremlin Museum-Preserve, the implementation of the Program for the Elimination of Dilapidated Housing [9], establishment of the Scientific and Production Department of the State Control of the shield and application of columns of History and practice of the Ministry of education of the Republic of Tatarstan, as well as the edition of the order of the leader of the Republic of Tatarstan “On the celebration of the 1000th anniversary of the founding of the city of Kazan” and the beginning of international cooperation for the preservation of cultural heritage.

Keywords: Republic of Tatarstan, shield of monuments, traditional and aesthetic culture, restoration, Kazan Kremlin

1. Introduction


There have been changes in the sphere of cultural heritage, as in all other areas of the
country's life. In the period indicated in the article there was a transition from centralized cultural management to various forms of cultural activities, partnerships and financing. The main financing as well as before continued to be carried out from the state budget. At the same time, the law provided for the possibility of multi-channel financing by attracting funds from sponsors, various charitable foundations, associations and other sources, including at the expense of own earned funds. [Kulemzin, A.M. 2013; Nazoktabar, H., & Tohidi, G. 2014; Godino, J. D., Rivas, H., Burgos, M., & Wilhelmi, M. R. 2019; Zhatkin, D. 2018].

With the collapse of the Soviet Union, the state policy on the protection of monuments has undergone significant changes. On the eve of the new millennium, the federal and republican authorities had to solve many problems.

From historical places of Tatarestan is Kul sharif mosque. Learn to pronounce The Mosque of Kul Sharif, also known as the Kul Sharif Mosque, is one of the largest Russian mosques in the city of Kazan. The medieval Qal-e-Sharif Mosque was built in the 5th century, and its large and decorated library expanded science and knowledge during its time. One floor of the two-storey building of the mosque is used as a place of worship and the other floor is dedicated to the museum. The central dome of the Mosque of Qul Sharif is 2 meters in diameter and its main minaret is 4 meters high and has a height of 4 meters.

Another place is Globo Lake. Globo Lake, also known as Blue Lake, is located near Kazan, Russia, with temperatures around four degrees Celsius throughout the year. Surrounding the lake, which is 3 meters deep, are surrounded by dense trees and forests. When visiting this lake, consider the mosquitoes that roam around.

2. Methods

To substantiate the theoretical conclusions in the study, the following methods were used: analysis, comparison, generalization. From the complex of special historical methods, historical-comparative (given the opportunity to identify the general and specific characteristics of the period under consideration) and problem-chronological (allowed to consider the issue in chronological order) were applied.

3. Result and Discussion

The beginning of the 1990s in Russia is characterized by changes in the economic, political, cultural and other spheres of society.

In the new Constitution of the Russian Federation of 1993 in chapter 2 “Rights and freedoms of man and citizen” in Article 44 is enshrined “Everyone is obliged to take care of the preservation of historical and cultural heritage, to preserve historical and cultural monuments”. [Constitution of the Russian Federation.] The main law of the Republic of Tatarstan in the Constitution also defines that cultural and historical values ensuring the preservation of material and spiritual culture are the common property of the people (article 9), and their preservation is the duty of citizens, the damage and destruction of cultural monuments is punishable by law (article 56). [Constitution of the Republic of Tatarstan]

The first Law on the Preservation of Cultural Heritage in Tatarstan began to be prepared in 1993. The Law “On the Protection and Use of Cultural and Historical Values” was adopted by the State Council of the Republic in 1996. foreign experience was taken into account (legislative acts of Hungary, the Czech Republic, Austria, France, Holland and Germany), as well as used the current legislation of the Russian Federation. The law was signed by the first President of the Republic of Tatarstan M.Sh. Shaimiev in October 2, 1996. It consisted of 7 sections and 39 articles, in which the classification and types of cultural and historical values were given, identified issues of management in the field of protection and use of cultural and historical values, as well as the ownership of them, defined the procedure for the protection and use of cultural and historical values and responsibility for violation of relevant legislation.

However, an analysis of cases in Tatarstan in the early 1990s showed that there are certain problems in the area of the protection of monuments: many objects remained not restored, a
significant part of the monuments was not identified, many monuments (first of all cult) were lost, manor complexes and memorial places remained without attention.

Problems were noted throughout the decade not only in the cities, but also in all districts of the republic. First of all, this refers to the work of local executive authorities, local authorities for the protection of monuments represented by departments and offices of culture of administrations. For example, since 1993, the heads of administrations of cities and districts have been granted the right to receive local (city, district) monuments for state protection. This right was exercised only by the heads of the administrations of the city of Kazan, the city of Yelabuga and the Yelabuzhsky district, the city of Mendeleevsk and the Mendeleevsky district. [ARAS, f. 7237. op .2. folder 2856. – 18 p.]

Also in April 1997, heads of state administrations of the Muslyumovsky, Pestrechinsky, Sabinsky, Sarmanovsky and Tyulyachinsky districts were sent draft regulations on the transfer of land to the category of historical and cultural, but no response was received from the districts. [ARAS, f. 7237. op 2. folder 2856. – 19 p.]

Despite the ongoing work to preserve the archaeological heritage, a large number of monuments died during the construction of the road, gas and oil pipeline construction. In 1997, during the work of oil fields in the Bavlinsky district, the Khansverkinsky kurgans were partially destroyed; it is the only cultural monument of nomads of the 1st millennium AD in the republic. [ARAS, f. 7237. op 2. folder 2856. – 19 p.] And this is only an isolated case of destruction.

But it is precisely in this difficult time for the country that a whole galaxy of events aimed at preserving monuments begins to take place in Tatarstan.


Despite the fact that in the Soviet period, the Kazan Kremlin was the most visited tourist attraction, it was primarily the administrative center of the TASSR (Tatar Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic). Ministries, departments, military unit were located on its territory. At the initial stage of existence of the museum-reserve, a document “Basic directions of the scientific concept of conservation, restoration and use of the Kazan Kremlin ensemble and priority measures for its implementation” was prepared, which began the systematic restoration of the complex, which helped enterprises and organizations of the republic (“Tatneft”, “Taïf”, “Tattransgaz”, “Nizhnekamskneftekhim”, “Kazanorgsintez”, “Kazan Helicopter Plant”, “Elecon”).

November 13, 1995 President of the Republic of Tatarstan M.Sh. Shaimiev signed a decree on the construction of the Kul Sharif mosque on the territory of the Kremlin. [Decree of the President of the Republic of Tatarstan dated November 13, 1995]. Later, a quotation from the decree “In order to preserve the historical continuity to recreate the building of the Kul Sharif mosque...” was made on the memorial sign next to the mosque. The opening of this cult monument took place on June 24, 2005.

One of the programs designated in the article period, analogs, which was not in Russia, was the “Program for the elimination of dilapidated housing” designed for the years 1996-2004. At the turn of XX–XXI centuries the problem of dilapidated housing in the republic has become particularly relevant (especially in the historical center of Kazan). The program involved the relocation of needy families from the dilapidated housing stock to new comfortable apartments. The scale was significant, it was supposed to move to the territory of Tatarstan in new housing: in 1996 – at least three and a half thousand families, including in Kazan – three thousand families, in 1997 – at least four thousand families, since 1998 – at least six thousand families every year. The Decree said “the State extra-budgetary housing fund of the of Tatarstan to carry out reconstruction of dilapidated housing quarters and use of released land plots, taking into account the integrated development and preservation of the historical and architectural appearance of settlements”. [Decree of the President of the Republic of Tatarstan of October 23, 1995]

But as a result of the resettlement of tenants from the streets of the historical center of Kazan,
many objects of historical and cultural heritage remained in disrepair, which was the reason for their demolition. As a rule, the destruction of these objects was not coordinated with the state security bodies. There was no mechanism designed for the period from the moment of the eviction of tenants from the monument of history and culture to the transfer to investors. Works in the historical center (restoration, liquidation of facilities, construction of new buildings) were carried out without design estimates and construction documentation. There were also no penalties for damages caused to monuments of regional (republican) and municipal importance, since at that time the Code of the Russian Federation on Administrative Violations, fines were provided only for violations to monuments of federal significance.

As notes R.M. Valeev, this led “to the formation of wastelands in the areas of historical development, the loss of visual connections between the objects, the destruction of individual sections of the archaeological layer, the distortion of the historical appearance, the loss of 8 buildings-monuments of history and culture, 14 buildings and structures included in the list of objects representing the historical, scientific, artistic and other cultural value”. [Valeev, R.M. 2007]. The problem was particularly acute when the federal targeted program “Preservation and Development of the Historical Center of Kazan” was implemented in the republic, which included the reconstruction of the Kazan Kremlin, Kazan State University, as well as the Old-Tatar, Admiralty, Yagodnaya, Kozyya settlements.

Because of these problems, the President of the Republic M.Sh. Shaimiev issued a decree “On measures to ensure compliance with legislation on the protection and use of historical and cultural monuments”, [Decree of the President of the Republic of Tatarstan dated September 20, 2002] one of whose main tasks was to prevent the loss of historical and cultural monuments. It should be noted that this question was supervised by President M.Sh. Shaimiev personally.

Significant role in the formation of state policy on the preservation of cultural heritage in the late XX – early XXI centuries played The Scientific Production Directorate of State Control of the Protection and Use of Monuments of History and Culture of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Tatarstan, which was established by Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Tatarstan of July 6, 1992 No. 381 “On urgent measures to preserve the national cultural and natural heritage of the peoples of the Republic of Tatarstan”. [Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Tatarstan dated June 6, 1992] It was headed by Rafael Mирgasимович Valeev.

In the second half of the 1990s, two expeditions under the Directorate worked: the New building Archeological Expedition (NAE), which conducted field archaeological security and rescue and exploration work on the territory of the Republic of Tatarstan, and cameral processing of the material obtained; and the Archaeological expedition “Kazan Kremlin” under the NAE, carried out protection and rescue archaeological work in the area of construction and reconstruction in the territory of the Kazan Kremlin. The activity of the Department was financed from the republican budget and from the proceeds from the use of immovable monuments of history and culture in accordance with the legislation on the protection and use of monuments of history and culture.

The Department took part in monitoring the status of cultural heritage sites commissioned by the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation for inclusion in the unified register of cultural heritage sites of the Russian Federation, participated in the development of federal and republican programs in the field of conservation, use and state protection of cultural heritage sites, in setting memorial plaques and monuments, prominent figures of the Tatar people, in the passporting of the monuments of the Tatar people to the territory other regions of the Russian Federation (Astrakhan, Volgograd, Saratov, Penza). As well as the department of restoration and use of historical and cultural monuments engaged in the examination of cultural heritage objects in order to carry out restoration work on a competitive basis.

In 1999, the Decree of the President of the Republic of Tatarstan “On the celebration of the 1000th anniversary of the founding of the city of Kazan” was issued. In 2000, a special commission was created, headed by the chairmen of the governments: federal and republican. At the federal level, the commission was headed by Putin V.V., at that time he was the Prime Minister of the country, and served as President of the Russian Federation.

At the end of the XX century M.Sh. Shaimiev made an appeal to Russian and international organizations about the inclusion of three sites (Kazan Kremlin, the ancient city of Bulgar, island
Sviyazhsk) in the preliminary List of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. Many years of work began with UNESCO, the first result of which was the inclusion in the World Heritage List in 2000 of the historical and architectural complex of the Kazan Kremlin. [https://whc.unesco.org/archive/2000/whc-00-conf204-21e.pdf]

4. Summary

Many problems still remained unresolved, a number of monuments were lost, a significant number of objects awaited their restoration. But it was precisely in those years that a set of measures aimed at preserving the historical and cultural heritage was carried out: the Law “On the Protection and Use of Cultural and Historical Values” was adopted, museums-reserves Yelabuzhsky, Bilyarsky, Iske-Kazan, Kazan Kremlin were created, organized Scientific and Production Department of the State Control of the Protection and use of buildings of chronic and practice of the department of Culture of the Republic of Tatarstan, etc.

5. Conclusion

The last decade of the 20th century is a difficult period in the history of Russia. And it is impossible in one article to highlight all the processes that took place in the cultural policy in the period under review, the indicated problem can be the subject of a separate comprehensive study. However, many decisions of the outgoing century served as the basis for successful decisions in the 21st century.

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