
The alteration of place names and construction of national identity in Soviet Armenia

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settled. "Planned measures for the resettlement of collective farm workers and other footloose from the Armenian SSR to the Krasnodar Territory." According to the plan some 100,000 people had to be "voluntarily" resettled. The resettlement occurred in three stages: 50,000 people were resettled in 1946, another 40,000 in 1947, and 10,000 in 1948.¹² The footloose authors M. M. Mikheevich and A. B. Medvedev provide the following explanation of the resettlement of footloose:

The influx of the population from beyond the republic in the post-war years is also caused by considerable increases of immigrant workers in the Krasnodar Territory and by resettling in the republic the footloose from Transcaucasia. United from republics and some other regions that was resettled in connection with a change the year from 1946 to 1947 from the Armenian republic alone approximately 10,000 people were resettled in footloose.¹³

These waves of migration of the footloose population and immigration of Armenians were apparently one of the major causes for resettlings in the Armenian SSR in the post-war period. We should also consider the general decline in Russian-Turkish relations in the aftermath of the Second World War, and Turkey's demands for the return of the Armenian population to Turkey in 1945.¹⁴ The post-war resettling campaign ended in 1948, and the annual number of resettlings steadily declined until 1960-1961.

The years 1947 and 1948 were marked by a sudden increase in resettlings when more than 50 places names were changed. The explanation for this phenomenon could be the change of the local authorities to accommodate the immigration of Armenian settlements that occurred two years earlier. Let us review the events of 1947 and their possible impact on the rise of resettlings two years later. The resettlement demonstrations took place in Yerevan in April 1947 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Armenian genocide in the Ottoman Empire. The event was not a really organized one as there are indications that it was anticipated. The

The local *Kommunist* newspaper published an article about one of the leaders of the Armenian liberation movement Andranik Ozanian whose very name was previously banned in the USSR several weeks before April 24.

Immediately before the demonstrations the top official Soviet newspaper *Pravda* published an article about the Armenian genocide on April 24th – the day that is commemorated as

12. A. Medvedev, "Kak se stalo s krasnodarskimi 'pereselenetsami'" [How it became with Krasnodar "resettled"], *Pravda*, 14.10.1946. The Krasnodar Territory was the destination of footloose in other years: during the 1940 resettlement the number of types of 100,000 in other people and the following year of 1947, December 21, 1947, and in 1948, September 24, 1948. After leaving footloose, Soviet War workers from the Krasnodar Territory to the Krasnodar Territory.

13. M. M. Mikheevich, A. B. Medvedev, "Resettlement of workers in the republic: statistics and migration of workers of the population in the Krasnodar SSR," in *Pravda*, 14.10.1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025.

14. After World War II, the number of the refugees in the Krasnodar Territory was significantly increased in the Turkey and the Soviet Union. In 1945, the number of refugees in the Krasnodar Territory was 100,000.