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Research paper

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### MIGRATION PROCESSES IN MODERN DAGESTAN: PERIODIZATION AND ETHNOSOCIAL CONTEXT

Abstract. The paper explores the history of migration processes in the Republic of Dagestan and their impact on the formation of the ethnic structure and socio-economic development of the region. The work provides an overview of different periods of migration and population relocation within the context of political, economic, and social processes. Various research methods, including the analysis of historical sources, statistical data, and expert assessments, are employed. The paper highlights the close connection between migration processes and socio-economic and ethnopolitical changes in the region from the 20th to the early 21st centuries. It particularly emphasizes the large-scale wave of resettlement of the mountain population to the lowlands in the initial years of Soviet power, the periods of Chechen and Ingush deportation in 1944, mass internal migration from villages to cities and other regions of Russia in the late 1980s to early 1990s, and the strengthening of labor migration due to deindustrialization and rising unemployment in various sectors of the economy since the 2000s. The paper also examines different aspects of migration processes in Dagestan during the 20th century. It delves into socio-economic changes in the region, focusing on the resettlement of mountaineers to lowland areas in the first half of the 20th century. Special attention is given to the settlement of Dagestanis on the lands of deported peoples, migration of livestock farmers in neighboring regions, movement of the population affected by the earthquakes, and the intensification of seasonal migration processes. The paper also addresses the emergence of ethnosocial tension and forced migration processes in the region during the 1990s. It analyzes the influence of migration on the dynamics and structure of the settlement of peoples and the ethnic composition of the population. The paper uncovers a close relationship between migration processes and socio-economic changes in Dagestan from the 20th to the early 21st centuries. The conclusion drawn highlights the multifaceted and intricate nature of migration processes in Dagestan. The conducted analysis enables an assessment of the scale and dynamics of socio-economic and ethnopolitical changes in the region.

*Keywords*: migration processes; labour migration; urbanization; deportation; Dagestan; resettlement; forced migration.

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Исследовательская статья

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### МИГРАЦИОННЫЕ ПРОЦЕССЫ В СОВРЕМЕННОМ ДАГЕСТАНЕ: ПЕРИОДИЗАЦИЯ И ЭТНОСОЦИАЛЬНЫЙ КОНТЕКСТ

Аннотация. Целью статьи является исследование истории миграционных процессов в Республике Дагестан и их влияния на формирование этнической структуры и социально-экономического развития региона. В работе представлен обзор различных периодов миграции и переселения населения, в контексте политических, экономических и социальных процессов. В статье использованы различные методы исследования, включая анализ исторических источников, статистических данных, а также экспертные оценки. Показана тесная взаимосвязь миграционных процессов с социально-экономическими и этнополитическими изменениями в регионе на протяжении XX – начала XXI в. Особое внимание уделено масштабной волне переселения горцев на равнину в первые годы советской власти, в периоды депортации чеченцев и ингушей в 1944 г., массового отходничества из сел в города и другие регионы России в конце 1980-х – начале 1990-х годов, усиления трудовой миграции в связи с деиндустриализацией и ростом уровня безработицы в ряде отраслей экономики начиная с 2000-х годов. В статье также анализируются различные аспекты миграционных процессов в Дагестане в XX веке. Рассматриваются социально-экономические изменения в регионе и переселение горцев на равнинные территории в первой половине XX века. Отдельное внимание уделяется расселению дагестанцев на землях депортированных народов, отходничеству животноводов в соседние области, миграции населения после землетрясений и усилению сезонных миграционных процессов. Рассматривается проблемы возникновения этносоциальной напряженности и процессы вынужденной миграции в регионе в 1990-е годы. В статье определено влияние миграций на динамику и структуру расселения народов и этнический состав населения. Выявлена тесная взаимосвязь миграционных процессов с социально-экономическими изменениями в Дагестане на протяжении XX – начала XXI в. Делается вывод о многогранности и сложности миграционных процессов в Дагестане. Проведенный в статье анализ позволяет оценить масштабы и динамику социально-экономических и этнополитических изменений в регионе.

*Ключевые слова:* миграционные процессы; отходничество; урбанизация; депортация; Дагестан; переселение; вынужденная миграция

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### Introduction

The historiography of migration processes and resettlement issues in Dagestan, considering the ethnographic and socio-economic characteristics of the region, has its roots in the 1960s [1–10]. Monographic works and articles during this period addressed various aspects of the topic, providing insights into the culture and life of the peoples of the USSR or specific segments of populations as part of the historical evolution of these phenomena. Subsequently, the social development of Dagestan, the examination of the transformation of Dagestan society, particularly the highlanders, and the ethnic and social repercussions of migrations in the region have garnered special attention from numerous researchers [11–17].

Migration processes in Dagestan constitute a prolonged and complex socio-historical phenomenon, encompassing a range of issues related to the relocation of highlanders to lowlands, the migration of land-poor peasants and artisans, and, in contemporary times, various forms of population movement such as labor and forced migration<sup>1</sup>. The examination of these processes provides insights into how the ethnic structure of the region is shaped and evolves, the motivations and reasons underlying migration flows, and the impact they have on the socio-economic development of the territory.

This paper undertakes a study of the principal historical stages of resettlement and internal migration activities among the peoples of Dagestan throughout the 20th century and the early 21st century. It does so against the backdrop of issues associated with the resettlement of rural populations, increased urbanization, changes and transformations in the economic structures of Dagestanis, and, overall, within the context of the ethnosocial structure of the republic.

### Historical background and reasons for migration in Dagestan

Historically, the migration movements of Dagestanis were primarily characterized by labour migration (otkhodnichestvo), a trend that gained momentum at the turn of the 19th–20th centuries. From 1892 to 1896 in the Dagestan region, an average of over 44 thousand people annually moved from their place, and by 1916, the number of migrant-labourers nearly doubled. Approximately 200 individuals per 1000 Dagestanis moved in search of higher income opportunities. Otkhodnichestvo as a phenomenon was predominantly associated with land-poor and landless peasants who had no livestock in possession and primarily resided in the mountainous regions of Dagestan. For instance, in the village of Kharbuk, nearly 80% of residents had neither land nor livestock, while only about 5% of households could sustain themselves through agriculture and livestock raising. The specific products produced in their native places were challenging to sell, leading many gunsmiths

<sup>1.</sup> Labor migration is the temporary movement of people to work in another region or country with periodic returns home. Forced migration is population movements associated with a forced temporary or permanent change of place of residence for reasons beyond their control (natural disasters, environmental disasters, military actions, etc.)

and jewelers to venture far beyond their district and even region [4].

Otkhodnichestvo was a common practice not only among the peasantry but also among representatives of handicrafts, who often faced difficulties in selling their products locally. It is important to note that such migrations were typically prompted by challenges in selling goods rather than a desire to leave their homes. According to certain reports, such craftsmen like gunsmiths and jewelers from Kazikumukh and Kubachi expanded beyond their native places and reached European cities where there was demand for their products. Migrantscraftsmen engaged in labor individually or formed groups for their endeavors. Furthermore, there is information indicating that potters from the village of Sulevkent, working in neighboring districts of Dagestan as well as in the Tver region, established specialized craft artels.

Craftsmen of other specializations were also involved in labour migration. In the mountainous Dargin regions, for instance, hat makers such as Kuppins, Arshins, and Tsudahars were prominent, while the Levashins and Khajalmakhins specialized in scarf production [18]. Many Dagestanis, along with their families, migrated away from their homeland to Muslim countries, with Turkey being a primary destination [19].

The significant socio-economic changes associated with the events of 1917 brought about a reorganization of the entire economic structure in the country, leading to a transformation in the nature of migration and settlement patterns for Dagestanis.

# Socio-economic transformations in Dagestan and the resettlement of highlanders to the lowland in the first half of the 20th century

In the first quarter of the 20th century, Dagestan witnessed a sharp economic decline, with cultivated areas decreasing to 4%, cattle numbers to 84%, horses to 53.7%, and sheep and goats to 57%. Despite this economic downturn, the incorporation of new territories into Dagestan after the formation of the DASSR resulted in a significant expansion of the region's land area. In 1913, the land area was 1,273,472 dessiatins (1 des. = 1.09 ha), which increased to 5,332,000 des. in 1924 and further to 5,730,000 des. in 1929. This expansion augmented the republic's land fund by more than half, alleviating the issue of providing landless mountaineers with land, including winter lowland pastures. However, certain large Dagestan districts, such as Andiysky, Darginsky, and Gunibsky, continued to face a shortage of land, with averages of 0.6 des. of arable land per household in the Andi district, 0.6 des. in the Darginsky district, and 1.1 des. in the Gunibsky district<sup>2</sup>.

A.I. Osmanov indicates that "from 1917 to 1924, only 1,886 families relocated to the lowland, with 1,161 families arriving in Dagestan from other regions, and 422 families settling within the mountain districts. Families moving from the mountains to the lowland numbered no more than 295" [20]. However, M.-R.A. Ibragimov presents different figures, stating that "57 settlements were formed, accommodating up to 1,247 households (about 6 thousand people). Among them, more than 700 households moved from the foothills of

<sup>2.</sup> Central State Archive of RD. F. 1.-p. Inv. 1. File 188. L. 14-15.

Dagestan (Dargins, Kumyks, Lezgins), and over 500 households moved from other regions of our country (Chechens, Russians, Ukrainians, etc.)" [11].

The planned resettlement of highlanders to the lowland commenced in 1924, following a request from the plenum of the Dagobkom of the RCP (b) to the People's Commissariat of Agriculture of the USSR. The request sought the submission of a long-term production plan for resettlement, specifying the number of migrants from mountainous territories, the timing of resettlement, and allocated land plots [21].

During this period, one of the forms of lowland development by the highlanders was *kutans* and *kazmalyars* – livestock farms occupied by the mountain population on lease terms for winter grazing in the autumn and spring [7]. For instance, "on the Kumyk plain, about 1.5 million hectares of farmland, including 137 thousand hectares of arable land, were assigned to 280 public farms in 21 mountainous regions." Subsequently, 26 villages emerged in their place, inhabited by Avars, Kumyks, Lezgins, Dargins, and other peoples.

Illustratively, labor migration among the Sulevkents (Dakhadaevsky district) expanded to the zone of Northern Dagestan. In this zone, traditional Sulevkent crafts, such as glazed ceramics, began to proliferate. Sculptural details featuring stucco images of birds, deer, rams, and other traditional Sulevkent motifs appeared on buildings as a result.

### Resettlement of Dagestanis on the lands of deported peoples

The most significant resettlement processes involving Dagestanis in the second half of the 20th century were closely tied to the deportation of the Chechen and Ingush peoples in 1944, including the Akkin Chechens residing in Dagestan. Subsequently, there was a resettlement of Dagestanis to the former Chechen lands. Approximately 10 thousand people from 24 settlements were moved, surpassing the planned resettlement of 1,200 households [15].

Contrasting figures are presented by S.I. Musaev in the monograph "Power and Society in Dagestan (second half of the 40s – 50s of the 20th century)": "17,740 households (61 thousand people, instead of the 6,300 households envisaged by the Council of People's Commissars) were resettled from 19 high-mountain regions with little land." In the newly developed areas, 84 collective farms, district and rural party, Soviet, and economic organizations were established [22].

The Kurchaloevsky, Nozhayurtovsky, Sharoevsky, Vedensky, Sayansky, and Cheberlovsky districts of the former Chechen Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic were integrated into the DASSR. The territory incorporated into Dagestan saw the settlement of representatives from almost all the peoples of Dagestan, excluding the Botlikhs, Godoberins, Archins, and individuals from the Lezgin ethnic group. The Aukhovsky district underwent transformation into the Novolaksky district, where Lak migrants from the Laksky and Kulinsky districts settled [23]. Consequently, 17% of the population from the high mountainous regions of Dagestan was relocated to Chechnya, involving residents from 114 villages resettled in whole and 110 villages in part. Additionally, over 3 thousand Dagestanis residing in Georgia were also resettled there [24]. During this period, 1,950 households were relocated from the Dargin districts to the Kurchaloevsky and Gudurmesky districts. Notably, only residents

from the Dakhadaevsky district villages of Kala-Koreish, Sulevkent, Shiri, and Sanzhi were entirely resettled to Chechnya.

# Stages of resettlement of Dagestanis in the second half of the 20th century. Labour migration of Dagestan livestock farmers to neighboring regions

Large-scale migration processes involving Dagestan peoples unfolded in the territories of Stavropol Krai and Kalmykia in the first half of the 20th century. According to M.L. Ramazanov, the Chairman of the Council of Elders of the Dagestan Peoples in Stavropol Krai, the first settlers were Amuzgins (Dargins of the Dakhadaevsky region) and Laks. These were primarily single artisans, blacksmiths, and tinkers, who had come to work as early as in the 1920s. Over time, as they gradually settled in the area, they began to bring their families and integrate into the urban population.

However, the defining stage in the process of Dagestanis settling in Stavropol Krai occurred in the late 1950s to early 1960s. The primary motivation for relocation was linked to working opportunities in sheep farming. A considerable number of shepherds from Dagestan responded to invitations from collective and state farms in the Arzgirsky, Levokumsky, and Neftekumsky regions.

A resident of Stavropol Krai, V.A. Chekunov, provides a description of one of the main stages of resettlement in the region [25]: "The early development of virgin lands of Kalmykia and the expansion of sheep farming resulted in a fourfold increase in the sheep population, growing from 90 thousand to 360 thousand. Each collective farm moved herds to the Chyornie Zemli (Black Lands) for the winter, and from the 20th of October to the 20th of November, they went there with a flock, covering a distance of 220 to 270 km. By the mid-1950s, elderly shepherds could no longer undertake this winter migration, and in 1945, brigades for transhumance pastures were established on the collective farm named after the XX Congress of the CPSU. The head of the collective farm, A.I. Onoprienko, dispatched Zh. Pokotilo, the head of the personnel department, to the Caspian region of Dagestan to recruit shepherds along with their families. They settled in the premises of brigade camps in the Black Lands. In the early 1960s, the Kalmyk government approached the Council of Ministers of Russia to secure pasture lands for Stavropol land users. As a result, all brigades were returned to their primary land use, and collective sheep farms were constructed.

The migration of livestock breeders to the Stavropol Krai played a pivotal role in the active settlement of Dagestanis in this region, primarily Dargins from rural areas. Between the 1950s and 1989, the Dargin population in the region increased 43 times, reaching 32,213 people.

Representatives of other Dagestan ethnic groups also lived in the region: Avars, Lezgins, Tabasarans, Laks, Aguls, Rutuls, Udins and Tsakhurs, who in total made up 1% of the region's population. The bulk of the Dargin population lived in lowland areas in the east and northeast of the region; a high concentration of settlement was recorded in the Levokumsky and Arzgirsky regions.

# Relocation of the population from the zone affected by earthquake in Dagestan and increased seasonal migration<sup>3</sup> of Dagestanis

Significant changes in the settlement patterns of the lowland part of Dagestan resulted from two earthquakes: one in Southern Dagestan in 1966 and another in Northern Dagestan in 1970. In the aftermath, approximately 4 thousand houses were constructed for the affected population, and over 15 thousand were repaired [7]. The resettlement of highlanders to the Derbent region, including populated areas like Mamedkala, Dagestanskie Ogni, and the village of Gedzhuk, occurred quite intensively. The majority of those who moved were residents of the Kaitag region. In the Kayakent region, settlers established a new settlement known as the village of Druzhba, where Dargins from the Dakhadaevsky district settled. The rural population showed the most intensive migration to new cities such as Kizilyurt, Izberbash, Khasavyurt, as well as to Makhachkala, Derbent, and Buinaksk.

Since the early 1970s, the Caspian region has emerged as the second zone of intense labor and external migration for the working population of Dagestan, following the steppe regions of the North Caucasus. In the 1980s, around 3 thousand people from rural areas migrated to work in these regions every year. The number of migrants heading to the Russian, Kazakh, and Central Asian regions within the Caspian region also increased during the perestroika period.

During the 1980s, the volume of seasonal migration from Dagestan to the Orenburg, Guryev, and Aktobe regions notably expanded. People primarily went for agricultural, construction, and oil and gas production works [26]. In this decade, the process of Dagestanis' migration to the Caspian regions of Kazakhstan intensified even further.

### Analysis of ethno-social tension and forced migration in Dagestan in the 90s

In the 1990s, social and ethnic problems in Dagestan intensified, primarily linked to the extensive settlement of highlanders in the first half of the 20th century in lowland territories. These challenges were compounded by the difficulties associated with the transition to a market economy and reforms in the USSR. The subsequent collapse of the Soviet Union and the outbreak of military conflict in Chechnya further heightened ethnic and religious tensions in Dagestan. The frequent resettlement to lowlands had a significant impact, particularly on the Kumyk population, which lost two-thirds of their lands occupied until the 1930s. As a result, they became a national minority in their historical place of residence.

Internal migration in the Nogai, Khasavyurt, Babayurt, Kizlyar, and Derbent regions of Dagestan has led to significant changes in the ethnic composition of the lowland and coastal areas of the region. Settlements have become more dispersed, areas have become multi-

<sup>3.</sup> Relocation of workers for a specific season, with the aim of, for example, collecting harvest.

ethnic, and indigenous settlements have grown larger. Additionally, neighborhoods with a foreign population and new settlements have emerged.

An analysis of the primary trends in the migration process in the Republic of Dagestan, conducted by M.-R.A. Ibragimov, revealed the dependence of this process on various factors. The resettlement of new groups quickly brought forth contradictions inherent in a territorially dispersed multi-ethnic structure, including issues of inequality, disadvantage, and coercion. These factors could serve as sources of conflict situations in the relationships between the indigenous inhabitants of the plains and the mountain settlers [13].

The intensification of Dagestanis settling in the Stavropol Krai, particularly in the mid-90s during the ongoing "Chechen crisis," led to tension and a number of direct conflicts between the local Slavic and Dagestan populations. Simultaneously, the presence of military tensions in Dagestan's vicinity, a notable economic downturn, and an increase in general social tension prompted a significant departure of the Russian population from the republic itself. The heightened outflow of the Russians coincided with the peaks of military escalation in neighboring Chechnya in 1995, 1998, and 1999. Additionally, the Russians were disproportionately affected by unemployment during this period, as the sharp decline in production had a tangible impact on their willingness to stay in Dagestan.

The results of a sociological study conducted in the early 2000s in the cities of Makhachkala, Kaspiysk, and Kizlyar revealed that among the Russian population, more than 70% of respondents believed that their rights were infringed, and over 50% perceived their position as less advantageous than that of representatives of other indigenous Dagestan nationalities. The majority indicated that they were leaving Dagestan due to uncertainty about the future of their children and a lack of hope for improving the socio-political situation in the republic [27].

In subsequent years, the aging process of the Slavic Russian population emerged as one of the main reasons for the decrease in the share of the Russian population, particularly in the historically highest Russian-populated northern regions of Dagestan. In the first half of 2008, out of 1,588 children born, only 180 were of Russian ethnicity. Moreover, the mortality rate during this period was 764 people, and almost 51% of them were citizens of Russian ethnicity [28].

### Forced migration and problems of refugees' adaptation in Dagestan

Dagestan was the first to face the issue of refugees and internally displaced persons in post-Soviet Russia. The republic experienced the first wave of re-emigrants in 1989-1990 when over 9 thousand ethnic Dagestanis, who had been residing in the Guryev region of Kazakhstan, were compelled to return to their historical homeland due to the outbreak of a movement for the return of lands to the indigenous Kazakh population. This event marked the onset of mass re-emigration in the 1990s, with tens of thousands of Dagestanis returning to the republic from neighboring states where they had been living since Soviet times.

Alongside Kazakhstan, a significant flow of refugees arrived from Georgia, where interethnic conflicts occurred between 1989 and 1993.

Starting from July 1992, Dagestan also provided refuge to approximately 1.3 thousand individuals from Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, and other hot spots resulting from the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

By the end of the 20th century, destructive factors significantly influenced the social and migration situation in the Republic of Dagestan. The outbreak of hostilities in the Chechen Republic compelled many citizens who had previously lived in Chechen villages to return to their homeland in Dagestan. During the first Chechen war, around 148 thousand forced migrants from Chechnya relocated to the territory of the republic, and during the second war, their number decreased significantly to 21 thousand people. The majority (64.5%) of all forced migrants in Dagestan during this period were migrants from Chechnya.

Of all internally displaced persons, 58% were settled in urban areas, comprising 51% of the working population, 41% children, and 8% older individuals. Notably, the majority of forced migrants (82.7%) were representatives of indigenous Dagestan peoples, including Avars, Lezgins, Dargins, Laks, and Nogais.

### Dynamics of urbanization and labour migrations in the 21st century

The migration processes in the 20th century led to the disappearance of more than 200 rural settlements in the mountainous regions of Dagestan, with over 50 more on the verge of extinction. Additionally, more than 100 thousand hectares of arable land, gardens, and hayfields were abandoned [29].

All "migration losses" of the population in Dagestan are tied to relocations from rural areas, where, since 2001, there has been a consistent gap between the number of arrivals and departures. By 2001, the migration loss of the population in Dagestan had surpassed 3,000 people. The situation further deteriorated by 2006, with migration growth dropping to a minimum level (-7061). The last year of positive migration growth was 1999. From 1993 to 2003, on average, about 12 thousand people left rural areas annually, while in cities, this figure was approximately 10 thousand people. Unfortunately, the increase in migration loss continues to this day, with almost all losses associated with migrants from rural areas.

In 2002, migration loss in rural areas of Dagestan was 12 times higher than in cities. While there was an increase in migration flow to cities from 2003, this trend started to decline by 2005. Concurrently, the issue of unemployment in rural areas of Dagestan led to a rise in the outflow of the population outside the republic in search of work.

In 2006, a survey of residents in rural areas of Dagestan was conducted to study labor migration outside the republic. Over 90 thousand people, approximately 7.2% of the economically active population, participated in migration processes. The study revealed that preferences in choosing the direction and type of migration varied depending on territorial, ethnocultural, and professional groups [30].

The survey results indicated that, at that time, the primary occupations of Dagestani migrants were reconstruction works in various regions of Russia, agricultural activities, commercial and wholesale purchasing activities, and employment in the oil and gas industry. Approximately one-third of all rural labor migrants left the republic to engage in various repair and construction projects, while agricultural activities attracted around 19% of Dagestan migrants.

The main destinations for these labor migrants included the Stavropol and Krasnodar territories, Rostov, Moscow, Kaluga, Tyumen regions, the Republic of Kalmykia, and the cities of Moscow, St. Petersburg, Surgut, Nizhnevartovsk, Astrakhan, and Saratov.

Population migration in the North Caucasus is influenced by a complex interplay of economic, social, and political factors. Beyond economic considerations, social instability, conflicts, and religious contradictions play pivotal roles. Low living standards, limited local prospects, and disparities in the quality of life between rural and urban areas are also significant drivers of migration. A substantial number of migrants are compelled to leave due to a lack of employment opportunities or jobs that are unsuitable for their qualifications and experience. Additionally, demographic factors such as high birth rates and low death rates contribute to the need for increased housing, employment, and healthcare services. Many migrants choose to settle outside of Dagestan in various Russian regions on a permanent basis.

Intra-republican migration patterns in Dagestan have undergone significant shifts in recent years. While the primary direction of migration was historically towards cities, the 21st century has seen both rural and urban areas experiencing substantial migration losses. Migration exchange results in both rural and urban areas are nearly balanced, although statistics might not accurately reflect the true situation due to individuals who have long moved to the city maintaining their rural status to receive additional benefits [31].

The challenging situation in Dagestan's labor market continues to influence the structure of labor migration. The region faces a negative migration balance, with 13,000 more people leaving each year than arriving, with the youth being the main category of labor migrants. Low living standards, limited prospects in rural areas, challenges with employment in cities, and other factors contribute to population migration. Intra-republican migration processes in Dagestan are evolving, and significant migration losses are currently occurring in both rural and urban areas.

#### **Conclusion**

Migration processes, resettlement and labour migration are an integral part of the history of Dagestan; they are centuries-old in nature and are closely related to changes in socioeconomic and political conditions both within the region and beyond.

The largest waves of migration were associated with the resettlement of highlanders to lowland territories in the 1920-1930s, the deportation of Chechens and Ingush and the subsequent settlement of the vacated lands by Dagestanis in 1944, mass migration to cities and outside the republic in the late 1980s-1990s.

Modern migration processes in Dagestan are marked by an increase in labor migration from rural areas to both the cities within the republic and other regions of Russia. These movements are driven by socio-economic challenges in agriculture and the labor market. Migration has had a profound impact on the ethnic composition and settlement patterns of Dagestan's peoples, contributed to the multi-ethnicity of cities and altered the ethnocultural landscape of lowland territories. Additionally, there exists a close relationship between migration processes and socio-economic changes in Dagestan throughout the 20th and early 21st centuries.

The influx of migrants from various nationalities has significantly influenced the ethnic structure of cities, fostering increased interethnic contacts across various spheres of life. Importantly, the ethnic groups of Dagestan maintain the potential for conflict-free coexistence and mutual understanding, rooted in historical traditions of living together in diverse national territories. The role of state and public structures in Dagestan is noteworthy, as they actively engage in preventing and resolving interethnic conflicts through systematic efforts at legislative, organizational, and public levels [28].

Under the influence of migration, ongoing changes are taking place in the socio-economic sphere of the republic. Despite the difficulties and contradictions, these changes are expected to continue playing a crucial role in the life of Dagestan and its population.

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