

KAZAKHSTAN

THE LAND OF WONDERS

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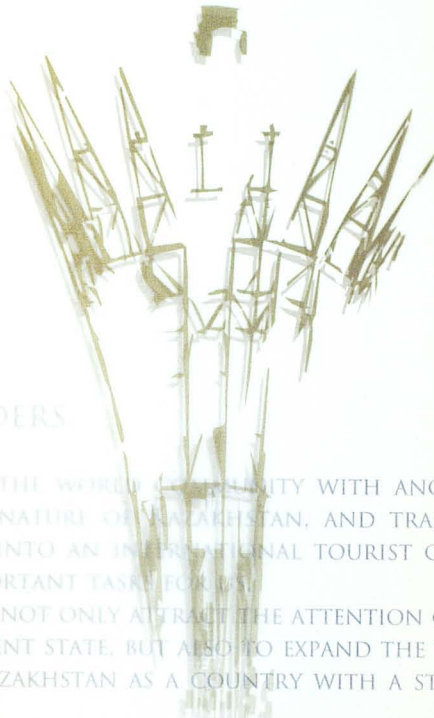
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DEAR READERS

ACQUAINTING THE WORLD WITH THE RICH DIVERSITY WITH ANCIENT HISTORICAL SITES, UNIQUE NATURE OF KAZAKHSTAN, AND TRANSFORMATION OF THE COUNTRY INTO AN INTERNATIONAL TOURIST CENTRE IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT TASKS FOR US.

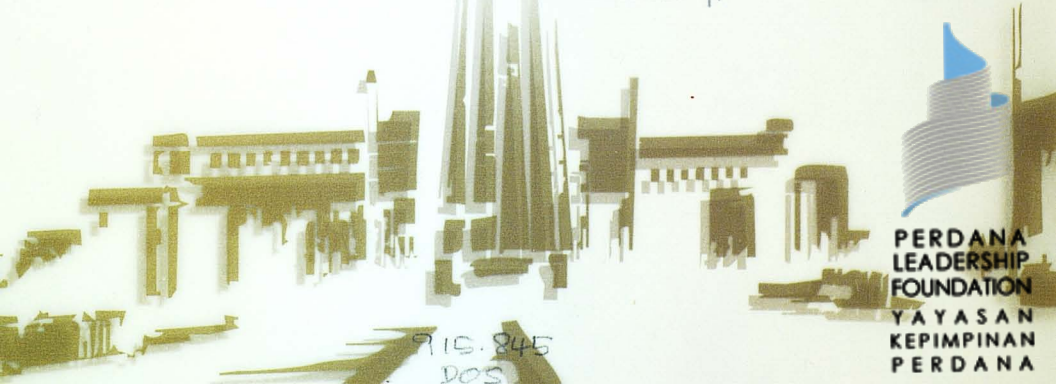
WE INTEND TO NOT ONLY ATTRACT THE ATTENTION OF THE WORLD TO OUR INDEPENDENT STATE, BUT ALSO TO EXPAND THE TRADITIONAL PERCEPTION OF KAZAKHSTAN AS A COUNTRY WITH A STRONG ECONOMIC POTENTIAL.

DUE TO ITS LOCATION IN CENTRAL ASIAN, THROUGH WHICH THE GREAT SILK ROAD PASSED, TO ITS UNIQUE AND DIVERSE LANDSCAPE, ANCIENT MONUMENTS AND CONTEMPORARY REALITIES, KAZAKHSTAN HAS AN OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT ITSELF TO THE WORLD IN A NEW WAY.

THE FAMOUS AND UNIQUE WONDERS OF KAZAKHSTAN WILL BECOME IMPORTANT COMPONENTS OF FUTURE INTERNATIONAL TOURISM.

I AM CONFIDENT THAT THIS BOOK ISSUED TO GET YOU ACQUAINTED WITH OUR COUNTRY'S ASTOUNDINGLY BEAUTIFUL NATURE WILL ALSO SERVE TO DEEPEN MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION BETWEEN VARIOUS COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES.

NURSULTAN NAZARBAYEV,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN



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Самый высокий небоскреб
в мире
высоте "City of the World"



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ASTANA – THE CAPITAL OF KAZAKHSTAN

Cities do not come into existence at once. They are being formed for tens, hundreds, thousands of years. They change their image, grow and develop in accordance with the requirements of the time. Each generation writes its own lines into the chronicles of history, determining the future – progress or decline, rise or fall ...

The young Astana's history is anything but simple. It is not measured by decades, but by centuries of hardships, great achievements and memorable events.

A symbolical moment, which has changed the fate of the city and the whole country, was the decision of the President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev to transfer the capital from Almaty to Akmola. When, after the break-up of the Soviet Union, the enterprises ceased their production, many workers and employees began to learn how to survive under the new market conditions, that decision aroused debates. But the firsts ten years of existence of the new capital demonstrated that, thanks to this decision, a new city appeared on the map of Kazakhstan – a city that the whole nation is proud of and the entire world is excited about.

The major milestones of the megalopolis, which has changed several names and become the key city of Kazakhstan at the turn of the centuries, show that it has never lost its strategic significance in the life of the state.

The military headquarters of the Kypshak sultan, that came into being over thousand years ago on the left bank of the river Ishym, has taken its place in the history of the new capital of Kazakhstan - Astana. Owing to discovery and research of the Bozok settlement ruins, it has become possible to determine that the city has more than thousand years of history.

The second stage in the history of the settlement began during the period of the Kypshak Khanate strengthening in the steppe (the X-XI century). The Kypshaks, who inhabited this place, cleared up ditches, built houses from clay bricks and wood. Yurtas were erected in the central part of the settlement. The new residents of the settlement filled up the ditches and built the first mausoleums and minarets here. It is not surprising since all settlements in the ancient times rose around sacred places and forefathers' graves.

The third stage of the place development began in the Golden Horde Age (the XIII-XIV century) and continued till modern times. The Bozok settlement ruins are gaining the status of a

On May 6, 1998, in accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Akmola was renamed into Astana.



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cult center and is becoming a burial ground for grand people. Probably, it is the place where the first Muslim missionaries were buried, and whose grave went on to become a place of worship later on. The ruins of five mausoleums in the Bozok settlement were carefully examined. They were built from mud-brick and burnt brick. A brick kiln was constructed near the mausoleums. A silver coin, issued in 1321, was found in one of the graves.

In 1829, sultan Konyrkuldzha Kudaimendin made a request to the Russian government to protect his auls and trade caravans from forays. The administration of Western Siberia made a decision to establish a military outpost near Akmola. Local clan seniors gathered near the Bii Niyaz mausoleum to discuss the issue of a new administrative centre location – the Akmola for-

trass. On June 18, 1830 the location was finalized, and that day can be rightfully considered the birthday of Kazakhstan's future capital. The number of residents in the fortress did not exceed 313 people, and there was only one cannon. Today this cannon is on display at the President's Centre of Culture in Astana.

In the course of time, more people settled around the fortress, shaping the new districts of the future Akmolinsk. In 1845, the expanding fortress was turned into the Akmolinsk village, and in 1868 the vast Akmolinsk region was formed, which consisted of five districts: Akmolinsk, Kokchetav, Petropavlovsk, Omsk, and Atbasar. In accordance with the requirements of that time, the coat of arms of the region was approved. The residents of Astana will never get to see the original coat of arms - the Heraldry deposi-

