

National Defense University  
named after the First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan – Elbasy

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**The history of armed conflicts  
on the territory of the USSR in the 60s of the twentieth century**

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**ANNOTATION**

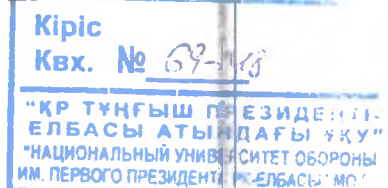
dissertations for the degree  
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Relevance of the research topic. The Republic of Kazakhstan pursues a sovereign, independent, "multi-vector" foreign policy, which was founded by the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan - the Supreme Commander-in-Chief K.K. Tokayev. He noted that "... the preservation of the territorial integrity of our Homeland is our sacred duty. Our ancestors from time immemorial did not allow anyone to encroach on our lands and bequeathed us to keep them. Our main task is to protect this great heritage like the apple of our eye. We must leave a united and strong state to our descendants. Only by protecting peace and stability in the country will we be able to build a progressive and developed state. "The Armed Forces are called upon to reliably protect these fundamental values.".. The folk wisdom "Zhau zhok deme, zhar astynda" ("Do not say that there is no enemy, he is behind a rock") is now acquiring a special meaning. In order to preserve our independence, we must be ready for any challenges. In this difficult period, the role of the army is increasing more than ever."

The geostrategic location between such large states as the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China determines the balance of political and economic international contacts.

In this regard, the study of the Soviet experience of ensuring state security in the 60s of the twentieth century is relevant for the Republic of Kazakhstan in ensuring the national and military security of the state.

Directly near the territory of the Republic of Kazakhstan, there may also be prerequisites for military threats. These include conditions for changing the existing world order and expanding the sphere of influence over strategic resources by world and regional powers, as well as the increasing activity of separatism and terrorism, which can be used by external forces to achieve their political goals on the territory of the country. These factors have an impact on the military security of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The study of the historical experience of the Soviet-Chinese armed conflicts of the twentieth century is due to the following factors:

- changes in the political and socio-economic situation in the world, the deformation of ideological attitudes and value orientations in the world community about peace and war, which has an ambiguous effect on ensuring the territorial integrity of the country;

- the lack of a unified approach to the study of the historical experience of defending the Fatherland in the Soviet period of the 60s of the twentieth century, its dynamics and direction of changes in the conditions of combat missions;

- the need to search for new methodological approaches in the study of the Soviet-Chinese armed confrontation in the 60s of the twentieth century in the Kazakh military-historical science;

- the presence of modern realities of the existence of potential challenges and threats to the preservation of the territorial integrity and independence of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Also, the use of this experience will help to efficiently and effectively solve the tasks of improving the level of combat training of servicemen of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Thus, the totality of the above factors indicates the need for scientific development of the research topic.

## THE DEGREE OF KNOWLEDGE OF THE PROBLEM.

In military historical science, this topic is insufficiently studied due to limited access to combat documentary sources. Therefore, an insignificant amount of documentary and scientific literature describing the events on the Soviet-Chinese border in the 60s of the twentieth century was published in the open press.

Among Soviet experts on China, considerable attention in a number of works is paid to the issues of border settlement between the USSR and the PRC in the late 60s of the twentieth century. Thus, at various times N. Gaiduk, M.S. Kapitsa, O.B. Borisov and B.T. Koloskov, K. Bosev, S.L. Tikhvinsky, Yu.M. Galenovich, M.I. Sladkovsky, A. Prokhorov, Mosko G.N., Gorbachev B.N. addressed this topic.

The works of Soviet military specialists such as V.F. Buturlinov, G.K. Plotnikov, V.V. Chubarov, A. Pivovarenko, V.E. Manuilov, P. Chirkin, I.Petrov, V. Shchur, D. Yushchenko, Yu.A. Neshumov were devoted to the study of the Soviet-Chinese events on Damansky Island.

In modern Russian historiography, certain issues of the topic under study were covered in a number of works by famous Russian scientists, such as: S.L. Tikhvinsky, B.I. Tkachenko, Y.M. Galenovich, P.A. Gvaskov, I.G. Dorogovoz, D.S. Ryabushkin, S.L. Rogoza and N.B. Achkasov, A. Musalov, E.D. Stepanov, A.N. Okorokov, V.N. Melnikov, I.I. Petrov, V.D. Bubenin, V. Gladkov, I.S. Prokopenko, N.N. Vavilov.

Chinese historians have also paid attention to this issue. Chinese historiography is represented by the works of such scholars as: Shi Jun, Hu Sheng, Chen Zhihua, Sun Qiming, Sun Hanbin, Yao Yue, Xu Yan, Liu Zhiqing, Huang Ji Lan, Tang Zong.

Western historiography also studied the Soviet-Chinese relations of the late 60s of the twentieth century. It is represented by the works of famous American scientists such as: T. Robinson, N.Maxwell, R. Hiv, S. Urbanski, L.J.Goldstein.

Kazakh historiography pays considerable attention to the development of relations with China as one of the main strategic partners.

A whole scientific direction of Kazakhstani sinologists has developed. Among them, the most significant works of such researchers as: K-Zh.K. Tokaev, K.Sh. Khafizova, K. A. Kokarev, V.N. Khlyupin, F. Khamraev, E.M. Aben, R.K. Zholaman, E.G. Karin, K.L. Syroezhkin, V. Mikheeva, P.E. Bekturganova, D.S. Taubaldieva, G.K. Mukanova.

Separate problems of the studied topic were touched upon in the works of Kazakh military scientists, such as: A. Shoinbayev, A.Y. Adautov, N.Zh. Asylov, B.Y. Yelubayev, S.K. Tynybayev.

Thus, the analysis of the above works allowed us to master the general ideas about the topic under study and determine the range of issues not studied, which allowed us to determine the topic of the study. A detailed analysis of historiography is presented in subsection 1.1.

THE OBJECT OF THE STUDY is the Soviet-Chinese international relations in the 60s of the twentieth century.

THE SUBJECT OF THE STUDY is the Soviet-Chinese armed conflicts of 1969.

THE PURPOSE OF THE WORK is to study the history of the Soviet-Chinese armed conflicts of 1969 and the participation of Kazakhstani soldiers in them for

the further development of military historical science of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

To achieve this goal, the following tasks are defined:

- to study historiography, to present a source base, to determine the methodological foundations of the study;
- to conduct a military-strategic analysis of Soviet-Chinese relations and armed conflicts in the late 60s of the twentieth century;
- to study the history of the participation of Kazakhstan and Kazakhstani soldiers in armed conflicts on the Soviet-Chinese border.

THE CHRONOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK OF THE STUDY covers the period from the late 40s to the early 70s of the twentieth century.

THE SCIENTIFIC NOVELTY OF THE RESEARCH is that in the dissertation for the first time:

- historiography is generalized and systematized, the source base of the study is presented, in which 83 new archival documents are introduced into scientific circulation, the author's methodology of the problem is presented;
- a military-strategic analysis of Soviet-Chinese relations and armed conflicts in the late 60s of the twentieth century was carried out;
- the history of the participation of Kazakhstan and Kazakhstani soldiers in armed conflicts on the Soviet-Chinese border has been studied.

THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY.

The theoretical significance of the dissertation work lies in the fact that:

- the results and provisions obtained during the research can be used in subsequent scientific research on the problems of military history of Kazakhstan;
- when writing textbooks, textbooks on military history, the history of the construction of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The practical significance is that:

- the material presented in the dissertation can be used when writing lectures, during seminars and in the independent work of undergraduates and doctoral students;
- as a reference material in the study of the military history of Kazakhstan and in the preparation of historical atlases;
- in educational and ideological work with military personnel and youth.

THE SOURCE BASE OF THE STUDY is conditionally divided into 5 groups:

The first group of sources are published legislative acts, documents of state authorities and public administration, regulatory documents of military administration bodies – the Ministry of Defense of the USSR and the Border Troops of the KGB of the USSR. Documents that formed the regulatory framework for the political settlement of the State Border between Kazakhstan and China.

The second group of sources includes previously unpublished documents of the state and departmental archives of the Republic of Kazakhstan introduced into scientific circulation for the first time. Documents from the funds of the Central State Archive of the Republic of Kazakhstan (CSA RK) F. 2436, the Archive of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan (AP RK) F. 412, the Central Archive of the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Kazakhstan (CA MO RK) F. 102,

106, 113, as well as the CA PS of the National Security Committee of the Republic of Kazakhstan F.1. 83 archival documents from the data funds are being introduced into scientific circulation for the first time.

The third group of sources are anniversary books, conference transcripts, articles in periodicals, so-called "citizen researchers" dedicated to the Soviet-Chinese relations of the late 60s of the twentieth century.

The fourth group of sources are the works of military scientists published in special military periodicals: "Bagdar", "Khabarshysy UKU", "Shchekara", "Otansakshysy".

The fifth group of sources is the memories of veterans, records of conversations and questionnaires with the participants of the Kazakh soldiers, as well as information obtained during a scientific trip to the places of combat events.

Thus, all five groups of sources made up the source, evidence base of the study. A detailed analysis of the sources is presented in subsection 1.2 of the dissertation.

#### METHODOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS AND RESEARCH METHODS

From the entire historical course of events of the last century, the Soviet-Chinese international relations of the late 60s on the dynamics of development from good neighborliness to a series of armed conflicts are a unique experience in preventing and conducting hostilities on the Soviet-Chinese border passing through the territory of the Kazakh SSR.

In the scientific literature, the assessment of these events, to date, remains contradictory.

An analysis of Soviet, domestic, and foreign historiography and assessments of military experts allows us to conclude that Soviet historical science deeply ideologically interpreted the sharp deterioration of Soviet-Chinese relations, which led to armed conflicts, as China's departure from communist ideals and the socialist system.

In turn, Chinese historians and political scientists declared the departure of the Soviet Communists "from the principles of Marxism-Leninism", to "revisionism" and "great power".

Western scientists considered the Soviet-Chinese crisis from the point of view of global security and the growing threat of the use of nuclear weapons by both sides of the conflict.

Modern assessments by Russian experts of the Soviet-Chinese armed conflicts, as well as assessments of the Soviet period, define the armed conflict on Damansky Island as dominant and as an armed provocation on the border, having a local character.

Modern Kazakh scientists consider the events on the Kazakh section of the Soviet-Chinese border as events of the Soviet period, while not comprehensively considering the causes, conditions and factors of the Soviet-Chinese crisis without determining the place and role of Kazakhstan in it.

Collected, processed and analyzed new archival sources, memoirs of participants, personal conversations with Kazakhstani soldiers allowed the author to make an attempt to form his own vision and assessment of the events of those years, which formed the basis of the author's concept and methodology of the research topic.



In this regard, when developing a methodology, it is necessary to determine the main category of research – armed conflict.

The term "armed conflict" was not used in military dictionaries and combat documents of the Soviet period. For example, there is no definition of "armed conflict" in the dictionaries of the main military terms of 1965, 1989 and in the encyclopedic dictionary of 1979.

In modern governing documents of the Russian Federation, the definition of "armed conflict", in our opinion, is given widely. Thus, armed conflicts according to the Military Doctrine of the Russian Federation (12/25/2014) include: an armed clash of a limited scale between states (international armed conflict) or opposing parties within the territory of one state (internal armed conflict).

In the Military Doctrine of the Republic of Kazakhstan (29.09.2017), "armed conflict" is defined as "... a form of resolving contradictions between states, peoples, social groups of a limited scale with the use of military force, in which martial law is not introduced in the state ...".

All the material of the dissertation research on the history of the Soviet-Chinese armed conflicts on the territory of the USSR in the 60s of the twentieth century, as well as the analysis of doctrinal documents of the Soviet period and modernity allowed us to determine that the concept of "armed conflict" should include armed conflicts on Damansky Island in the Far East, near the village of Dulaty and Lake Zhalanashkol of the Kazakh SSR 1969.

The thesis attempts to give an improved definition of the Soviet-Chinese armed conflicts of 1969.

Thus, in our opinion, from the point of view of military historical science, the Soviet-Chinese armed conflicts of the late 60s of the twentieth century are one of the forms of resolving ideological, political and territorial contradictions between the USSR and the People's Republic of China using conventional means of armed struggle by regular forces of the two states, in which the states did not a special state called war.

Also, when developing a methodology for the study of this topic, in our opinion, it is necessary to determine the understanding of the true causes of the sharp deterioration of Soviet-Chinese relations – the leap from "good neighborliness" to open armed conflict, as well as the true goals of the Chinese leadership.

The conflicts and contradictions between China and the USSR affect several aspects. One of them was ideological differences. Another aspect was that China set a goal to get away from the dictate of the USSR. The leadership of the Soviet Communists still tried to dictate their own will and demanded that the Chinese Communist Party obey his instructions, tried to put them under their control and tie him militarily and diplomatically to their own strategy.

However, in our opinion, by the 60s of the twentieth century, China, using Soviet economic assistance, understanding the advantages and achievements of the Western economy, took a course towards rapprochement with the West in order to use its economic advantages, its new technologies for its own economic growth and prosperity as an independent, independent China, as a new world power.

The main grandiose goals of China were laid down precisely in the 60s of the twentieth century - the construction of an economically strong and politically



influential state, the third world center, which is modern China today.

Proceeding from the above, China planned and implemented a series of armed conflicts on the Soviet-Chinese territory to achieve its goals, as a demonstration of withdrawal from the USSR and a signal for rapprochement with the West.

When writing the dissertation, general scientific and special historical methods were used: analysis, synthesis, induction, deduction, method of historical periodization, historical-comparative, historical-chronological method, historical-comparative, retrospective, method of connection with modernity.

A detailed description of the methodology and research methods are presented in subsection 1.3.

#### PROVISIONS SUBMITTED FOR PROTECTION:

- systematization of the historiography of the problem, introduction of previously unknown archival sources into scientific circulation, the author's methodology of the studied problem;

- military-strategic analysis of the Soviet-Chinese armed conflicts of the 60s of the twentieth century;

- generalization of the history of the participation of Kazakhstan (Kazakh SSR) and Kazakhstani soldiers in armed conflicts on the territory of the USSR in the 60s of the twentieth century.

#### APPROBATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF RESEARCH RESULTS.

The main provisions, conclusions and results of the dissertation research are published in 11 (eleven) scientific articles, 7 (seven) of which are in journals recommended by the Committee for Quality Assurance in the Field of Science and Higher Education of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan (the military theoretical journal of the NUO "Bagdar" ("Landmark"), the scientific and educational journal of the NUO "Khabarshysy" ("Bulletin"), a specialized scientific journal of APS "Shekara"; and in a special issue of the military scientific and technical journal "Scientific Works of VIIREiS"), in 4 (four) international scientific conferences (MNPC "Actual aspects of improving border security"; MNPC "Military training in civilian universities at the present stage: history, trends and prospects of development"; III MNPC VI Gubkin Humanitarian readings").

Also, four acts of implementation of the results of the dissertation research were obtained (Appendices A, B, C, D). The materials of the dissertation research were used:

- in subsection 2.6 "Topic 16. Causes, operational and strategic review and results of local wars and armed conflicts of the 50-80, years of the twentieth century"; textbook "History of wars and Military Art", edited by Lieutenant General, Doctor of Historical Sciences, Professor A.B. Tasbulatov;

- in chapter 9 of section 4 of the textbook "Military History of Kazakhstan" in the educational process

In the "Atlas of the Military History of Kazakhstan" edited by Professor, Doctor of Historical Sciences Mukhamedzhanova S.S. in section 8 "Local wars and armed conflicts" materials, photographs and diagrams of the dissertation work are used.

The materials of the dissertation were used: during the development of a thematic exhibition dedicated to the "30th anniversary of the Border Service of the

National Security Committee of the Republic of Kazakhstan" in the hall "Armed Forces of the Republic of Kazakhstan"; in the section "Armed Forces, other troops and military formations of the Republic of Kazakhstan"; dedicated to the participation of Kazakhstani soldiers in the Soviet-Chinese armed conflicts; in the organization of the exposition in the State Military-Historical Museum of Astana.

Reflection of personal contribution and novelty of scientific research are additionally confirmed:

- certificate of entry of information into the state register of rights to objects protected by copyright No. 35538 dated May 11, 2023 "Periodization of armed conflicts on the Soviet-Chinese border in the 60s of the twentieth century" (Appendix D);

- certificate of entry of information into the state register of rights to objects protected by copyright No. 35656 dated May 15, 2023 "Kazakhstan in the Soviet-Chinese armed conflicts (memoirs of Kazakhstani soldiers, author's schemes of armed conflicts)" (Appendix E);

The structure of the dissertation is determined by the logic and purpose of the dissertation research and reflects the sequence of solving the tasks. The dissertation work is based on the problem-chronological principle, is presented on 146 pages of text and includes 10 tables, 13 figures and 11 appendices.

On the basis of the conducted research, the main provisions, conclusions are formulated in the dissertation and the following scientific results are obtained:

#### 1. THE FIRST SCIENTIFIC RESULT.

1) The study showed that historiography on this issue has developed under the influence of political changes and new socio-economic realities.

The analysis of the scientific literature published on the subject of the study allows us to conclude that the history of armed conflicts in the late 60s of the twentieth century on the territory of the USSR is poorly studied.

During the dissertation research, for the first time we systematized the historiography of the problem, which has been developing for more than 50 years and is conditionally divided into six groups: Soviet historiography, Soviet military historiography, modern Russian historiography, Chinese historiography, Western historiography and domestic, Kazakh historiography.

In Soviet historiography, the Soviet-Chinese armed conflicts of 1969 on the territory of the USSR were extremely ideologized and presented as "apostasy" from the ideas of "Marxism-Leninism" and the ideals of socialism. These conclusions were determined by the general line of the Central Committee of the CPSU in the relevant party documents. The analysis of the reasons for the legitimacy of the passage of the state border indicated in the scientific works of Soviet researchers demonstrates that the majority of Soviet historians, politicians, and regional scientists saw changes in Mao Zedong's foreign policy towards the USSR as the basis of the border problem.

In Soviet military historiography, the authors gave a professional assessment of the actions of the Soviet Border Troops of the KGB of the USSR, units and subdivisions of the USSR Armed Forces, where episodes of battles, types of combat support, tactics of actions, interspecific interaction were considered separately. At the same time, the military-political assessment of the Soviet-Chinese armed conflicts of 1969 did not diverge from the official assessments of

the party leadership of the USSR.

In modern Russian historiography in the mid-2000s, a number of works appeared written by both journalists and professional military personnel, as well as eyewitnesses of those events and persons who served during the period under study in the places of Soviet-Chinese armed conflicts of the late 60s of the twentieth century. It was characteristic that the authors described local wars and armed conflicts in which the USSR participated after 1945, where no more than one chapter was devoted to the analysis of the Soviet-Chinese armed conflicts, and the materials were collected mainly from publicly available sources.

The analysis of Chinese historiography of the modern period revealed the following features. A number of authors adhere to anti-Soviet rhetoric when interpreting the Soviet-Chinese armed conflicts of 1969. The description of events on the border territory is accompanied by the use of various visual and expressive means of language aimed at enhancing the emotional impact on the reader. No significant changes have been found in the assessments of the lessons of the past by Chinese historians, political scientists, and international experts from the time of the existence of the USSR and after its collapse.

In Western historiography, the Soviet-Chinese armed conflicts of the late 60s of the twentieth century between two major socialist powers were perceived as a danger of a "third world war" with an unpredictable outcome. Also, many Western researchers later emphasized that a series of armed conflicts on the Soviet-Chinese border in 1969 allowed changing the focus of influence in U.S. foreign policy from Southeast Asia to China.

The analysis of domestic, Kazakh historiography allows us to conclude that most of the authors explore the Soviet-Chinese relations of the late 60s of the twentieth century through the prism of international relations, economic cooperation, political alliances, national security. However, there are absolutely no military-historical studies on this topic.

Thus, the analysis and systematization of the historiography of the history of armed conflicts on the territory of the USSR in the 60s of the twentieth century allowed us to conclude that the topic of the dissertation research is poorly studied and relevant, which determined the choice of the purpose and objectives of the dissertation work.

2) The source base is divided into four groups: the first group – normative legal acts, laws and by-laws regulating the demarcation and demilitarization of the state border, departmental orders; the second group – archival documents from the funds of state archives: the Archive of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Central State Archive of the Republic of Kazakhstan; the third group – documents from the funds of departmental archives – The Central Archive of the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Central Archive of the PS of the National Security Committee of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the fourth group – memoirs of participants and interviewing materials of living eyewitnesses of those events. During the research, 83 new historical sources are introduced into scientific circulation for the first time. This source base allows for a comprehensive scientific study to create a holistic picture of the history of armed conflicts on the territory of the USSR in the 60s of the twentieth century and Kazakhstan's participation in them.

### 3) Methodological foundations of the study.

In developing a methodology for the study of this topic, the cornerstone is to understand the true causes of the sharp deterioration of Soviet-Chinese relations in the late 60s of the twentieth century from "eternal brotherhood and good neighborliness" to open armed conflicts related to the true goals of the Chinese leadership.

In our opinion, the contradictions and conflicts between the PRC and the USSR in the late 60s of the twentieth century include several aspects. One of which was the so-called ideological differences about the ways of building socialism and communism. Another aspect, and, in our opinion, the main one, was that the PRC set a goal to get away from the dictate of the USSR, using Soviet economic assistance, understanding the advantages and achievements of the Western economy, took a course towards rapprochement with the West in order to use its economic advantages, its new technologies for its own economic growth and prosperity as an independent, independent China as a new world power.

Proceeding from the above, in order to achieve its goals, China planned and implemented a prepared series of armed conflicts on the Soviet-Chinese territory as an open demonstration of withdrawal from the USSR and a signal for rapprochement with the West, which is the main methodological basis of this dissertation research.

In this regard, the thesis presents a military-historical definition that the Soviet-Chinese armed conflicts of the late 60s of the twentieth century are a form of resolving ideological, political and territorial contradictions with the use of conventional means of armed struggle by the regular forces of the two states, in which the states have not moved into a special state called war.

When writing the dissertation work, general scientific and special military-historical research methods were used:

- general scientific methods - such as analysis, synthesis, induction, deduction, comparison, generalization, observation and interviewing.
- special military-historical methods - such as the principle of historicism, which considers cause-and-effect relationships in the development of a historical phenomenon, the problem-chronological method, the comparative historical method.

The above methodological foundations and the listed research methods made it possible to achieve the goal of the dissertation work.

## 2. THE SECOND SCIENTIFIC RESULT.

The conducted military-strategic analysis of Soviet-Chinese relations in the late 60s of the twentieth century showed that:

1) in Soviet-Chinese international relations, there is a steady trend towards a clear deterioration and open armed conflicts.

The international situation in the late 60s testified to the crisis of the socialist system, expressed in the anti-Soviet events in Czechoslovakia and the entry of Soviet troops into Prague, which became the starting point for the Chinese leadership, led by Mao Zedong, to develop its own strategy for the development of the Chinese state, independent of the Soviet dictate. The Communist Party of China theoretically "rethought" some paradigms of its development and began to proceed from the theory of the so-called "intermediate zones".

According to this theory, the former factors that determined the unity of the foreign policy lines of Moscow and Beijing in the 50s ceased to play a dominant role in the 60s of the XX century. China has entered a new historical stage of its development. Accordingly, the approaches of the Chinese leadership on the issue of "fighting imperialism" and strengthening the positions of "world socialism" have been transformed. To this end, China sought to support revolutionary and national liberation movements in many parts of the world. Some countries in Asia and Latin America have supported China in its aspirations. China's authority in the international arena steadily increased in those years. In this regard, the Chinese leadership is radically changing its foreign policy strategy, the main thesis in the CCP propaganda is a forced struggle on two fronts: against "world imperialism" represented by the United States and "world revisionism" represented by the USSR. It was during this period that the split between the USSR and the PRC became obvious, which led to armed conflicts on the territory of the USSR.

The split between the leading socialist countries – the Soviet Union and China - actually created the basis for the normalization of China's relations with the United States and other Western countries, which, in our opinion, was the main goal of the military-political leadership of the PRC at that time.

2) The conditions and factors of the emergence of armed conflicts in Soviet-Chinese international relations, which were:

- firstly, geographical conditions.

The western and eastern sections of the Soviet-Chinese border were strikingly different in their physical, geographical and climatic characteristics. However, the general characteristics of the conditions allowed us to conclude that the border between the states passed through natural mountain and water barriers. Ultimately, this did not allow the year-round use of military tracked and wheeled vehicles. Only in short autumn-winter periods and in limited areas was it possible to use ground forces.

- secondly, the territorial claims of the Chinese side on 22 sections of the Soviet-Chinese border.

Basically, the discrepancies consisted in the fact that on Chinese maps, the border line shown by them in a number of sections was drawn on Soviet territory. Of these 22 sections, 17 were in the western part (passing through the territory of the Kazakh SSR, Kyrgyz SSR and Tajik SSR) and 5 – in the eastern part of the Soviet-Chinese border (in the Far East).

However, in our opinion, territorial disputes became only a pretext for armed conflicts on the Soviet-Chinese border in the late 60s of the XX century.

- thirdly, the ratio of military potentials.

During the period under study, the ratio of the military potentials of the USSR Armed Forces and the PLA allows us to conclude that the Soviet Union had a significant advantage over China in all major types and types of armed forces. In the case of China's use of nuclear potential, the Soviet Union in response could actually destroy Chinese air and naval forces and cause widespread damage to cities, destroying the military-industrial complex and the military-industrial complex of China.

However, if the Soviet Union used such a type of super-powerful weapon, it could receive a retaliatory nuclear strike from China on the territory of the Far East



and Central Asia. In this case, the socialist camp would have finally split, the USSR would have been subjected to international sanctions and isolation, which, ultimately, threatened humanity with a real world catastrophe.

3) During the military-strategic analysis, the military-historical periodization of the Soviet-Chinese armed conflicts in the 60s of the XX century was carried out.

During the decade, Soviet-Chinese relations have gone from friendship and brotherhood of the "two great socialist states" to open military confrontation, which resulted in repeated armed conflicts on Damansky Island, near the village of Dulaty and Lake Zhalanashkol in 1969.

In the course of the dissertation research, we have identified the main periods of the dynamics of the emergence and development of the above-mentioned armed conflicts on the territory of the USSR.

In our opinion, they went through five main periods: the first period of 1959-1960 (the origin of the conflict); the second period of 1960-1966. (escalation of tension); the third period 1966-1968. (the beginning of conflict actions); the fourth period 1968 - March, May, August 1969 (escalation of the conflict); the fifth period September 1969-1970. (de-escalation of hostilities) (Table No. 10, p. 91).

In these conditions, for the USSR, due to the current critical military-political situation at the southeastern borders, a new strong, strategic enemy really emerged.

A series of armed conflicts on the Soviet-Chinese border on the territory of the Kazakh SSR pushed the Soviet leadership to create an operational and strategic association - a new military district - the Central Asian Military District with headquarters in the capital of the Kazakh SSR, Alma-Ata, as well as to open a military educational institution for training officers - the Alma-Ata Combined arms command school named after Marshal I.Koneva, which later became the flagship of military education, the main forge for the training of commanding personnel for the Armed Forces of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

#### THE THIRD SCIENTIFIC RESULT.

As a result of the dissertation research, it was concluded that the Kazakh SSR at the end of the 60s of the twentieth century, being part of the USSR, was objectively involved in the events on the Soviet-Chinese border, which resulted in a series of open armed conflicts.

The reason for the open confrontation of the once fraternal, socialist powers and the deterioration of their international relations were the so-called 22 disputed sections of the Soviet-Chinese border, the territory of which the Chinese side considered its own. 17 disputed sites were subordinated to the Eastern Border District of the KGB of the USSR, which included the Kazakh SSR and on the territory of which 10 disputed sites passed. Thus, most of these disputed areas were located on the territory of Kazakhstan.

In the armed conflicts described in the dissertation work: on Damansky Island, near the village of Dulaty and Lake Zhalanashkol, Kazakhstani soldiers, natives of Kazakhstan, took an active part.

Thus, 26 Kazakhstani soldiers took direct part in the armed conflict on Damansky Island. From March 2 to March 15, 1969, 2 officers and 24 sergeants and ordinary people from Kazakhstan took part in the fighting.

The feat of the participants of the Kazakhstani soldiers was appreciated with the independence of the Republic of Kazakhstan. In the Decree of the President of



the Republic of Kazakhstan No. 2247 dated April 28, 1995, the participants of the Daman armed conflict were equated to the participants of the Great Patriotic War for their courage in battles with an enemy three times larger in number.

In the armed confrontation near the village of Dulaty from May 2 to May 30, 1969, on the territory of the Kazakh SSR, the generalship talent of a Kazakhstani, Commander of the Eastern Border District of the KGB of the USSR, Hero of the Soviet Union, front-line soldier, Lieutenant General M.K. Merkulov was manifested. He took into account the unsuccessful experience on Damansky Island and the organized coordinated interaction of the border troops and units of Turkestan in the USSR Armed Forces.

Effective coordination in the Dulatin operation was directly organized by the Deputy chief of Staff of the troops of the Eastern Border District of the KGB of the USSR, the son of the Kazakh people, Colonel Baitasov B.B.

Thanks to coordinated joint actions, the Soviet troops were able in this direction in a short time to increase the superior enemy grouping of troops by the forces of the Turkestan military, equip with new types of weapons, MLRS BM-21 "Grad". All this forced the enemy to abandon further open hostilities.