

REGIONS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, THE CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ASIA

KANYBEK KUDAYAROV. THE GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR IN THE WORKS
OF THE EXPERT COMMUNITY OF KYRGYZSTAN (1991–2025)

Keywords: historiography of the Great Patriotic War; Kyrgyzstan; contribution; Kyrgyz soldiers; article; monograph.

Kanybek Kudayarov,
PhD(Hist.), Research Associate,
Center for Interdisciplinary Research,
INION RAN
e-mail: kana83068306@gmail.com
ORCID: 0000-0001-8970-8694

Citation: Kudayarov K. The Great Patriotic War in the Works of the Expert Community of Kyrgyzstan (1991–2025) // Russia and the Moslem World, 2026, № 1 (331), P. 5–16. DOI: 10.31249/rmw/2026.01.01

Abstract. The article examines the main topics covered in modern Kyrgyz historiography. The paper discusses various aspects, such as the issue of recognition of the merits of soldiers that displayed courage and bravery during World War II; military merits of Kyrgyz soldiers; the number of Panfilov's Twenty-Eight Guardsmen; archival records of the Central State Archive of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, etc. It is emphasized that despite the financial difficulties during the post-Soviet period, historians of Kyrgyzstan continue their research in this field.

The attitude towards the Great Patriotic War in Kyrgyzstan is one of profound respect. Regardless of internal political changes and the series of revolutionary events accompanied by shifts in power, the republic's leadership has never sought to reinterpret or distort the history of the Great Patriotic War. And, unlike political and ideological

directives, which may have changed to some extent with each subsequent regime in the republic, matters related to the memory policy concerning the Great Patriotic War have always enjoyed state support.

For example, an initiative to equate Leningrad siege survivors to Great Patriotic War veterans, which began during President A.A. Akayev's time¹, was implemented during President K.S. Bakiyev's term² in 2006. President A.Sh. Atambayev provided financial assistance for the construction of a monument to the Leningrad siege survivors and to Kyrgyzstanis who cared for evacuated siege children after their arrival in Kyrgyzstan. In 2025, Sadyr Japarov approved one-time payments of 100,000 som to Great Patriotic War veterans [30].

The state organizes annual memorial events dedicated to Victory Day, provides material assistance to veterans, and awards commemorative medals to both war participants and home front workers.

Contemporary Kyrgyz Historiography on the Great Patriotic War

The history of the participation of citizens of the Kirghiz SSR and the republic's role in the Great Patriotic War was actively covered during the Soviet period. However, from the 1990s to the present day, a relatively small number of works on the history of the Great Patriotic War have been published. The sharp decline in the number of publications occurred under the extremely difficult conditions of the transition to a market economy and is directly linked to a reduction in state funding [6, p. 22]. Nevertheless, this did not prevent the publication of a number of textbooks on Kyrgyz history covering the Great Patriotic War period [24], as well as monographs and articles on the subject.

Among the first works dedicated to the Great Patriotic War is a collection of articles published in 1995 by staff of the Institute of History of the National Academy of Sciences of the Kyrgyz Republic (NAS KR) [15], following a scientific conference held to mark the 50th anniversary of Victory. The works, primarily articles by academics of the NAS KR and doctors of sciences, covered topics such as science, education, socio-political thought in Kyrgyzstan during the war, the combat and labor contribution of Kyrgyzstanis to the Victory, and the activities of evacuated institutions in the Kirghiz SSR. Overall, scholars in their works presented facts already known at the time, recounted the events of the war years and their influence on the life of the republic.