



LOCAL HISTORY

History of the discovery of the Kuril Islands

Until the early **17th century**, the Kuril Islands and part of Hokkaido were the territory of the Ainu people.

In Japan, in **1635**, Hiroyoshi Murakami, a samurai from the Matsumae principality (now Hokkaido), explored Ezo Island and was the first to map the islands of Kunashir, Iturup, and other northern areas. The geographical map presented by the Matsumae principality to the Tokugawa government in 1644 based on this map is called the Shoho Map. It is the oldest map in the world that clearly shows the Habomai group of islands, Shikotan, Kunashir, and Iturup. The Ainu who lived on these islands paid tribute to the Matsumae principality and traded with it.

During the 15th and 16th centuries, the Russians created a centralized state around Moscow and began to expand their territory. Russian Cossacks began to develop new territories, moving east. Thus, in **1640**, Russian Cossacks from the detachment of I. Yu. Moskvitin, led by Nekhoroshko Kolobov, reached the Sea of Okhotsk near the mouth of the Amur River northwest of Sakhalin Island.

In 1643, the Dutch navigator Martin Goeritz de Vries on the ship "Castricum" reached the southeastern coast of

Fogs and strong winds forced the Providence to turn south, and on October 18, having rounded Krugly Island from the east, the sailors noticed an island with two low mountains, called Hamok Island (Kholmik). Two days later, Broughton discovered that there were two islands in this place (Northern and Southern Chirpoy). Due to the approach of winter, the captain decided to turn south. Having passed through the Bussol Strait, the ship got into a strip of fog and rain, and the original intention to explore the Kuril Islands from the eastern side had to be abandoned.

Since 1798, the Japanese government has been taking a series of measures to strengthen Japanese influence in the southern Kurils. In 1799, officials Kondo Shigetosi and Yamada Rihei subjugated Kunashir to Japan and imposed taxes and duties on the Ainu. In 1800, the Japanese began colonizing Iturup, and the residents of Kunashir and the villages of Akkesi and Nemuro on the island of Ezo were strictly prohibited from trading with the colonists of Urup. **In 1801**, officials Toyama Genjuro and Miyama Uheida visited Urup and erected a pillar with the inscription: "An island subject to great Japan, as long as heaven and earth exist."

Such practices, as well as strict control over the activities of the Russian settlement, led to a gradual weakening of Russia's influence in the southern Kurils.

Hokkaido and, having rounded this island, went through the strait into the Sea of Okhotsk. Moving further east, the expedition of M. G. de Vries discovered and mapped the islands of Iturup, Urup and Kunashir, but the Kuril Islands were not assigned to the Netherlands.

In 1697-1699, V. Atlasov first observed the northern part of the Kuril Islands from the southern tip of Kamchatka.

In 1711, the expedition of Danila Antsiferov and Ivan Kozyrevsky landed on Shumshu Island, and in 1713 their second expedition reached Paramushir Island. Having received information from the Ainu about the order of the 14 islands extending to Matsumae Island, Ivan Kozyrevsky compiled a "Diagram of the Sea Islands".

I.M. Evreinov and F.F. Luzhin, who graduated from the St. Petersburg Academy of Geodesy and Cartography, traveled to the Kuril Islands in 1721, after which I.M. Evreinov personally presented Peter I with a report on this voyage and a map.

In 1739, Russian ships of the Second Kamchatka Expedition led by M.P. Shpanberg and V. Valton visited the southernmost Kuril Islands, including the Lesser Kuril Ridge.

On June 18, 1739, Russian ships dropped anchor in Tashirohama Bay on the northeastern coast of Honshu Island. It was here that the first meeting in history between Russian sailors and the Japanese took place on their soil.

In 1766, In the 1770s, the Cossack captain Ivan Cherny visited the Kuril Islands with a detachment of brave sailors, who compiled a detailed geographical description of Iturup Island and other Kuril Islands. During his visit to Iturup, I. Cherny brought 83 Ainu into Russian citizenship. The rich ethnographic collection collected by Ivan Cherny was donated to the Russian Academy of Sciences.

In 1777, the expedition of I. M. Antipin and D. M. Shabalin set off for the Kuril Islands. They managed to win the sympathy of the Ainu. In 1778-1779, I. M. Antipin and D. Shabalin brought more than 1,500 Ainu from Iturup and Kunashir into Russian citizenship. In the spring and summer of 1779, the expedition of D. Shabalin and I. M. Antipin arrived at the shores of Hokkaido. Here trade with the Japanese was established, and negotiations were conducted on further trade relations.

In 1754, the Matsumae principality began direct exploitation of Kunashir Island, establishing a trading post there, and in 1786, the central government official Tokunai Mogami conducted a study of the islands of Iturup and Urup.

On July 8, 1799, by decree of Paul I, the Russian-American Company was established, to which the Russian government granted the right to all trades and extraction of minerals on the Kuril Islands.

An attempt to negotiate trade with the Japanese was made in 1805, when the founder of the Russian-American Company, Actual State Councilor Nikolai Petrovich Rezanov, arrived as an extraordinary ambassador to Nagasaki, the only port in Japan where foreign ships were allowed to call. However, his audience with the governor was a failure. He was refused a state charter and gifts. The acts submitted by the Japanese side finally formulated the refusal of trade relations with Russia.

Despite the prohibition of the Japanese authorities, I.F. Kruzenshtern decided to sail along the western coast of Japan in order to compile a detailed description of this area. He mapped the western and northwestern coasts of the Japanese islands, discovered and plotted many capes and bays. I.F. Kruzenshtern devoted a lot of time to studying and describing the coast of Sakhalin. Difficult ice conditions did not allow him to continue sailing north and finish the description of Sakhalin. I.F. Kruzenshtern decided to change the route and return to this area later, when there would be no more ice. He took the ship to the Kuril Islands, where four small rocky islands were discovered, barely protruding from the water.

I.F. Kruzenshtern called these islands Stone Traps and put them on the map. But I.F. Kruzenshtern accurately put on the map only the northern part of the Kuril Islands up to and including Rasshua Island.

On June 24, 1806, the Russian brig Juno under the command of I.A. Khvostov and the tender Avos under the command of G.I. Davydov set course for Sakhalin. Having landed on the shores of Aniva Bay on October 6, 1806, the Russian sailors destroyed all the Japanese stores and trading posts they found, burned all the Japanese buildings and timber supplies. In May 1807, Juno and Avos appeared off the coast of Iturup. Syana (now the city of Kurilsk), the largest Japanese settlement on Iturup, was attacked. The stores of Japanese merchants and industrialists were plundered, and the settlement itself was burned. Having visited Urup, both ships entered Aniva Bay on June 10. The Japanese buildings there were burned.

In 1811, the captain of the warship "Diana" Vasily Mikhailovich Golovnin set out to explore the Kuril Islands. He was the first to establish the correct names of the Kuril Islands. He discovered new islands. In the Kuril ridge, he established that it consists of twenty-six islands. V.M. Golovnin's expedition also found out the peculiarities of the climate of the Kuril Islands, the nature of the vegetation, the

In 1776-1779, the English navigator James Cook, trying to find the Northern Passage to the Atlantic Ocean, followed the shores of Alaska and the Aleutian Islands and tried to assert the rights of the British crown in a number of places previously discovered by Russian sailors: he renamed bays, rivers and mountains, planted the English flag and buried coins with the image of the king in the ground.

France also sought to settle on the Kuril Islands. Thus, **in 1785**, by order of King Louis XVI, two frigates were equipped - "Boussole" and "Astrolabe" under the overall command of Captain Jean-François de Galaup, Count de La Perouse. The main objective of the expedition was to explore the Pacific Ocean and possible territorial acquisitions. In June - early July 1787, the French ships sailed north along the Tatar Strait. At the entrance to the narrow strait (later the Nevelsky Strait), La Perouse turned south, deciding that Sakhalin was connected to the mainland by an isthmus. On August 11, he passed the strait between Sakhalin and Yezo, named after him, and then along the northern coast of Yezo. On August 18-20, La Perouse proceeded northeast past the islands of the States (Iturup), Company (Urupa) and Four Brothers. On August 29, he passed through the Bussol Strait (named after his ship) between the Four Brothers Islands and Simushir. The latter was named Marikan, and the southwestern cape on this island was named Mys Rollena (named after the ship's surgeon). The route then lay in the open ocean, along the Kuril Islands. The French expedition proved that the bay and Cape Aniva were not part of the land of Ezo, but the southern coast of Sakhalin, but did not contribute anything new to the study of the Kuril Islands themselves.

In 1794 In 1888, the British Admiralty sent an expedition led by William Robert Broughton on the corvette Providence. The expedition was intended primarily to explore the shores of China and Japan. To a certain extent, Broughton repeated the route of La Perouse, but he reached the Kuril Islands in a different way: he approached Honshu Island from the east and sailed up the southern and western shores of Ezo (Hokkaido). On October 8, Providence approached an island identified by the sailors as Spanberg Island (Shikotan), and soon Antony Peak (on Kunashir Island) appeared to the northeast. Broughton mistakenly assumed that this land was a continuation of Ezo. Having rounded United States Island from the south, the ship passed Company Land on the western side of the Kuril Ridge. Broughton identified the first of these islands with Nadezhda Island, and the second with Urup. The English captain discovered Makanruru Island on October 14 and named it Round (later Broughton Island). On October 16, the ship entered the strait between Simushir and Ketoy. On the northeastern shore of the island, the sailors discovered

climate of the Kuril Islands, the nature of the coastline, the depth of coastal waters and the features of the ocean in the area of the islands. New names of the discovered straits appeared on the map: Sredny, Rikord, Diana, Ekaterina, Golovnin. In July 1811, V.M. Golovnin was captured on Kunashir Island and spent about 2 years in Japanese captivity. This event went down in history as the "Golovnin Incident".

In 1854, in order to establish trade and diplomatic relations with Japan, the government of Nicholas I sent Vice-Admiral E.V. Putyatin. His mission included the delimitation of Russian and Japanese possessions. Russia demanded recognition of its rights to Sakhalin Island and the Kuril Islands. In early 1855, in the city of Shimoda, E.V. Putyatin signed the first Russo-Japanese Treaty of Peace and Friendship – the Shimoda Treaty, according to which Sakhalin was declared undivided between Russia and Japan, the southern islands of the Kuril chain – Shikotan, Kunashir, Iturup and some small islands went to Japan, and three Japanese ports were opened for Russian ships: Shimoda, Hakodate and Nagasaki. In 1858, a permanent Russian diplomatic mission was opened in the capital of Japan, and three more Japanese ports were opened for Russian ships.

On April 25, 1875, the Russian Empire and Japan signed a Treaty on Trade and Navigation – the St. Petersburg Treaty, according to the terms of which the entire Kuril chain was transferred by Russia to Japan in exchange for Japan's renunciation of its claims to Southern Sakhalin. An additional article to the said treaty established that the "natural" inhabitants of the Kuril Islands, if they wished to remain subjects of the Russian government, were obliged to leave their place of residence and move to Russian territory within 3 years.

As a result of the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-1905, South Sakhalin was ceded under the Portsmouth Peace Treaty of 1905. Japan effectively retained all of the Kuril Islands.

the northeastern shore of the island, the sailors discovered the entrance to a bay (later Broughton Harbor). A boat with an officer and several sailors was sent ashore to survey the bay, which could potentially serve as an English trading post, and to search for a Russian settlement that existed there. The settlement turned out to be abandoned by the Russians, but crosses with the Russian coat of arms were found in various places.

LOCAL HISTORY

Modern history

1945

After the defeat of Germany and its allies in the West, Japan found itself alone with a coalition of states possessing the most powerful military and economic potential in the world.

In July 1945, Japan rejected the demand of its allies - the USSR, the USA, Great Britain and China - for unconditional surrender, which led to an escalation of hostilities, since in the current conditions it was impossible to count on a quick victory.

On August 8, the Soviet Union declared war on Japan, and on August 9, the Red Army launched military operations against the Japanese Kwantung Army concentrated in Manchuria. Simultaneously with the Manchurian strategic operation, the Soviet command carried out the South Sakhalin offensive and Kuril landing operations.

Major General A.R. Gnechko was appointed commander of the Kuril landing operation, and Captain 1st Rank D.G. Ponomarev was appointed deputy commander and landing commander. Direct command of the landing force was entrusted to the commander of the 101st Rifle Division, Major General P. I. Dyakov.

On August 18, the advance detachment of the landing force, with powerful artillery support from coastal and naval artillery, overcoming desperate enemy resistance, successfully landed on the northeastern coast of Shumshu Island. Fierce fighting continued on the island for five days. Only after exhausting all resources, on August 23, the garrisons of the Shumshu and Paramushir Islands

On April 11, 1946, the Japanese administration was first abolished in the South Kuril Islands, and a Soviet civil administration was introduced in its place, with the district center in the village of Furukamappu (now Yuzhno-Kurilsk). The district was initially called Kunasirsky (after the name of the island of Kunasir), later it became known as Kunashirsky, which sounded much more euphonious. On June 5, 1946, by the Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR "On the administrative-territorial structure of the South Sakhalin Region", the South Kurilsky District was formed as part of Khabarovsk Krai. On January 2, 1947, the Sakhalin Region was formed, and the South Kurilsky District became part of it. On

October 20, 1947, based on the decree of the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR, five village councils and one settlement council were formed on the islands of the South Kurilsky District. They were formed on the basis of those settlements in which Japanese citizens lived. All former Japanese settlements were renamed. Thus, the following were formed:

- Sernovodsk Rural Council on Kunashir with the center in the village of Sernovodsk (former name Tofitsu). This formation included seventeen Japanese settlements;
- Golovninsky Rural Council with the center in the village of Golovno (former name Tomari). It included twelve settlements in the south of Kunashir;
- Tyatinsky Rural Council with the center in the village of Tyatino. It included twenty-two settlements;
- Zelenovsky Rural Council with the center in the village of Zelenovsk (former name Aidomori). This Rural Council united all five islands of the Lesser Kuril Ridge;
- Malokurilsky Rural Council with the center in the village of Malokurilsky on the island of Shikotan. This Rural Council

capitulated. More than 12 thousand Japanese soldiers and officers were taken prisoner.

By the end of August, the forces of the Kamchatka Defensive Region and the Petropavlovsk Naval Base occupied the entire northern ridge of islands, including Urup Island. On September 1, the landing detachment landed on the islands of Kunashir and Shikotan, and on September 3 - on the islands of the Lesser Kuril Ridge. The Japanese garrisons of these islands offered virtually no resistance.

The Soviet troops, having defeated the Japanese troops during the Far Eastern campaign, accelerated the end of World War II. On September 2, 1945, Japan signed the act of unconditional surrender.

1946-2000

In the spring of 1946, based on the resolution of the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR of February 2, 1946, a decision was made to form three administrative regions on the Kuril Islands. After that, a brigade was sent to the South Kuril Islands from the Red Army servicemen (officers) who remained after the war, stationed at that time on Kunashir, Shikotan and the islands of the Lesser Kuril Ridge, which was tasked with forming local government bodies, drawing up a budget with the introduction of tax and labor legislation of the USSR, introducing Soviet prices for food and goods, and organizing trade.

Population

By the time the Kuril Islands came under Soviet control in 1945, the exact number of permanent residents was unknown. The population began to form anew. By decision of the Soviet government, the entire Japanese population was repatriated from the Kuril Islands to Japan in the summer of 1947. New settlers began to arrive on the Kuril Islands – military personnel and seasonal workers from various regions of the Soviet Union, primarily from Siberia and the Far East. There was a noticeable influx of people from Ukraine.

During the first period of settlement, the population fluctuated significantly.

The first Soviet census, conducted on the islands in 1959, determined the number of residents to be 31,737 people.

included sixteen settlements scattered along the perimeter of Shikotan;

- South Kuril village council with the center in the workers' settlement of Yuzhno-Kurilsk.

By the time the Kuril Islands came under the control of the USSR in 1945, the exact number of permanent residents is unknown. The population began to form anew. By decision of the Soviet government, the entire Japanese population was repatriated from the Kuril Islands to Japan in the summer of 1947. New settlers began to arrive on the Kuril Islands - military personnel and seasonal workers from different regions of the Soviet Union, mainly from Siberia and the Far East. There was a noticeable influx of people from Ukraine.

In the period 1979-1989, the population of the southern islands grew quite intensively. This was due to the fact that free arrival and departure of the workforce became possible. The maximum value of the population of the Kuril Islands was noted in 1989 and amounted to 29.5 thousand people. On January 1, 1991, 7.3 thousand people lived on Kunashir, 6.6 thousand people on Shikotan Island.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, seafood processing plants began to lack raw materials, workers stopped receiving wages, prices rose, and the Russian population of the islands faced very serious difficulties. A strong earthquake that occurred in October 1994 in the open sea near Shikotan Island and a tsunami completely destroyed the life of the island population. A mass migration outflow of the population from the Kuril Islands began.

In the late 1990s, qualitative changes occurred in the

determined the number of residents to be 21,757 people. 90% of the permanent population of Kunashir was concentrated in the urban-type settlement and regional center of Yuzhno-Kurilsk and the nearby settlements of Otrada, Goryachiy Plyazh, and Mendeleevo. There were small settlements in the south near the Gulf of Izmena: the fishing village of Golovnino and the agricultural village of Dubovoye, as well as the village of Mayak, with 43 people, in the north of the Lovtsova Peninsula.

Beginning in the 1960s, the authorities recruited technicians and workers, paying high wages and resorting to providing privileges unprecedented in other areas of the former Soviet Union, such as increased pensions and especially long vacations. Using such methods, the authorities deliberately sent seafood processing specialists to these islands.

Economy

The Kuril Islands are one of the main fishing areas. In the late 1950s, the Ostrovnoy fish processing plant was built, uniting a group of fish canning factories in the villages of Malokurilskoye and Krabozavodskoye on Shikotan Island. Canned goods were produced from chum salmon, pink salmon, herring, cod, flounder, mackerel, seaweed, crab, squid, sea cucumber, trepang, sea urchin, and scallop. Cold-smoked, dried, salted fish were produced, as well as salmon caviar.

A fish canning plant was built on Kunashir Island. The main catch of fish was carried out by fishing collective farms. Thus, the Rodina collective farm was based in Yuzhno-Kurilsk. The fishermen of the collective farm not only fished on their own shores, but also took part in expeditions near Kamchatka, the northern and southern Kuril Islands, and the Sea of Japan. The waters near the settlement of Golovnino and other villages on Kunashir were the main areas for harvesting pearl shells. Edible mollusks were also harvested, the shells of which were used to make buttons and various trinkets. Seaweed was harvested.

Iodine factories operated, using seaweed as raw material. On the islands of Zeleny, Shikotan, and Kunashir, agar-agar was produced from seaweed.

Of the land-based natural resources of the Kuril Islands, forests played an important role. A sawmill was built on Kunashir. The South Kuril Forestry Enterprise (later a forestry enterprise) was engaged in timber harvesting.

population dynamics: the birth rate dropped sharply, which naturally reduced the natural increase, and the mechanical increase became negative, i.e., departure exceeded arrival. As a result, the population growth practically stopped. The total number of permanent residents of the South Kurils in 2000 was 6.2 thousand people.

On the basis of the Federal Program for Social and Economic Development of the Kuril Islands for 1993-1995 and up to 2000, preparatory work was carried out to build trunk roads, and work was carried out to replace the beams of bridges across rivers; on the islands (with the exception of a part of Kunashir Island, where there are about 100 km of dirt roads and roads with crushed stone surfaces, including Yuzhno-Kurilsk - Golovnino (62 km)) there are no highways, and on Shikotan Island such construction work has not begun at all.

Since 1992, border checkpoints have been opened in the ports of Malokurilskoye and Yuzhno-Kurilsk. The ports began to serve international freight and passenger transport.

Electricity on the Kuril Islands is supplied by small diesel, hydro- and geothermal power plants. The first geothermal power plant with a capacity of 500 kW was commissioned in 1993 on Kunashir. In 1997, the GTS-700 geothermal heating station with a capacity of 17 Gcal/h was put into operation, which supplies heat to the settlement of Goryachiy Plyazh.

After the earthquake of 1994, many seafood processing plants, schools, and kindergartens were either completely destroyed or half-destroyed. Due to the fact that there were not enough funds even for dismantling and demolishing the damaged buildings, people were given emergency accommodation, and the destroyed buildings were left in their previous condition. Seafood processing plants that were working with downtime were on the verge of bankruptcy due to difficulties in their financing.

In the 1950s, agriculture was developed on the Kuril Islands. More developed - on Kunashir, less - on Shikotan. On the island of Kunashir, near the village of Golovnino, there was a state farm "Dalniy". In 1956, the arable area of this state farm was 235 hectares. In 1990, its sown area was already 415 hectares.

To communicate with the islands, residents use regular steamships that go from Sakhalin and travel between the islands of Iturup, Kunashir and Shikotan, as well as airplanes flying from Sakhalin.

Current situation of the South Kuril urban district

In June 2006, the Yuzhno-Kurilsky District was transformed into the municipality of the Yuzhno-Kurilsky Urban District.

The district includes 9 settlements:

- the urban-type settlement of Yuzhno-Kurilsk - the administrative center of the Yuzhno-Kurilsky Urban District;
- the villages of Mendeleevo, Otrada, Lagunnoye, Goryachiy Plyazh, Golovnino, Dubovoye; Shikotan Island - Krabozavodskoye, Malokurilskoye.

The total population of the Yuzhno-Kurilsky Urban District as of January 1, 2010 was 10,290 people. The total population of Yuzhno-Kurilsk is 6,617 people. The population of Krabozavodsk and Malokurilsk (Shikotan Island) is about 2,100 people.

In 2003, the first stage of the Mendeleyevskaya GeoTPP with a capacity of 1.8 MW was put into operation.

In Yuzhno-Kurilsk there are medium-sized fish processing and fishing enterprises: OOO PKF Yuzhno-Kurilsky Rybokombinat and OOO Delta, on Shikotan ZAO Rybokombinat Ostrovnoy and ZAO Krabozavodsk, as well as several smaller enterprises: OOO Priliv, OOO Sandy. Compared to 2000, the output of canned fish and seafood by the Yuzhno-Kurilsky urban district has increased by 17,729 tubes, or 8.1 times.

Since 1998, ZAO Kurilskaya Mining and Geological Company has been carrying out geological exploration

bankruptcy due to difficulties in their financing.

Due to the deterioration of the situation, the Japanese government, providing emergency humanitarian aid, built an outpatient clinic on Shikotan, donated ultrasound medical equipment on Kunashir, and also donated medicines and ambulances.

In addition, the Japanese government also began to supply fuel as emergency humanitarian aid during the winter season. An elementary school was built free of charge for schoolchildren on Shikotan Island, which suffered the most from the earthquake, using Japanese funds. A pier was built on Kunashir, where boats and small vessels are moored. In 1999, Japan also provided assistance to Kunashir by installing electric generators and other equipment on Shikotan and Kunashir.

ZAO Trud, which is engaged in road construction and construction and installation work, is successfully operating in the region.

Flights between Yuzhno-Kurilsk and Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk are operated by Sakhalinskiye Aviatrassy Airlines. Sea passenger and cargo flights between Sakhalin and Yuzhno-Kurilsk are operated by ZAO MK Sakhalin-Kurily on the motor ships Marina Tsvetaeva and Igor Farkhutdinov. Roadstead unloading of passengers and cargo from motor ships is carried out by the municipal unitary enterprise Yuzhno-Kurilsky Docker, which also carries out sea transportation of passengers and cargo between the islands of Kunashir and Shikotan.

Currently, the Mendeleevo airport is being reconstructed on Kunashir Island. The building of the Central District Hospital has been renovated. Construction of a pier is underway to which large vessels of the Igor Farkhutdinov motor ship class will be able to moor. Two kindergartens are being built: in the urban-type settlement of Yuzhno-Kurilsk for 110 children and in the village. Malokurilskoye for 60 places.

In general, positive changes have been observed in recent years - this is evident in the improvement of populated areas, where building facades are being repaired, housing and social infrastructure facilities are being built.

work for gold within the protected zone of the Federal State Institution GPZ Kurilsky (see link).

Chronicle of the main political events between Russia and Japan concerning the Kuril Islands 1945-2010.

1945, February – Crimean (Yalta) Agreement of the three Great Powers (USA, England, USSR). On issues of the Far East: decision to return Southern Sakhalin and the Kuril Islands to the Soviet Union. The Crimean Agreement stipulated that "The leaders of the three Great Powers - the Soviet Union, the United States of America and Britain - agreed that two to three months after the capitulation of Germany and the end of the war in Europe, the Soviet Union will enter the war against Japan on the side of the Allies, provided that:

a) the southern part of Sakhalin Island and all islands adjacent to it are returned to the Soviet Union; b) the Kuril Islands are transferred to the Soviet Union.

1945, August - fighting on the Northern Kuril Islands. Soviet landing on Shumshu and Paramushir.

1945, August 28 - September 5 - landing operation on the southern Kuril Islands.

1945, September 2 – signing of the act of unconditional surrender of Japan. Unconditional surrender meant the dismantling of the military and political structures of the Japanese state, the termination of their powers, as well as a partial loss of their sovereignty. By the decision of the Allied Powers, all the Kuril Islands were removed from the sovereignty of Japan.

The state that existed in Japan before September 2, 1945 was dismantled. The new state in Japan, and within its new borders, was created in the post-war period under the control of the victorious powers. It is a product of post-war reality.

1946, June 5 – Decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR on the formation of new districts within the Sakhalin Region, including the South Kuril Region.

1951 – San Francisco Peace Treaty.

Japan renounced "all rights, titles and claims to the Kuril Islands and to that part of Sakhalin Island and the islands adjacent thereto, sovereignty over which Japan acquired

1991, April 18 – signing of the Joint Soviet-Japanese Statement.

This statement was signed between the President of the USSR M.S. Gorbachev and the Prime Minister of Japan Toshiki Kaifu. The Joint Statement contained an agreement on visiting Russian citizens living on the islands of the Lesser Kuril Chain, Kunashir and Iturup, to areas of Japan, and Japanese citizens to the islands without passports and visas.

Fifteen Soviet-Japanese documents were also signed, including:

- Memorandum on Soviet-Japanese intergovernmental consultations;
- Memorandum on relations and cooperation between the USSR and Japan in the field of protection of cultural heritage;
- Agreement on cooperation in the field of environmental protection between the Government of the USSR and the Government of Japan and some other bilateral documents.

1991, October 14 – exchange letters of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the USSR and Japan, which determine the procedure for visa-free exchanges.

1998, November 13 – signing of the Moscow Declaration on the establishment of a creative partnership between the Russian Federation and Japan.

The Moscow Declaration contains: visa-free entry to the South Kuril Islands for Japanese citizens, provision by Japan of various humanitarian aid to the residents of the islands, calls by Russian authorities to Japanese business circles for investments in this region.

1999, October 24 – opening of the House of Friendship between the Russian and Japanese Peoples in Yuzhno-Kurilsk.

2000, September 5 – official visit of the President of Russia V.V. Putin to Japan. Negotiations between V. Putin and I. Mori were focused on such key aspects as strategic cooperation in world affairs, development of bilateral trade and economic ties and the problem of a peace treaty. For the first time in the history of bilateral relations, the President of Russia and the Prime Minister of Japan signed a Joint

subject territory, sovereignty over which Japan acquired under the Treaty of Portsmouth of September 5, 1905." Thus, in 1951, Japan actually and legally renounced all the Kuril Islands and southern Sakhalin.

1956 - Soviet-Japanese Declaration on the Restoration of Diplomatic Relations. This Declaration was ratified by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and the Government of Japan on December 8, 1956 as an international treaty, and entered into force on December 12, 1956. The Declaration stated the end of the legal state of war between the USSR and Japan, the establishment of diplomatic and consular relations, and the need to develop cooperation.

The Declaration stated the Soviet Union's agreement to transfer the Lesser Kuril Islands (Habomai and Shikotan) to Japan after the conclusion of a peace treaty. However, this declaration contained a contradiction - the parties did not take into account that the return of at least Shikotan contradicts Japan's renunciation of the Kuril Islands under the San Francisco Peace Treaty, since this island was included in the archipelago by order of the Prime Minister and Minister of Internal Affairs of Japan No. 1 for 1885.

1973 - joint Soviet-Japanese statement.

This Statement was signed on the Soviet side by Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR A.N. Kosygin and Minister of Foreign Affairs A.A. Gromyko, and on the Japanese side - by Prime Minister of Japan K. Tanaka and Minister of Foreign Affairs A. Ohira. The said Statement emphasized that the settlement of unresolved issues remaining from the Second World War and the conclusion of a peace treaty would contribute to the establishment of truly good-neighborly and friendly relations between the two countries. In addition to the Joint Statement, the Foreign Ministers of both countries signed:

- Agreement between the Government of the USSR and the Government of Japan on scientific and technical cooperation;
- Letters on the exchange of scientists and research workers, on the distribution of information materials, on the exchange of official printed publications;
- Convention between the Government of the USSR and Japan on the Protection of Migratory Birds and Endangered Birds and their Habitat.

April 1989 – the first official trip of Japanese journalists through the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the South Kuril Region.

August 1990 – arrival to Kunashir of the Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR B.N. Yeltsin. 1991

Statement on interaction between Russia and Japan in international affairs.

2004, December 7 – signing of the Executive Agreement between Sakhalin Oblast and Japan.

This Agreement envisaged Japan's assistance in carrying out economic and social reforms in Sakhalin Oblast to develop cooperation between Sakhalin and Japanese enterprises, as well as humanitarian exchanges.

2005, November 21 – official visit of Russian President V.V. Putin to Japan.

During the visit, a package of 18 documents was signed between Russia and Japan: on cooperation in the fight against terrorism; on cooperation in the field of energy; on cooperation in providing assistance in criminal cases and law enforcement activities, on measures to simplify the visa regime for mutual trips of citizens and on cooperation in preventing and eliminating the consequences of large-scale natural disasters and catastrophes; on cooperation in the field of information technology and communications; on cooperation in the field of tourism.

2006, March 23 – Russian-Japanese consultations on the approval of visa-free exchanges between Russian citizens permanently residing on the southern Kuril Islands of the Sakhalin Region and citizens of Japan.

For the first time in the 14-year history of visa-free exchanges, at the insistent suggestion of the Sakhalin Region administration, the consultations were held on Russian territory, not in Japan.

2009, May 11 – visit of the Chairman of the Russian Government V.V. Putin to Japan.

During V.V. Putin's visit to Japan, new progress was achieved on traditional economic and trade projects. First, a bilateral agreement was signed on joint exploration of oil reserves in Eastern Siberia. Japan and Russia will conduct joint geological studies, and if a promising, commercially exploitable oil field is discovered, Russia plans to invite a Japanese oil company to participate in oil production. The Japanese side hopes to import crude oil with the construction of a Russian oil pipeline in the Pacific Ocean region. Secondly, an agreement on cooperation in the field of nuclear energy. Previously, 15% of the nuclear fuel used by Japan was of Russian production. After the conclusion of the new agreement, this share will be increased to 25%. Vladimir Putin also hopes that Japanese enterprises will increase investments in the Russian automobile industry, communications, chemical industry, ferrous metallurgy, mechanical engineering and other areas of activity.

2010, November 1 – arrival of the President of the Russian Federation D.A. Medvedev to Kunashir.

– visit of the President of the USSR M.S. Gorbachev to Japan.

This was the first visit to Japan by the highest leader of the Soviet state in the history of Japanese-Russian and Japanese-Soviet relations.



Trumpeter Fishing
in Hiroo

Ainu

The Ainu (literally "man", "real man") are a people, the most ancient population of the Kuril Islands.

The origin of the people remains unclear. But it is known that the Ainu inhabited the Kuril Islands, the southern half of Sakhalin, the southern third of Kamchatka, and all the Japanese islands - from Ryukyu to Hokkaido.

The traditional economic activity of the Ainu was based on fishing, hunting, sea mammal hunting and gathering.

The material culture of the Ainu is characterized by above-ground and semi-underground dwellings, as well as boats

A new round of relations between the Japanese and the Ainu is connected with the conclusion of international treaties between Japan and Russia. According to the Treaty of Shimoda in 1855, the Ainu were in bondage to seasonal Japanese industrialists who came for the summer. The Japanese blocked the mouths of large spawning rivers. The Japanese gave the Ainu fishing gear and took the best from the catch; the Ainu were forbidden to have their own fishing gear.

According to the Treaty of St. Petersburg in 1875, the Japanese transferred all the North Kuril Ainu to Shikotan

ground and semi-underground dwellings, as well as barns on piles. In everyday life, the Ainu wore clothes made of bast, elm, linden or nettle, used the fur of fur animals, and on the Kuril Islands they made fur coats from bird skins.

The religious life of the Ainu was communal and family in nature. The village elder led the ritual ceremonies. Within a single family, religious functions were performed by the head of the house. Rituals were entrusted to male relatives. The most important cult objects were the planed sticks inau and ikunishi - "drinking stick".

For a long time, the territory of the Ainu was not under the control of the Japanese. The belligerence of the Ainu tribes made any attempts to penetrate the island extremely dangerous. The Japanese managed to break through only at the end of the 16th century. This breakthrough was made by warriors of the Matsumae clan. At first, relations with the Ainu were built on equal terms, but the situation changed in 1604. The process of introducing restrictions on trade with the Ainu began.

The largest battles - the uprising led by Sagusyain in 1669 and the uprising on Kunashir in 1789 finally secured the Japanese on the lands of the Ainu. The Ainu began to be recruited for forced labor. In addition, certain bans were introduced on various elements of traditional Ainu culture. For example, learning Japanese becomes mandatory, a ban is introduced on burning down a house and moving a family to another place of residence after the death of one of the family members, and a ban is introduced on wearing women's tattoos and men's earrings.

Japanese transported all the North Kuril Ainu to Shikotan Island, took away all their fishing gear and boats, and forbade them to go to sea without permission. The Ainu were recruited for various jobs, for which they received rice, vegetables, a little fish, and sake, which was absolutely not in line with the traditional diet of the North Kuril Ainu, which consisted of the meat of sea animals and fish.

Thus, the Ainu suffered all kinds of prejudice and discrimination from the Japanese for a long time. There are 23,782 Ainu living in 72 municipalities (towns, towns and villages on the island) on the territory of the modern island of Hokkaido, of which 59.5% live in the administrative districts of Hidaka and Iburi.

There have been significant changes in the situation of the Ainu people. Among the Ainu, the proportion of residents enjoying social protection is approximately 2 times higher than the average for Japan. 29.5% of employed Ainu are engaged in agriculture, the fishing industry and in the extractive industries. The percentage of Ainu managing small and medium-sized enterprises has increased. A new type of activity has become the organization or participation in the development of the tourism business.

Thus, the standard of living of the Ainu is steadily improving. However, in the field of education, the main problem remains - the low percentage of education among the Ainu residents.



Mysterious World. Ainu. Download PDF file

To the top ↑

ISLANDS

Kurilsky Nature Reserve
The Malye Kurily Nature Reserve
Unique objects
Biodiversity
Photo
Video

Security
Science
Eco-education
Educational tourism
Restoration of rare species
International activities
National projects
For volunteers

How to get there
Visiting rules
Safety precautions
Routes
Services
Souvenirs

Do you know what?
For Young Explorers
Kuril ABC
Kuril Tales
EcoMult
Workshop
Our gallery
Competitions and announcements

ABOUT US

General information
History of creation
Employees
Vacancies
News
Addresses and contacts

EDUCATION

Methodological materials
Encyclopedia
Toponymic dictionary
Local history
Illustrations
Newspaper "At the Peak of Volcanoes"

FOR BUSINESS AND PARTNERS

Support the project
Our projects
Our partners

DOCUMENTS

Legislative acts
Statutory documents
Anti-corruption

© All materials on this site are subject to copyright.
When using materials, a link to the Kurilsky Reserve website is required.



694500, Sakhalin region, Yuzhno-Kurilsk, Zarechnaya st., 5

E-mail: kurilskiy@mail.ru

Made in the Forest 

