

AZERBAIJAN REPUBLIC

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**TURKISH PRISONERS OF WAR IN AZERBAIJAN
DURING THE FIRST WORLD WAR**

Profession: – General history
Field: – History

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A B S T R A C T

of the dissertation submitted for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

Baku – 2022

The dissertation work has been carried out at the Department of the History of European and American peoples of Baku State University.

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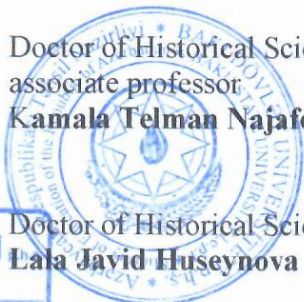

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"17" mart 2022



I.GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DISSERTATION

The actuality and the level of development of the topic. As it is known, the Caucasus has historically been a field of competition between different empires due to its geographical, political and strategic importance. For the Turkic peoples, this region had a special importance. The Caucasus, which has been inhabited by Turkic peoples since ancient times, has served as a bridge between the Turkic peoples living in Anatolia and Central Asia since the Middle Ages. For the last two hundred years, the Caucasus region has been one of the main places and objects of the Turkish-Russian struggle for influence. Azerbaijanis, who made up the majority of the Muslim and Turkish population of the Caucasus, also considered that it was their religious and national duty to provide assistance to the Ottoman Empire and the Republic of Turkey in various difficult times. In this regard, the national leader of the Azerbaijani people Haydar Aliyev said: *“Turkey and Azerbaijan have a long history of friendly and fraternal relations. These relations have been formed and developed over many centuries and have reached today's happy days. The fact that our peoples have the same roots, the same religion, the same language, the similarity of our customs and traditions, the similarity of our national feelings - all together have united our peoples for centuries, created close ties of friendship and brotherhood between our peoples”*¹.

Studies prove that during various wars still in 19th century, Azerbaijanis tried to help Ottoman Turkey by various means. This was especially evident during the so-called "The war 93" in Turkey in 1877-1878. The people of Azerbaijan did not remain silent about the isolation of the Ottoman state by various states in the Balkan wars, and provided assistance to Ottoman Turkey in various forms.

¹ Əliyev, H.Ə. Müstəqilliyimiz əbədidir: [46 cildə] / H.Əliyev. – Bakı: Azər nəşr, – c.6. – 1998. – s. 352.

Such assistance of the Azerbaijani people to Turkey continued both during the First World War and in the following periods. The great leader Gazi Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder of the Turkish Republic, wrote in a letter addressed to Ibrahim Abilov, the former ambassador of the Azerbaijan SSR to Turkey, on October 14, 1921: *“Your statement is a very valuable idea that inspires the Turks and the oppressed against the reactionaries when you note that the Azerbaijani Turks are also ready to sacrifice their lives on the way to the happiness of the Turks and the salvation of the oppressed”*².

It is known that on the eve of the outbreak of the First World War, the Caucasus occupied by Tsarist Russia has played a role as a headquarters in the invasion of Russian troops into the territory of Ottoman Turkey. The first gatherings, quarantine centers and camps of Turkish prisoners of war captured on the Eastern (Caucasus) front were located in the South Caucasus, including Azerbaijan. The attitude of the Azerbaijani people, who were under the colonization of Tsarist Russia, to Ottoman Turkey during the First World War, as well as to the Turkish prisoners of war captured by the Russian army on the Caucasus front, was one of the most important pages not only in the history of Azerbaijan, but in the history of the Turkic world in general. An in-depth study of the processes that took place at that time, based on the principles of scientific methodology adopted in historical research, is also relevant in terms of studying the policies they pursue and the tools they use to assess the historical development of relations between the two peoples and the two states, to undermine this solidarity in times of crisis of individual states with conflicting interests in the Caucasus.

Works published in different languages were used in writing process of this dissertation. It is clear from the study of the works that in comparison with Azerbaijani historiography, various aspects of this subject have been studied more extensively in Turkish historiography. In Azerbaijan, researcher-journalist Shirmammad

² Atatürk'ün söylev ve demeçleri (1906 – 1938) / 5. Baskı, Ankara: Türk İnkılâp Tarihi Enstitüsü Yayınları, – c.2, – 2006. – s. 23-24.

Huseynov was one of the first to reveal the existence of a concentration camp on the island of Nargin during the First World War, where Turkish prisoners of war were held in harsh conditions³.

From the point of view of professional historiography, for the first time in modern Azerbaijani historiography, Musa Gasimli attracted the attention of the scientific community⁴. The author's work dedicated to the policy of Azerbaijan by the great powers during the First World War can also be considered important in terms of clarifying various aspects of the dissertation topic⁵.

In 2003, the author Gylman Ilkin's memoir "Turkish Army in Baku" was published⁶, Akif Ashirli published his book "Nargin Island" in 2012⁷.

Ziya Bunyadov's book "Red Terror" contains certain information in terms of studying the subsequent fate of those who had good relations with the Ottoman Empire and Ataturk Turkey in the First World War and the first years after the war, as well as those who played a role in the rescue of Turkish prisoners of war⁸.

In the Khagani Mammadov's monographs⁹ was analyzed the events and processes of that time and the role of organizations and

³ Aşırılı, A. Nargin adasında türk əsirləri / A.Aşırılı. – Bakı: Elm və təhsil, – 2011. – s. 9.

⁴ Qasımlı, M. Azərbaycan gətirilmiş Osmanlı hərbi əsirlərinin taleyi // Ayna. – 2000, 2 avqust.

⁵ Qasımlı, M., Azərbaycan parlamentarizmi tarixi: [2 cilddə] / M.Qasımlı, B.Muradova, V.Qafarov. – Bakı: Mütərcim, – c.1, – 2018. – 688 s.; Qasımov, M. Birinci dünya müharibəsi illərində böyük dövlətlərin Azərbaycan siyasəti (1914-1918-ci illər): [3 hissədə] / – Bakı: Qanun, – I hissə (1914-cü il avqust – 1917-ci il oktyabr). – 2000. – 300 s.; Qasımlı, M. Birinci Dünya müharibəsi illərində böyük dövlətlərin Azərbaycan siyasəti (1914-1918-ci illər): [3 hissədə] / – Bakı: Adiloğlu, – II hissə (1917-ci il noyabr – 1918-ci il noyabr). – 2001. – 406 s.

⁶ İlkin, Q. Türk ordusu Bakıda // Q.İlkin. – Bakı: AzATAM. – 2003. – 45 s.

⁷ Aşırılı, A. Nargin adasında türk əsirləri / A.Aşırılı. – Bakı: Elm və təhsil, – 2011. – 112 s.

⁸ Bünyadov, Z.M. Qırmızı terror / Z.M.Bünyadov. – Bakı: Qanun, – 2017. – 303 s.

⁹ mədov, X.M. Azərbaycan xalqının milli istiqlal mübarizəsi (XIX yüzilliyin sonları - XX yüzilliyin əvvəlləri) / X.M.Məmmədov. – Bakı: Elm, – 2005. – 249 s.

individuals who played a leading role in the development of the national movement has been assessed.

In the monograph of Doctor of Historical Sciences, Professor Sevda Suleymanova, called "Socio-political movement in Azerbaijan (late XIX - early XX centuries)"¹⁰ published in 1999, or in her dissertation she presented in 2003 for the degree of Doctor of Historical Sciences that called "The emergence and development of the socio-political movement in Azerbaijan: (late nineteenth-early twentieth century)"¹¹ she studied in depth the socio-political landscape of that period. At that time, the author's fundamental research was used in the writing of the dissertation to study the main aspects of the activities of a number of organizations engaged in activities related to Turkish prisoners of war, especially Muslim charities.

I.Hajiyev, A.Iskandarli, N.Yagublu, K.Najafova, N.Gahramanov E.Kalbizade, I.Bagirova, L.Aliyeva¹² and in the works of other authors, various aspects of the subject have also been touched.

Məmmədov, X.M. Azərbaycan milli hərəkatı: 1875- 1918-ci illər / X.Məmmədov. Bakı: Sabah, – 1996. – 175 s.; Məmmədov, X.M. Azərbaycanda maarifçilik və milli hərəkat (XIX yüzilliyin sonları-XX yüzilliyin əvvəlləri) /X.M.Məmmədov. – Bakı: M.Ə.Rəsulzadə adına Bakı Dövlət Universiteti, – 1998. – 310 s.

¹⁰ Süleymanova, S.Y. Azərbaycanda ictimai-siyasi hərəkat (XIX yüzilliyin sonu – XX yüzilliyin əvvəlləri) / S.Y.Süleymanova. – Bakı: Azərbaycan Dövlət Kitab Palatası, – 1999. – 422 s.

¹¹ Süleymanova, S.Y. Azərbaycanda ictimai-siyasi hərəkatın yaranması və inkişafı: (XIX əsrin sonu-XX əsrin əvvəli): /Tarix elmləri doktoru dis./ – Bakı, 2003. – 367 s.

¹² Hacıyev, İ. Naxçıvanlı diplomatlar (Нахчыванские дипломаты) / İ.Hacıyev, E.Kəlbizadə. – Naxçıvan: Əcəmi, – 2017. – 128 s.; İsgenderli, A. Realities of Azerbaijan: 1917-1920 / A.Isgenderli. – USA: Xlibris Corporation, – 2011. – 234 s.; Yaqublu, N. Bakının qurtuluşu / N.Yaqublu. – Bakı: Adiloğlu, – 2008. – 256 s.; Yaqublu, N. Məhəmməd Əmin Rəsulzadə ensiklopediyası / N.Yaqublu. – Bakı: Kitab klubu, – 2013. – 506 s.; Yaqublu, N. Azərbaycan milli istiqlal mübarizəsi və Məhəmməd Əmin Rəsulzadə / N.Yaqublu. – Bakı, – 2001. – 154 s.; Yaqublu, N. Cumhuriyyət qurucuları / – Bakı: Nurlar, – 2018. – 504 s.; Yaqublu, N. Qafqaz İslam Ordusu və Nuru Paşanın Azərbaycanda izləri / N.Yaqublu. – Bakı: Adiloğlu, – 2012. – 151 s.; Qəhrəmanov, N. I Dünya müharibəsində erməni amili / – Bakı: E.L., – 2008, – 296 s.; Nəcəfova, K.T. Azərbaycan milli hərəkatında ziyalıların

During the First World War, in Turkish historiography, some studies were carried out about the Turkish prisoners of war in Azerbaijan, but in these studies, sources and archive documents in Turkey were mainly used. Documents found in the archives of Azerbaijan, Georgia and Russia belonging to the same period were included in the research in a very limited way. Mehmet Burak Durdu's article called "Deputy of Kostamonu, Khalid Bey's investigation about the remaining Turkish prisoners of war in Russia and other countries" published in "Kostamonu" magazine provides information on the number and condition of Turkish prisoners of war on the island of Nargin and the abduction of some of them with the assistance of the Azerbaijani population.

Undoubtedly, one of the largest researches in this direction in Turkey was the doctoral dissertation of Jamil Kutlu in 1999 called "Turkish prisoners of war in the First World War and their activities for the return to their homeland"¹³. In Betul Aslan's work called "Brotherly help (assistance)" of Azerbaijani Turks to Anatolian Turks during the First World War" and Baku Muslim Charity Society", published in 2000, also analyzes were conducted on Turkish prisoners of war and refugees based on various sources, the work

iştirakı (1905-1918-ci illər): /tarix üzrə fəls. doktoru diss. avtoref. / – Bakı, – 2015. – 29 s. Kelbizadə, E., Karauz, Y. Kafkasyanın güvenliyi ve Kafkas İslam Ordusu //Uluslararası Güvenlik Kongresi (kuram, yöntem, uygulama), – Ankara: YSGA, - 19-20 Eylül 2019, – 2019, – s.63-74; Kəlbizadə, E.H. Qərb dövlətlərinin siyasi maraqlarında Naxçıvan (1918-1920) / –Naxçıvan: III Regional Elmi Konfransın materialları, Naxçıvan:Əcəmi, –2012. – s.31-34; Багирова, И. Политические партии и организации Азербайджана в начале XX века (1900-1917) / И.Багирова. – Баку: Елм, – 1997, – 336 с.; Əliyeva, L.A. Azərbaycan qadınları emansipasiya yollarında: 1918-1920. / L.A.Əliyeva. – Bakı: Ecoprint, – 2018. – 280 s.; Əliyeva, L.A. Azərbaycan qadınları millətlərarası və hərbi münaqişələrdə: 1905-1920 = Азербайджанские женщины в ситуации межнациональных и военных конфликтов: 1905-1920 / L.A.Əliyeva. – Bakı: Ecoprint, – 2018. – 268.

¹³ Kutlu, C. Dünya Savaşında Rusya'daki Türk Savaş Esirleri ve bunların yurda döndürülmeleri faaliyetleri/ Basılmamış doktora tezi/ – Erzurum, – 1997, – 472 s.

done on prisoners in Azerbaijan was studied and analyzed ¹⁴. Turkish historian Jamaladdin Tashkiran's book called "Turkish Prisoners of war in the First World War" examines the situation of Turkish prisoners of war in Tsarist Russia with reference to archival documents of different countries, reports of the Red Cross Society, letters written to family members of prisoners ¹⁵.

Although in Ramazan Balci's book called "The Sarikamish Court of History" the information about Turkish prisoners of war and concentration camps have been provided, the researcher's lack of familiarity with the historical geography of mentioned region and the political organizations and leaders of that time resulted in serious shortcomings in their naming. For example, the researcher mentioned sthe Caspian Sea as the Red Sea, Azerbaijani doctors and politicians Narimanov and Mahmudov as German doctors, and the Musavat Party as the Muhajat Party¹⁶.

The First World War, the Caucasus front, Turkish prisoners of war and international discussions about them have been mentioned in the works of E.Şahin, M.Akkor, S.Akgun, M.Ulugtekin, Y.Aslan, H.Bayur, I.Soyсал¹⁷ and other Turkish researchers. A number of

¹⁴ Aslan, B. I Dünya savaşı esnasında "Azerbaycan Türkleri"nin "Anadolu Türkleri"ne "Kardaş Kömeği (Yardımlı)" ve Bakü Müslüman Cemiyet-i Hayriyesi / B.Aslan. – Ankara: AYK, – 2000. – 396 s.

¹⁵ Taşkıran, C. Ana ben ölmedim. I. Dünya savaşında türk esirleri / C.Taşkıran, – İstanbul: Türkiye İş Bankası Yayın., – 2011, – 423 s.

¹⁶ Balcı, R. Tarihî Sarıkamış duruşması /R.Balcı. – İstanbul: Nesil yayınları, – 2007. – 350 s.

¹⁷ Şahin, E. Türkiye ve Mavera-yı Kafkasya ilişkileri içerisinde Trabzon ve Batum konferansları ve antlaşmaları (1917-1918) / E.Şahin. – Ankara: TTK, – 2002, – 818 s.; Akkor, M. I dünya savaşında çeşitli ülkelerdeki Türk esir kampları. Yüksek lisans tezi / M.Akkor. – Sakarya, – 2006. – 238 s.; Akkor, M. I. Dünya savaşında Rusyada bulunan türk esirleri ve esir kampları / Uluslararası Türk Savaş Esirleri Sempozyumu Bildiri Kitabı, – 14-15 mart 2017, – İstanbul, – 2018. – s.203-238; Akgün, S. Birinci Dünya savaşı sonunda İskandinavya'dan Sibirya'ya Hilal-i Ahmer hizmetinde Akçuraoğlu Yusuf / S.Akgün, M.Uluğtekin. – Ankara: Türkiye Kızılay Derneği yayınları, – 2009. – 303 s; Aslan, Y. Türkiye Komünist Fırkası'nın Kuruluşu ve Mustafa Suphi / Y.Aslan. – Ankara: Türk Tarih Kurumu Basımevi, –

generalized works and encyclopedias were also used during the research¹⁸.

Based on newspaper articles published in the Russian Empire, Alfina Sibgatullina gave information about the number of prisoners in Russia at different times, the ways of their resettlement, in her article called "Turkish soldiers captured in the First World War according to Russian newspapers"¹⁹. In addition, a number of issues related to Turkish prisoners of war during the war have been touched upon in the works of V. Poznakhirev, E. Ludsuveyt, I. Danilenko, I. Obrazchov, N. Galovin and others²⁰. Other foreign researchers such as D.Allen, P.Muratof, A.Benningsen, C.Lemercier-Quelquejay, Z.Tsurtsunia have researches on this subject²¹.

1997. – 401 s.; Bayur, H. Türk İnkılabı Tarihi /H.Bayur. – Ankara: TTK, – c.3, kısım 1, – 1983. – 521 s.; Bayur, H. Türk İnkılabı Tarihi / H.Bayur. – Ankara: TTK, – c.3, kısım 4, – 1991. – 878 s.; Soysal, İ. Tarihçeleri ve Açıklamaları İle Birlikte Türkiye'nin Siyasal Antlaşmaları. I.Cilt (1920-1945) / İ.Soyşal. – Ankara, – 1989. – 704 s.

¹⁸ Azərbaycan Xalq Cümhuriyyəti Ensiklopediyası: [2 cildə] / – Bakı: Lider, – c. 1, – 2004. – 440 s.; Azərbaycan Xalq Cümhuriyyəti Ensiklopediyası: [2 cildə] / – Bakı: Lider, – c. 2, – 2005. – 472 s.; Azərbaycan tarixi: [7 cildə] / – Bakı: Elm, – c.5 (1900-1920-ci illər). – 2008. – 696 s.

¹⁹ Сибгатуллина, А. Жуткую карьеру представляют пленные турки... (материалы российской прессы 1914-1916 гг. О турецких военнопленных // Qara dəniz – Black sea – Черное море. – с. 9-24.

²⁰Познахирев, В. Турецкие пленники в войнах России 1677-1917: / Автореферат диссертации на соискание ученой степени кандидата исторических наук/ – Курск, – 2012, – 24 p.; Лудшувейт, Е. Турция в годы первой мировой войны 1914-1918 гг.: военно-политический очерк / Е.Лудшувейт. – Москва: Изд-во Московского Университета, – 1966. – 386 p.; Даниленко, И. Военные усилия России в Мировой Войне / И.Даниленко, И.Образцов, Н.Головин. – Москва: Кучково поле, Серия: Российская военно-историческая библиотека, – 2001. – 440 с.

²¹ Allen , D. Caucasian Battlefields. A history of the wars on the Turco-Caucasian border. 1828-1921/ D.Allen, P.Muratoff. –Cambridge University Press, – 2010. – 614 p.; Benningsen, A. Sultan Galiyev - Üçüncü Dünyaçı Devrimin Babası / A.Benningsen, C.Lemercier-Quelquejay. – İstanbul: Sosyalist yayınları, – 2005. – 417 s.; Tsurtsunia, Z. Gürcistan arşivlerine göre türk savaş esirleri (1914-1918) /

The study of books shows that the problem has not yet been studied in Azerbaijani historiography and is relevant for research.

Sources on the subject have been collected, grouped and systematized over many years. During the research, the speeches, letters and statements of the great leader of the Turkish nation Mustafa Kemal Atatürk and the national leader of the Azerbaijani people Heydar Aliyev, as well as great statesmen of the Turkic world were used as both methodological and historical sources²².

It is possible to classify the sources used in connection with the study of the topic as follows:

1) Archival documents are the most important sources for the study of the problem, allowing to clarify the information contained in the sources and works of historiography, interpretation, comparative and critical analysis, the discovery of new information. These sources include documents kept in the State Historical Archive of the Republic of Azerbaijan (ARDTA), the Ottoman Archive of the Prime Ministry of the Republic of Turkey (BOA), the Archive of Military History and Strategic Studies of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Turkey (ATASE). Correspondence between the authorities of that time is extremely important for studying the fate of the prisoners of war. Some documents were obtained from collections published in different years and involved in the study²³.

2) Another group of sources includes magazines and newspapers published in those years. In terms of studying the approach of Azerbaijani intellectuals, the Azerbaijani people, at the same time for

Uluslararası Türk Savaş Esirleri Sempozyumu Bildiri Kitabı, – 14-15 mart 2017, – İstanbul, – 2018, – s. 319-358.

²² Atatürk'ün söylev ve demeçleri (1906 – 1938) / 5. Baskı, Ankara: Türk İnkılâp Tarihi Enstitüsü Yayınları, – c.2, – 2006. – 335 s.; Əliyev, H.Ə. Müstəqilliyimiz əbədidir: [46 cildə] / H.Əliyev. – Bakı: Azər nəşr, – c.6. – 1998. – 512 s.

²³ Türkiye Büyük Millet Meclisi, Zabıt Ceridesi / – Ankara: TBMM, – Cild XI, – 371 s.; Документы и материалы по внешней политике Закавказья и Грузии / – Тифлис: Типография Правительства Грузинской Республики, – 1919. – 514 с.

a comparative analysis of the information presented in official documents in accordance with the objectives of the Russian state bodies and provocative Armenian groups, journalistic articles and information published in the press, especially in the newspapers such as “Açıq söz”, “Tazə xəbər” “Hümmət”, “Kaspi”, “İqbal”, “Bakineç”, “Bakinskiy raboçiy” in the magazine of “Qardaş köməyi” jurnalında, in the newspaper published in Turkey such as Türkiyədə nəşr edilən “İstiklal”, “Təsviri-əfkar”, “İkdam” etc. Were very significant.

3) Articles published on the subject in the Azerbaijani and Turkish press in recent years have also been analyzed as periodicals. It should be noted that the Turkish press has published a large number of articles about Turkish prisoners of war on the island of Nargin. Special mention should be made of articles published in media outlets such as Betül Vergül's "İlanlı Nargin", in the April 3, 2007 issue of the “İstiqlal” newspaper, the article "Let Nargin be a martyr" published in the January 28, 2008 issue of the "Hurriyet" newspaper, articles published in the Republic of Azerbaijan in such media outlets as "Ayna", "525th newspaper", "Kaspi".

4) Another group of sources is the memoirs of prisoners of war, various people who took part in socio-political processes, as well as writers. Although such sources approach the subject from a more personal point of view, they are important for creating a complete picture of the processes that took place in those years. In this regard, the book "Turkish Army in Baku" by Azerbaijani writer Gylman İlkin provides very interesting information, the assistance provided to Turkish prisoners of war, the placement of orphans in orphanages, the work done on their education has been mentioned in this book.

During the writing of the dissertation, the facts about the prisoners of war in Azerbaijan were analyzed in the memoirs of Turkish officers and soldiers such as Azerbaijani intellectuals N.Keykurin, A.Aliyev²⁴, and K. Garabakir, A. Jebesoy, M. Asaf, H. Atman, R.

²⁴ Keykurin, N. Nağıbəy Şeyxzamanlının xatirələri və istiqlaliyyət fədailəri / N.Keykurin. – Bakı: Təknur, – 2007. – 148 s.; Keykurin, N. Azərbaycan İstiklal

Bashkatibzade, M.F. Tashar, F. Erdogan, A. Goze²⁵ and etc, who were a participant in the military, social and political processes of that time.

Object and subject of the research. Turkish prisoners of war captured by the Russian army during the First World War have been identified as objects of research on the charitable and public activities of the Azerbaijani population and various organizations related to the prisoners of war. The subject of the research is a systematic study of the situation of prisoners of war captured on the Caucasus front and brought to Azerbaijan during the First World War, the activities of various organizations and individuals in Azerbaijan during this period, the fate of prisoners in the postwar period.

Goals and the duties of the research. The main purpose of the dissertation is a systematic and comprehensive study of the situation of Turkish prisoners of war, gathering, quarantine centers and concentration camps in Azerbaijan during the First World War, the attitude and assistance of Azerbaijanis to the Ottoman state and

mücadelesinin Hatıraları /N.Keykurun. – İstanbul: Azerbaycan Gençlik Derneği, – 1964, – 132 s.; Əliyev, Ə. Əlincə yaddaşı / Ə.Əliyev.– Bakı: Gənclik, – 1997. – 304 s..

²⁵ Cebesoy, A. Moskova Hatıraları /A.Cebesoy. – Ankara: Kültür və Turizm Bakanlığı yayınları, – 1982. – 455 s.; Asaf, M. Volga kıyılarında ve muhtıra. Esaret hatıra ve maceraları /Yay. hazır. Murat Cebecioğlu /M.Asaf. – İzmir: Akademi kitabevi, – 1994. – 310 s.; Ataman, H. Esaret Yılları / – İstanbul: Türkiye İş Bankası yayınları, – 2011. – 448 s.; Ataman, H. Harp ve esaret. Doğu Cephesinden Sibiryaya/ – İstanbul: Türkiye İş Bankası Kültür yayınları, – 2011. – 464 s.; Başkatipzade, R. Tarih-i hayatım. Tahsi-harp-Esaret-kurtuluş anıları / R.Başkatipzade. – Ankara: Kebekeç yayınları, – 1996. – 155 s.; Cepheden cepheye, esareten esarete (Ürgüplü Mustafa Fevzi Taşer'in hatıraları) / Yay. Haz. Eftal Şükrü Batmaz, – Ankara: Kültür Bakanlığı, – 2000. – 165 s.; Erdoğan, F. Türk ellerinde hatıralarım / F.Erdoğan. – Ankara: Türkiye Cumhuriyeti Kültür Bakanlığı Yayınları, – 1998. – 363 s.; Göze, E. Rusya'da üç esaret yılı: bir Türk subayımın hatıraları /E.Göze. – İstanbul: Boğaziçi Yayınları, – 1991. – 109 s.; Karabekir, K. İstiklâl Harbimiz /K.Karabekir. – İstanbul: Merk yayıncılık A.Ş., – 1988. –1215 s.; Karabekir, K. İstiklâl Harbimizde Enver Paşa ve İttihat Terakki Erkanı / K.Karabekir. – Ankara: Tekin Yayınevi, – 1990. – 381 s.

Turkish prisoners of war. To achieve this goal, the following specific tasks have been determined:

- To collect, study, systematize and analyze the most authoritative sources and literature on the problem in different languages;
- To determine the reasons for the Russian-Ottoman struggle for the Caucasus during the First World War and the place of the Azerbaijani people in this struggle;
- To study the impact of the events on the Caucasus front during the First World War on the lives of Anatolian Turks and Azerbaijanis;
- To determine the geography of gathering, quarantine centers and concentration camps in the territory of Tsarist Russia, including the Caucasus;
- To make a comparative analysis of the number of Turkish prisoners of war captured by the Russian armies during the war and the situation in individual concentration camps;
- To determine the ways of relocation of prisoners from the territory of Azerbaijan to other camps in the territory of Russia;
- To study the status of the island of Nargin as one of the main concentration camps in the Caucasus, the number of prisoners held on the island, national, social, gender and age composition, conditions of detention;
- To study the attitude of the Azerbaijani population to the Turkish prisoners of war during the First World War on the basis of the facts of historical sources;
- To study the activities of socio-political organizations and societies operating in Azerbaijan at that time in connection with the prisoners of war;
- To investigate the measures taken by the Azerbaijani population to assist refugees in Baku, Ganja and other regions;
- To determine the geography of the ways of rescuing prisoners of war from captivity by various means and sending them to Anatolia;

- To analyze the information, articles and news of the press operating in Azerbaijan at that time in connection with the Turkish prisoners of war and refugees in the historical-factual context;
- To analyze the international legal processes, discussions, articles of multilateral and bilateral agreements on prisoners of war in the post-war period and the process of implementation of agreements;
- To determine the impact of socio-political processes on Turkish prisoners of war in Azerbaijan, both during the war and in the first years after the war;
- To study the participation of Turkish prisoners of war in the struggle for independence of Azerbaijan;
- To study the history and goals of Bolshevik propaganda among Turkish prisoners of war;
- To clarify the impact of the measures taken by the Ottoman Red Crescent Society on prisoners of war in Azerbaijan;
- To analyze the activities of other countries and organizations related to prisoners;
- To study and analyze the socio-political and socio-economic life of Azerbaijan at that time on the basis of facts in the memoirs of Turkish prisoners of war.

Research methods. The methodological basis of this dissertation is the objective analysis of the materials of the primary sources presented and objective analysis of facts, generalizations, considerations in the research.

General historical methods were used during the research, including comparative analysis, critical analysis, system analysis, and statistical methods. In order to explain the historical and geographical aspects of the subject accurately, field research was conducted in Nargin Island, Zyxh Cape, Bilajari station and a number of other areas where prisoners were held, special methods of historical and geographical research were used.

The main provisions to be defended. The research allows following provisions to be defended:

- During World War I, Azerbaijan was one of the main territories where quarantine, temporary detention and collection centers were located;
- Ganja functioned as a transit station for prisoners, Bilajari as a checkpoint, Naftlug as a sorting and quarantine point for prisoners, Zykh as a temporary detention and dispatch point, and Nargin as a prisoner of war camp;
- The location of the concentration camp on an island near the Turkish city of Baku had a special purpose against the local Azerbaijani population;
- The ways of resettlement and abduction of prisoners were not linear, the climatic, socio-political and military conditions of the time influenced the change of these ways;
- Murders and terrorist acts were committed by Armenians in the Russian army against Turkish prisoners of war and civil prisoners in Azerbaijan;
- In the post-war period, the political forces fighting in the South Caucasus, especially the Bolsheviks, tried to take advantage of the prisoners of war and in many cases they succeeded.

Scientific novelty of the research. The approach to the problem, the research of it and the results obtained have the character of scientific novelty. It is of great importance to study the attitude of Turkish military and civilian prisoners of war captured during the First World War on the island of Nargin, one of the most difficult captive camps in Tsarist Russia, the attitude of the Azerbaijani people, socio-political organizations to these prisoners of war and their activities related to them. It should be noted that during the Soviet era, there were unofficial restrictions on the study of this subject for many years due to ideological shackles. In many cases, this history has been falsified and forgotten. In Turkey, however, the issue of prisoners of war is more at the level of memories. Only in the late 1990s did both countries pay some attention to this issue, but there are some gaps. Research shows that there is a need to fill this gap in modern Azerbaijani and Turkish historiography.

In the presented dissertation, for the first time in historiography, the topic "Turkish prisoners of war in Azerbaijan during the First World War" was systematically studied from a scientific and theoretical point of view as a separate problem. During the research, the following scientific novelties were obtained by studying the primary sources on the subject, as well as extensive historical literature in detail:

- The course of the Russian-Ottoman war of 1914-1918 on the Caucasus front and its impact on Azerbaijan were clarified²⁶;

- The geography of the concentration camps, quarantine, temporary detention and collection centers in the territory of Azerbaijan has been determined, and for the first time the status and mechanisms of operation of Ganja, Bilajari, Naftlug, Zykh and Nargin settlements have been analysed comparatively. It has been determined that, Ganja functioned as a transit station for prisoners, Bilajari as a checkpoint, Naftlug as a sorting and quarantine point for prisoners, Zykh as a temporary detention and dispatch point, and Nargin as a prisoner of war camp²⁷;

- In so far studies it was considered that the establishment of a camp for sick prisoners on the island of Nargin, near Baku, was a step towards keeping prisoners away from the people. As a result of the research, for the first time, it was proved that the location of a camp for sick prisoners on an island near the Muslim city of Baku had special purposes against the local Azerbaijani population;

²⁶ Karauz, Y., Kelbizadeh, E. Kafkasyanın güvenliği ve Kafkas İslam Ordusu //Uluslararası Güvenlik Kongresi (kuram, yöntem, uygulama), – Ankara: YSGA, - 19-20 Eylül 2019, – 2019, – s.63-74.

²⁷ Карауз, Ю. Остров Наргин как один из главных лагерей для пленных на Кавказе в годы первой мировой войны // – Москва: Вопросы Национальных и федеративных отношений, – 2019. – Выпуск 9(54), – Том 9, – p.1384-1397.

- The attitude of various public organizations and newspapers in Azerbaijan to the war and the prisoners of war was analyzed on the basis of reliable sources and facts²⁸ ;
- The choice of Nargin Island as a detention camp has been also related to security measures;
- The historical geography and directions of the resettlement and abduction of prisoners have been revealed²⁹ ;
- The policy pursued by state and public organizations in relation to the Turkish prisoners of war in Azerbaijan in Tsarist Russia, its causes and general consequences were investigated, critical analyzes were conducted, and attempts were made to reveal the true nature of the events and processes;
- The murders and terrorist acts of Armenians in the Russian army against Turkish military and civilian prisoners of war in Azerbaijan, as well as against organizations and individuals engaged in charitable activities related to prisoners of war in Azerbaijan have been proved on the basis of factual documents and materials;
- The results of the conferences on prisoners of war, as well as the articles³⁰ in the international agreements signed for the Turkish prisoners of war in Azerbaijan were studied and analyzed in detail;
- The attempts of the political forces fighting in the South Caucasus, especially the Bolsheviks, to take advantage of the prisoners of war in the post-war period were studied, and the consequences for Azerbaijan, as well as for Turkey, were clarified.

Theoretical and practical significance of the research. The main provisions and scientific results of the dissertation are of

²⁸ Karauz, Y. Azərbaycan basınında türk esirləri // V Uluslararası Ağrı dağı ve Nuh'un gemisi Sempozyumu, – Erzurum: Zafer Medya, – 16-18 Ekim 2019, –2020, – s.506-518.

²⁹ Karauz, Y. Azərbaycan və Nargin əsir düşərgəsi türk əsirlərinin xatirələrində // – Lənkəran: Elmi xəbərlər jurnalı, – 2019. – № 1, – s. 95-102.

³⁰ Karauz, Y., Paşa, E. Milli Mücadele döneminde esir kampları ve Balıkesir esir kampı //Kuva-yı Milli Şehri Balıkesir Uluslararası Sempozyumu, – Balıkesir: Kent Arşiv Yayınları, – 19-22 Eylül 2019, – 2020, – c. 1, – s.259-265.

theoretical and practical importance. The final scientific results obtained in the research work can be used in conducting research and writing generalized works on the history of the Ottoman-Russian, Ottoman-Azerbaijani Democratic Republic, Turkey-RSFSR, Turkey-Azerbaijani SSR, history of Azerbaijan and the Caucasus as a whole during the First World War and in the first years after the war. In addition, as a result of practical proposals put forward in the dissertation, it is possible to create historical-memorial complexes related to prisoners in many areas, to organize tourist routes to the areas where historical monuments are located.

Approbation and application. The main directions of the dissertation have been published in the form of articles and theses in various scientific journals. Presentations have been made at symposium and conferences in various countries. A report on the activities of the "Brotherly Help" magazine was presented in Baku on November 2-5, 2012, at a symposium held in Baku on the magazine "Brotherly Help" and the activities of Azerbaijanis in aid of Turkish prisoners during the mentioned period. It has been attended and reported at the symposium "Ottoman-Russian Wars in the First World War" organized in the Republic of Turkey in 2017 and at the international symposium on "Prisoners of the Turkish War" held in Istanbul on March 14-15, 2017.

Name of the organization where the dissertation work is performed. The dissertation work was carried out at the Department of New and Modern History of European and American countries of the Faculty of History which has been approved by the Scientific Council of the Faculty of History of Baku State University.

Volume of the dissertation. The dissertation consists of an introduction, three chapters, fourteen half-chapters, a conclusion, a list of references and appendices, a total of 310,427 characters.

The introduction of the research work consists of 27310 characters. The first chapter is entitled "Russian-Ottoman struggle for the Caucasus and Turkish captives during the First World War", consists of three sub-chapters and is 90,786 characters long.

The second chapter, entitled "Attitudes and activities of the Azerbaijani people to the Turkish captives in the Caucasus", consists of four sub-chapters and is 113,305 characters long. The third chapter of the dissertation, entitled "The issue of prisoners of war in international relations and regional processes" is divided into four sections and is 64,534 characters long. The main scientific results obtained in the result section are reflected and consist of 14491 symbols. At the end of the dissertation there is an Appendix section with tables, pictures, maps and illustrative materials.

II. MAIN CONTENT OF THE DISSERTATION

The "**Introduction**" substantiates the actuality of the topic, provides information on the degree of development of it in historiography and the source base. The object, subject, goals and duties of the research, methods used in writing the work were discussed. The main provisions and innovations presented in the defense were informed, the theoretical and practical significance of the research was substantiated. It also shows the approbation and application of the work, the name of the organization in which it is performed, the total volume of the dissertation with a sign, indicating the volume of the structural units of the dissertation separately.

The first chapter of the dissertation entitled "Russian-Ottoman struggle for the Caucasus and Turkish prisoners of war during the First World War" examines the situation on the Caucasus front in the First World War, prison camps in Tsarist Russia, ways of their resettlement, number and condition of Turkish prisoners of war, the location, status and importance of Nargin island among prison camps have been identified.

Tsarist Russia was the greatest rival of the Ottoman Empire in World War I, one of the greatest disasters in human history. The armies of this empire and the Ottoman troops fought both in the Caucasus - on the Eastern Front and on the European fronts. On October 29-30, 1914, after the Ottoman ships led by German Admiral Susho bombed the port cities of Sevastopol, Odessa, Feodosia, and

Novorossiysk under the control of Tsarist Russia in the Black Sea and sank several Russian ships³¹, on November 2, 1914, Tsarist Russia officially declared war on the Ottoman Empire³². Tsarist Russian armies began to attack in the north-east of Anatolia. The Ottoman state officially joined the war on November 14, 1914, when Sultan Rashad declared "Holy Jihad" at the Fatih Mosque³³.

The information in the archives, which was considered confidential in the correspondence of Russian officials and police officers at that time, proves that not only the lower classes in Azerbaijan, but also the privileged national elite and nobility wished the victory of the Ottoman state. Such individuals had secret relations with the Ottoman state. Correspondence between the Minister of the Internal Affairs of the Tsarist Russia's secret services in Baku also expressed concern about the attitude of the population towards Ottoman Turkey³⁴.

Despite all this, the three-week operation Sarikamish, launched by the Ottoman army command at the beginning of the war with high hopes, resulted in a heavy defeat. According to some sources, the Ottoman army lost half of its manpower involved in the operation (70-80 thousand people), more than half of artillery, weapons and ammunition, vehicles.

³¹ Bayur, H. Türk İnkılabı Tarihi. – c.3, kısım 1, – 1983. s. 327-328; История Дипломатии / Под. ред. акад. В.Потемкина / – Москва-Ленинград: ГИПЛ, – т.2. – 1946. – с.271.

³² I Dünya Harbinde Türk Harbi Kafkas Cephesi I. Ordu Harekatı / – Ankara, –с.2, – 1993, s. 100-101; Лудшувейт, Е. Турция в годы первой мировой войны 1914 - 1918 гг.: военно-политический очерк / Е.Лудшувейт. – Москва: Изд-во Московского Университета, – 1966. – с.62.

³³ Bayan, İ. Birinci Dünya savaşında Osmanlı savaş esirleri ve Türk Kızılay Arşivinde bulunan eşir kartları / Uluslararası Türk Savaş Esirleri Sempozyumu Bildiri Kitabı, – 14-15 mart 2017, – İstanbul, – 2018, – s. 184; Bilinmeyen Tarihimiz: Cehennem Adası Nargin: [Elektronik kaynak] / Youtube. – 2018, 30 Nisan. URL: www.youtube.com/watch?v=VIsbg0614YU, – d. 6:30-6:38.

³⁴ Şixəliyev, E. İngiltərənin geosiyasi maraqlarında “erməni məsələsi”nin yeri və Azərbaycanı təsiri (1917-1920). (Böyük Britaniyanın arxiv materialları əsasında) / E.Şixəliyev, – Naхçıvan: Əcəmi, – 2016. – s.21.

According to works of the Turkish researchers, the number of Ottoman soldiers killed due to natural conditions ranged from 30,000 to 90,000. According to Russian sources, the Turks suffered 11,000 casualties and 3,500 were taken prisoner in the Sarikamish movement. According to Turkish sources, the number of Turks captured in Sarıkamış is 7,000.

In addition to the material and moral losses of the army, the Turkish-Muslim population of the war-torn regions also suffered significant losses. Many villages were burned or destroyed in accordance with the rules of war. In order to escape the oppression of the Russians and the Armenian gangs they patronized, the inhabitants of many villages left their homes and moved to Erzurum, which was under the control of the Ottoman troops.

From October to November 1917, the situation on the Caucasus front changed. Thus, after the Bolshevik coup in Russia in October, on December 18, 1917, an agreement was signed with Russia on the end of the war in Erzincan³⁵. The government of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic, led by Vladimir Ilyich Lenin, signed the Brest-Litovsk Treaty with the Union States on March 3, 1918, and withdrew from the war.

Researcher Ismet Gorgulu estimates that between April 1915 and March-April 1917, about 40,000 Turkish soldiers were captured in Russia from the East Caucasus front.³⁶ When we added to this number the number of prisoners of war in the battles of Koprukoy in November 1914 (7,000 people)³⁷ and in the Sarıkamış operation in

³⁵ Uçarol, R. Siyasi tarih (1789-1999) / R.Uçarol. – İstanbul: Filiz kitabevi, – 2000, –s. 476-478; Qasımlı, M.C. Birinci Dünya müharibəsi illərində böyük dövlətlərin Azərbaycan siyasəti (1914-1918-ci illər). – 2001. – s. 41.

³⁶ Görgülü, İ. On yıllık harbin kadrosu (1912-1922) / İ.Görgülü. – Ankara: TTK, – 1999. – s. 101-103.

³⁷ . – s. 101-103.

³⁷ Belen, F. Birinci cihan harbinde Türk Harbi, 1914 yılı hareketleri / F.Belen. – Ankara: KKK Yayınları, – 1964. – s.135.

January 1915 (15,000 people)³⁸, the number of prisoners of war reached 63,000.

A study of archival documents shows that from November 1914, when de facto military operations began on the Caucasus Front between the Ottoman Empire and Tsarist Russia, the captured Turks were immediately sent mainly to the interior of Russia. The Russians, especially in the early days of the war and during the battles in the direction of Erzurum in January 1916, tried to send prisoners immediately to the interior of the empire. However, it soon became clear that the immediate dispatch of prisoners of war who were at high risk of contracting various diseases on the battlefields to the interior provinces of the empire could lead to the spread of infectious diseases and the death of large numbers of people. In this case, the Russian command organized gatherings, quarantine centers, checkpoints, and temporary camps in the national colonies, especially in the Muslim-Turkish areas of the Caucasus. Tsarist Russia had two goals in taking this step. The first of these goals was to identify healthy prisoners in quarantine and camp centers, and to send them to the interior after proper hygiene.³⁹ The information sent by the then commandant of Baku to the head of the Russian Red Cross, the tsar's uncle Alexander Petrovich Oldenburg, also proves that mostly low-ranking and sick prisoners were unloaded from wagons in Baku⁴⁰.

On the other hand, it was well known to the Russians that the local population would try to communicate with the captives brought to the territories inhabited by Azerbaijanis by various means. This could increase the hatred of the Turkish and Muslim population of

³⁸ Kurat, A. *Türkiye ve Rusya* / A.Kurat. – Ankara: Kültür Bakanlığı yayınları, – 1990, – s.279.

³⁹ *Cepheden cepheye, esaretten esarete* (Ürgüplü Mustafa Fevzi Taşerin hatıraları). – 2000. – s. 48.

⁴⁰ *Qatarla gətirilən əsirlərin sayları (zabitlərin sayları) və sağlamlıqları barədə* // Azərbaycan Respublikası Dövlət Tarix Arxivi, Fond № 46, siyahı № 7, iş № 179, vərəq – 40.

Azerbaijan against the government. On the other hand, the infectious diseases of the sick captives would infect the local population.

In this connection, the main quarantine centers were established in three places in the Caucasus. The first of the centers was the quarantine center located in Hamamli village of Sarikamish. The second center was the Satilmisgedik Quarantine Center in Kars, and the third was the Varasovsky Quarantine Center. In addition, small quarantine stations (Zykh Cape) were established near certain camps and stations. The camp centers were located in Sarikamish, Kars and Tiflis. Checkpoints were set up in five cities of the Russian Empire. Three of these cities were located in the Caucasus. The cities where the checkpoints were organized were: Tbilisi, Ganja, Baku (Bilajari), Samara / Kuybishev and Penza.

Transportation of prisoners were mainly realised by railway lines. The route of the railway connecting the Caucasus with the central regions of Russia began in Gyumri, then the trains carrying the captives traveled along the Tbilisi-Ganja-Baku line and reached Derbent and Petrovska (Makhachkala) along the Caspian Sea. From Petrovsk, the railway line ran from the coast to the north-west, north of the Caucasus Mountains, to Grozny and Armavir. From there, the railway line reached Rostov, the gateway of the Caucasus to Russia and Europe, and Russia to the Caucasus, and from there to the interior of Russia.

Of course, a number of concentration camps were established in the Caucasus to keep Turkish prisoners of war captured by Russia on the Caucasus front. Studies show that these camps were located in Kars, Gyumri, Tbilisi, Yerevan, Baku (Nargin Island), Petrovsk, Stavropol, Armavir, Batumi, Gori, Vladikavkaz/Ordzhonikidze, Maykop, Bielaritzenkaya and Tupse⁴¹.

When trains carrying thousands of prisoners from the Caucasus front arrived in Baku, they left some of the prisoners here and took others to the inner cities of the empire. It is clear from the sources

⁴¹ Kutlu, C. I. Dünya savaşında Rusyadaki türk savaş esirleri ve bunların yurda döndürülmeleri faaliyetleri. –1997. – s.71.

that the first captives were brought to Baku in early 1915. The tsarist administration considered it dangerous for the captives to be able to act against Tsarist Russia, as well as for the sympathy of local Azerbaijanis, to oppose the tsarist government, and for the officials to be able to help them, did not include a single Azerbaijani in the special staff set up to control the Bilajari railway station⁴².

Most of the Turkish prisoners of war brought to Baku were placed in the captive camp in Great Zira - Nargin, the largest island in the Baku archipelago, where living conditions were very difficult. It should be noted that in a number of studies so far, the camp on the island of Nargin has been characterized as more of a gathering center⁴³.

The Turkish prisoners of war on the island called it the "Island of Hell" in their memoirs because of the hardships and deprivations they experienced.⁴⁴ Even such descriptions can be found in the press of that time⁴⁵. Due to the poor conditions of the prisoners of war detained on the island, the Azerbaijani people called it "Karbala Desert", "Mausoleum", "Jazirat-ul-mort", "Snake Island" because it is famous for its snakes.⁴⁶ There are even reports that the first Turkish

⁴²Akt 05 yanvar 1915 // Azərbaycan Respublikası Dövlət Tarix Arxivi, Fond № 46, siyahı № 7, iş № 179, vərəq-7.

⁴³ Üner, M. Kafkas Cebhesi'nde Rusların eline düşen Türkler / M.Üner. Balıkesir Üniversitesi Sosyal Bilimler Enstitüsü, Yüksek Lisans Tezi. – Balıkesir, – 2012, – s. 55; Üner, M. Birinci dünya savaşında Kafkas cephesi'nde Ruslara esir düşen türk askerlerin yol boyunca ve kamplarda yaşadıkları sorunlar // Uluslararası Türk Savaş Esirleri Sempozyumu Bildiri Kitabı, – 14-15 mart 2017, – İstanbul, – 2018, – s. 241.

⁴⁴ Akkor, M. I dünya savaşında çeşitli ülkelerdeki Türk esir kampları. – 2006. – s. 133.

⁴⁵ Tesvir-i Efkâr gaz. 1334/1918, 10 iyun, №: 2486.

⁴⁶ Sarıahmetoğlu, N. Neriman Nerimanov ve Nargin adasındaki esirler // Uluslararası Türk Savaş Esirleri Sempozyumu Bildiri Kitabı, – 14-15 mart 2017, – İstanbul, – 2018, – s. 271.

prisoners of war who were brought to the island to build a building in the concentration camp later used the snakes on the island for food⁴⁷.

In the Nargin military camp, 40 two-story wooden huts (80 cells) were built to house the prisoners. A total of 10,000 prisoners of war have been considered to be housed in the Nargin concentration camp, with 125 people in each cell⁴⁸. Calculations show that the per capita use area for prisoners in these comas was 4,5 m².

The number of Turkish prisoners of war detained on the island of Nargin in different years varied between 3,000 and 6,000. The captive camp on the island of Nargin was mainly occupied by Turkish prisoners. However, German, Austrian, Hungarian, Bulgarian, Albanian, Syrian and Iraqi Arabs⁴⁹ were among the prisoners of war. It is clear from the sources that the tsarist officials treated the Turkish prisoners of war cruelly. It is clear from the sources that the tsarist officials not only treated ruthlessly to the turkish prisoners of war, but also to the prisoners of war who were from other nations.

The barracks and huts of the camp were made of wood. But there was no floor in any hut. The walls were of poor quality, not resistant to external natural influences (rain, wind, snow, etc.), uncoated and without lime. Therefore, strong winds damaged these huts in a short time, and instead of broken glass in the windows, paper and cloth were blocked. Because the roofs of the huts were not made in accordance with the climatic conditions, rainwater and sand filled the area during rain and severe storms. There is only one source - the memoirs of Lieutenant of the Ottoman Army Ahmed Efendi – that there are reports that the captives were placed in an old stone building on the island of Nargin⁵⁰.

⁴⁷ Tunç, V. I. Dünya Savaşında Rus Esir Kampı Nargin ya da Cehennemden kaçış, Deli İbo / V.Tunç. – Ankara: Sonçağ, – 2018. – s.53.

⁴⁸ Yenə orada, – s. 89.

⁴⁹ Göze, E. Rusya'da üç esaret yılı: bir Türk subayının hatıraları... – s.67.

⁵⁰ Yenə orada, – s.68.

As there was no water source on the island, water was brought here by ships from Baku. However, water was primarily supplied to Russian coffee shops and Russian guards. Only the remaining water was distributed to the captives. In this case, the prisoners were sometimes without water for several days. Because the water distributed was unhygienic, intestinal diseases were rampant among the prisoners of war.

One of the barracks in the camp was turned into a hospital. In this hut with a capacity of 300-400 people, 1,200 prisoners of war "as if they were piled on top of each other like fish". According to archival documents, the annual mortality rate at Nargin Hospital was 40%. One of the main reasons for this was the low level of medical care in the hospital. Although there were captive doctors in Nargin Hospital who were citizens of Russia and allied countries, Russian doctors did not work under the pretext of a lack of medicine in the hospital.

Studies show that Nargin Island was used as a concentration camp until September 1918. Prisoners of war on the island were released after the liberation of Baku by the Caucasian Islamic Army on September 15, 1918⁵¹. It became the place where intellectuals fighting for the independence of Azerbaijan after the collapse of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic in April 1920, especially between 1920 and 1924, and where the Turkish officers who remained in Azerbaijan and were arrested by the Bolsheviks, were killed.

The second chapter, entitled "Attitudes and activities of the Azerbaijani people to the Turkish captives in the Caucasus" examines the attitude of the Azerbaijani population to the captives, Azerbaijani organizations and their activities related to the captives, measures taken to help Turkish captives in Baku, Ganja and other cities, the information about the Turkish captives in the Azerbaijani press of the time, the issues about the Azerbaijani and Nargin captive camps in the memories of the Turkish captives were touched upon.

⁵¹ Akkor, M. I. Dünya savaşı'nda Rusyada bulunan türk esirleri ve esir kampları. – 2018, – s. 212; Kutlu, C. I. Dünya savaşında Rusyadaki türk savaş esirleri... – 1997, – s. 92.

As Tsarist Russian officials had previously thought, the detention of Turkish prisoners in this situation was a matter of great concern among the Azerbaijani people. In particular, the situation of Turkish captives from the Caucasus front in 1916 caused dissatisfaction among the population. Azerbaijanis are closely interested in the situation of the prisoners on the island of Nargin, trying to help them both materially and individually, both through established aid societies and individually.

Most of the newspapers run by Azerbaijani intellectuals published information on the number and status of Turkish prisoners of war brought to Baku. A number of newspapers took bolder steps, calling on the population to help those coming from Anatolia.

In particular, the Baku Muslim Charity Society and the Society for Assistance to the Needy established by it have done a great job in this regard. In addition, Baku Muslim National Committee, Committee for Assistance to Turkish Prisoners, Caucasian Muslim Students Society, "Brotherly Aid" organization, Muslim Inas (Women) Charity Society, Yerevan Muslim Charity Society, Ganja National Muslim Committee, Ganja Muslim Charity Society, Salvation Society, Publication Organizations such as the Enlightenment Society and the Safa Society were especially distinguished⁵².

One of the interesting issues is that the Baku Soviet of Workers 'and Soldiers' Deputies, which was considered one of the main pillars of Bolshevism in Baku at that time, carried out a number of measures related to the Turkish captives on the island of Nargin. However, the activities of this organization should be distinguished from the activities of other organizations in terms of their goals. Because, if the activities of other organizations stemmed from all-Turkish prejudice, feelings of national solidarity, this organization had its own special goals.

⁵² Aslan, B. I Dünya savaşı esnasında “Azerbaycan Türkleri”nin “Anadolu Türkleri”ne “Kardaş Kömeği (Yardıımı)” ve Bakü Müslüman Cemiyet-i Hayriyesi. – 2000, – s.170-184.

As already mentioned, most of the Turkish captives captured on the Caucasus front were taken to different regions of Russia via Azerbaijan. Trains from Sarıkamış to Tbilissi (Georgia) then passed through Ganja and headed for Baku. At that time, trains full of prisoners were kept at Ganja station, and the dead were given to those who were at the station and responsible for this. A special hospital for prisoners was opened near the Ganja railway station. In the opening of this hospital, the chairman of the Ganja city municipality, national mujahid Khalil bey Khasmammadov, persuaded the governor of Ganja with great effort⁵³.

It should be noted that the population of Lankaran region also made great sacrifices during the abduction of prisoners to their homeland, although not from the regions where trains pass through the camps. The population of Lankaran, Astara, Vargaduz (now Yardimli district - YK) took care of the Turkish captives and tried to meet their needs, at least in part. The course of the First World War had a serious impact on the socio-political conditions and processes in Azerbaijan. As a result of the work carried out by Azerbaijani intellectuals during the war years, all-Turkish solidarity was strengthened and the activity of national forces increased. Information about captives and Muslim refugees can be found in the pages of such newspapers as "Kaspi", "Achiq soz", "Hummat", "Iqbal", "Igdam", "Sada-yi Qafqaz", "Bakinech", "Baku". is found. In March 1915, only one newspaper was published in Baku under the name "Brotherly Help", the proceeds of the newspaper were used for the benefit of "warlords" - refugees, and the people of Azerbaijan were invited to help⁵⁴.

In January 1917, in Baku, Azerbaijani writers decided to start publishing a magazine called "Brotherly Help" to help the "warriors"

⁵³ Akkor, M. I dünya savaşında çeşitli ülkelerdeki Türk eşir kampları. – 2006. – s. 136; Kutlu, C. I. Dünya savaşında Rusyadaki türk savaş esirleri... – 1997. – s. 65.

⁵⁴ Aslan, B. I. Dünya savaşı əsnasında "Azerbaycan Türkleri"nin "Anadolu Türkleri"ne "Kardaş Kömeği (Yardımlı)" ve Bakü Müslüman Cemiyet-i Hayriyesi. – 2000, – s.109.

- the victims of the war. The Baku Muslim Charity Society will receive the necessary permission for this magazine, which will publish only one issue, and its chairman Mirza Asadullayev will be the editor-in-chief of the magazine. For some reason, *Brotherly Help*, which was scheduled to be published in February 1917, was not published until May 1917⁵⁵.

The last paragraph of the chapter analyzes the memories of Turkish captives such as Khalil Ataman, Fakhraddin Erdogan, Faig Tonguch, Ziya Yergok, Ismail Irfan oglu, Kayserili Mulazim Raqib Bashkatibzade, Ahmad Izzet Goza, Huseyn Hamid Husrebani, Husameddin Tugach. The third chapter of the dissertation is entitled "The issue of prisoners of war in international relations and regional processes." Discussions at international conferences on captives, the activities of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent, the discussions of the Ottoman state with the new authorities in Russia and the South Caucasus were widely analyzed. The analysis shows that according to special agreements reached by the Ottoman state with the authorities in the South Caucasus, the prisoners of war belonging to the parties had to be exchanged quickly without waiting for the end of the talks in Batumi. The process of exchanging prisoners was planned to take place in Batumi, and for this purpose it was decided to establish a bilateral commission. Within 4-7 days after the signing of this agreement, Turkish captives had to be brought to Batumi and the exchange of prisoners had to be completed within a maximum of four weeks. The discussions set a three-month return period for prisoners in the European part of Russia and the Caucasus, and six months for those in the Asian part (ie, Siberia). The analysis shows that the events that took place throughout the world during the First World War, as well as in Tsarist Russia, gave confidence to Azerbaijan's politicians, intellectuals, entrepreneurs - the desire to build an independent nation-state in the national elite. Extensive action plans were implemented for this purpose. Such action plans included the

⁵⁵ Qardaş Köməyi // – Bakı, – 1917. – s.1.

establishment of extensive political and military cooperation with Ottoman Turkey. Back in early 1914, Fatali khan Khoyski's brother Aslan bey Khoyski went to Turkey and asked for support for the independent republic to be established by Azerbaijani Turks in the South Caucasus⁵⁶.

The plans of the Muslim Turks living on the territory of Russia to establish their own state were discussed in the political and military circles of the Ottoman state. At the beginning of the First World War, on the initiative of Omar Naji, Chief Adviser of the Committee on Unity and Progress, the idea of uniting South and North Azerbaijan into a single state was discussed and a decision was made.

In 1918, great socio-political events took place in the history of Azerbaijan, in the existing geographical areas of Azerbaijan, in its capital Baku, Bolshevik-Armenian units committed the March 31 genocide. The Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, which proclaimed the Declaration of Independence on May 28, 1918, had many issues that were difficult to resolve. The most important of them was the control of Baku by Bolshevik-Dashnak forces. It is known from the sources that 300 kidnapped Turkish soldiers and officers took part in the war of independence of Azerbaijan and the liberation of Baku⁵⁷.

Like other captives in Russia, the Bolsheviks, who saw the Turkish captives as a potential force, began to propagate Bolshevism and the workers 'and peasants' revolution among the Turkish captives after the October 1917 coup. The Bolsheviks used captives both to solve internal problems and to choose between captives who would carry out future revolutions in countries outside Soviet Russia.

It is also clear from the analysis that Mustafa Subhi, one of the victims of the Bolshevik propaganda, involved other Turkish prisoners in this activity every day. Studies show that after the fall of Tsarist Russia, Turkish prisoners of war in Bolshevik-controlled camps were expelled from the camps and used for ideological purposes as a result of Turkish communists cooperating with Russian

⁵⁶ Aşırılı, A. Nargin adasında türk əsirləri. – 2011. – s.9.

⁵⁷ Yənə orada. – s.10.

communists. The main goal here was not to save the lives of the captives, but to use them for the purposes of the Bolsheviks. The main goal of Mustafa Subhi and his team was to support the Bolshevik revolution by participating in the Russian civil war with the Turkish Red Army in Kazan. The activity of the military structure they formed in Baku was connected only with Turkey. As a result, the final provisions of the research were expressed.

Thus, during the First World War, three main quarantine centers were established in the Caucasus, two of which were located in the Azerbaijani-dominated regions - Sarigamysh (Hamamli) and Kars (Satylmigadik). A number of concentration camps were established in the Caucasus to hold Turkish captives. Studies show that these camps were located in historical Azerbaijani and Turkish cities such as Kars, Gyumri, Yerevan, Baku (Nargin Island). Most of the captives were housed in the Great Zira-Nargin prison camp on the largest island of the Baku archipelago, where living conditions were very difficult. It is clear from the study of sources that the first captives were brought to different regions of Azerbaijan in November 1914, and to Baku, where the main prison camp was located, on the island of Nargin from the beginning of 1915. A total of 10,000 prisoners were to be housed in the Nargin concentration camp. The number of Turkish captives held on the island of Nargin at different times ranged from 3,000 to 15,000. The detention of Turkish prisoners in various camps, especially on the island of Nargin, caused great concern and discontent among Azerbaijanis. Despite all the difficulties, pressures and bans, the Azerbaijanis took a close interest in the situation of the Turkish captives and tried to help them as much as they could, either through established aid societies or individually. After the process of bringing Turks captured on the Caucasus front to Baku began, a number of organizations were established to help captives, help them return to their homeland, and help orphans, the elderly and the sick. During the war and in the post-war period, the issue of Turkish captives in Russia, including Azerbaijan, was discussed at various international conferences, bilateral talks and signed agreements. In Stockholm, Trabzon, Batumi, Moscow, Kars

conferences, various administrations in the Ottoman state and the South Caucasus, negotiations between the parliamentary government and Bolshevik Russia on the status, exchange and return of prisoners were discussed. The Brest-Litovsk, Batumi, Moscow and Kars agreements were especially important for the fate of the captives in Azerbaijan.

Socio-political processes and events such as the collapse of Tsarist Russia as a result of the February Revolution of 1917, the October coup of the Bolsheviks, the establishment of new administrations and then independent states in the South Caucasus, the liberation of Baku and its declaration as the capital of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic. The study of the theme of Turkish prisoners of war in Azerbaijan during the First World War allows us to make a number of practical suggestions:

1. Establishment of a historical memorial complex on the island of Great Zira-Nargin, one of the captive camps with the most severe conditions, where prisoners were detained during the war;

2. Naming the streets of the island after the organizations and individuals who provided special assistance to the prisoners of war on the island, erecting monuments immortalizing their names;

3. Placement of monuments, memorial plaques at the main points on the transport routes of prisoners in the territory of Azerbaijan, and Preparation of tour maps from the cities of Erzurum and Kars of the Republic of Turkey to Baku - Nargin Island;

4. Identification of the next generations of Turkish prisoners of war left in Azerbaijan by genealogical societies and establishment of Azerbaijani-Turkish fraternal societies and foundations consisting of their representatives;

5. In-depth study of the massacres committed by Armenians during the war, especially against Turkish prisoners of war, using the opportunities of the Russian army, and their introduction to the world.

Finally, we consider that certain directions of this research will attract the attention of other researchers in the future, and the study of those directions will contribute to the further enrichment of our

historical science, the further strengthening of Turkish-Azerbaijani relations in the context of historical events.

The main topic of the dissertation is reflected in the following scientific articles and theses of the author:

- Azərbaycan mətbuatında türk əsirləri // – Bakı: Filologiya məsələləri, – 2013. №2, – s.449-455.
- Yolu Bakıdan keçərkən tarix yazanlar // – Bakı: Filologiya məsələləri– 2013. № 3, – s.473-478.
- Деятельность Кавказской Исламской армии на Южном Кавказе в 1918 году// – Bakı: Tarix və onun problemləri. – 2013. №3, –s.69-71.
- “Qardaş kömeyi” dergisi // – Bakı: Filologiya məsələləri, – 2013. № 4, –s.435-441.
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- “Qardaş köməyi” məcmuəsi azərbaycanlıların Osmanlı Türkiyəsinə yardımlarına dair mənbə kimi // “Qafqazda dövlətlərarası münasibətlər: 100 il əvvəl /Azərbaycan Xalq Cümhuriyyətinin 100 illiyinə həsr olunmuş beynəlxalq elmi konfrans. – Bakı: Mütərcim, –2018, – s.142-145.
- Azərbaycan Xalq Cümhuriyyətinin hakimiyyətinin bütün ölkə ərazisində bərqərar edilməsində türk əsirlərinin iştirakı // Cənubi Qafqazda ərazi-sərhəd problemləri: Qars müqaviləsindən Şuşa bəyannaməsinə respublika elmi konfransı, – Bakı: Mütərcim, – 23 sentyabr 2021, – 2021, – s.114-116.

The defense will be held on 29 April 2022 at 14.00 at the meeting of the Dissertation council ED 2.20 of Supreme Attestation Commission under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan operating at the Baku State University.

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Dissertation is accessible at the Library of the Baku State University.

Electronic version of dissertation and its abstract are available on the official website of the Baku State University.

Abstract was sent to the required addresses on 28 March 2022

Signed for publishing 14.03.2022
Format: 60/84, 16/1
Vol. 42784
Order: 86
Number: 100