

REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

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ABSTRACT

of the dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

**HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY OF THE NAKHCHIVAN
REGION OF AZERBAIJAN (1828-1924)**

Speciality: 5503.02 – Homeland history

Field of science: History

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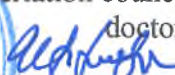
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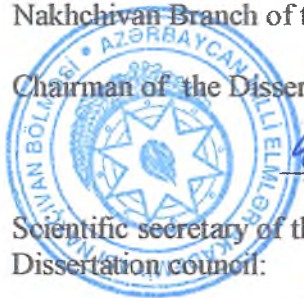
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GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DISSERTATION

Relevance and performed degree of the topic. The history of Azerbaijan in the 19th-20th centuries, as well as during the tsarist era, was subjected to serious distortions during the years of Soviet rule. In the historiography of the Soviet period, the issues of historical geography in Azerbaijani historiography were either almost not studied until the 80s of the 20th century, or very limited attention was paid to this direction. The national leader of the Azerbaijani people, Heydar Aliyev, speaking at a meeting with employees of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences on January 31, 1997, said: *"I believe that one of the tasks facing the academy now is the writing of the history of the Azerbaijani people in the 19th-20th centuries"*.¹

One of the first and rare works on the historical geography of Azerbaijan was the booklet "Historical Geography of Azerbaijan", which consisted of lectures by the Bashkir historian Ahmad Zaki Validi Toga in the 1920s and 1930s.² There has been an awakening in this field since the 1980s.³ The geographical position of Nakhchivan, which occupies an important place in the centuries-old history of Azerbaijan's statehood, has determined its historical, political, strategic and economic importance. From this point of view, the study of the historical geography of Nakhchivan is of great importance. The topic under study is one of the important problems of Azerbaijani history that requires study. Because an in-depth study of the historical geography of the 19th-early 20th centuries allows us to clarify the goals and essence of the administrative-territorial changes carried out by Tsarist Russia in the historical territories of Northern Azerbaijan. The study of the historical geography of Nakhchivan in the years 1828-1924, which was determined as the chronological framework of the research work, is of particular

¹ Əliyev, H. Müstəqilliyimiz əbədidir: [46 cilddə] / H.Əliyev. – Bakı: Azərənəşr, – c. 8. – 1998. –s. 186-187.

² Vəlidı, Ə. Z. Azərbaycanın tarixi coğrafiyası / tərt. ed. V.Piriyeu. – Bakı: Təhsil, – 2009. – 112 s.

³ Piriyeu, V.Z. Azərbaycanın tarixi coğrafiyası / V.Z.Piriyeu.–Bakı: Araz,–2002.–s. 23.

importance in this regard. Because the determination of the modern geography, borders, and main features of the administrative-territorial structure of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic was the result of the historical, military, and political processes that took place during this period. The study of the topic is also relevant in terms of studying the reasons for the emergence of Armenian claims to Nakhchivan, determining what changes these claims caused in the historical geography of Nakhchivan, and proving the groundlessness of the claims with scientific facts. Because, as a result of the gradual resettlement of Armenians to the region throughout the 19th century and at the beginning of the 20th century, their number in Nakhchivan was artificially increased. As a result of the resettlement and protection policy implemented by Russia, Armenians gained a homeland for themselves. In the 1920s, as a result of a purposeful and cunning policy, Nakhchivan was separated from the main part of Azerbaijan. In short, in terms of proving with scientific facts the groundlessness of territorial claims against Nakhchivan, which is an inseparable part of Azerbaijan and the historical homeland of Azerbaijanis from a historical and legal perspective, the study of the topic is one of the urgent issues facing Azerbaijani historiography. In Nakhchivan, which had numerous large settlements and important trade and craft centers in its territory in previous periods, the decline of cities is observed during the period under study. Studying the reasons for such changes in the historical geography of settlements, especially cities, conducting localization of a number of settlements that have been gradually forgotten since that time, studying their internal structure and neighborhood system is also of practical relevance. Because, in the modern era, the restoration of historical settlements, historical sites and monuments in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic is one of the issues that is in the spotlight. The subject under study has not been a separate object of research in Azerbaijani historical science until now. The collection "Historical Geography of Azerbaijan", which is considered the first collective work dedicated to the historical geography of Azerbaijan, also included some information about the historical geography of

Nakhchivan.⁴ Although certain issues of the historical geography of Nakhchivan were touched upon in separate research works, special studies on the historical geography of Nakhchivan were not conducted until almost the beginning of the 21st century. The establishment of the Nakhchivan Department of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences by the decree of the national leader Heydar Aliyev dated August 7, 2002 opened up wide opportunities for carrying out certain works in the direction of studying the historical geography of the region, along with all areas of the history of Nakhchivan. The “Historical Atlas of Nakhchivan” was prepared and published in 2010. The three-volume “History of Nakhchivan” was published in 2013-2015. It also contains valuable information on the historical geography of Nakhchivan. Among the historical scholars, Ismayıl Hajiyev, Hajifakhraddin Safarli, Vagif Piriyeu, Sahiba Budaqova, Elnur Kelbizade, Arzu Abdullayev, and İlhami Aliyev wrote books and articles on the historical geography of Nakhchivan during this period. V. Piriyeu's monographs “Historical and Political Geography of Azerbaijan” and “Pages from the History of Nakhchivan” are among the first works written in this direction.⁵ Academician I. Hajiyev also touched upon issues of historical geography in a number of his works, and provided information about the borders, administrative-territorial structure, and zoning of Nakhchivan during this period based on archival documents and historical maps.⁶ The article by H.Safarli, a corresponding member

⁴ Piriyeu, V.Z. *Azərbaycanın tarixi coğrafiyası* / V.Z.Piriyeu. – Bakı: Araz, – 2002. – s. 23.

⁵ Piriyeu, V.Z. *göstərilən əsəri*, 152 s.; *Naxçıvan tarixindən səhifələr* / V.Z.Piriyeu. – Bakı: Müstəqillik, – 2004. – 126 s.

⁶ Hacıyev, İ. M. *Naxçıvan qəzası* // – Naxçıvan: Axtarışlar, – 2019. c. 9, №1, – s. 221-228; *Araz-Türk Respublikası* // – Bakı: Təfəkkür jurnalı. – 2016. – №1(10), – s. 46-60; Hacıyev, İ.M. *Araz-Türk Respublikası Naxçıvanın erməni işğalından qorunmasında mühüm rol oynamışdır* // “Şərq qapısı” qəzeti. – 2013, 26 yanvar. – s. 3; *Araz-Türk Respublikasının yaranması və bölgənin erməni işğalından qorunması uğrunda mübarizəsi* // – Bakı: Dövlət idarəçiliyi: nəzəriyyə və təcrübə jurnalı. – 2018. №1(61), – s. 145-154; *Azərbaycan Xalq Cümhuriyyəti və Naxçıvan* / İ.Hacıyev. – Naxçıvan: Əcəmi NPB, – 2010. – 392 s.; *Ermənilərin*

of ANAS, entitled “Notes on the historical geography of the Nakhchivan region” can be considered one of the most important works written in this direction in terms of the formation of a comprehensive scientific understanding of the historical geography of Nakhchivan, as well as the changes that have occurred.⁷ S.Budagova's monograph “Historical Geography of the Nakhchivan Region (Second Half of the 18th Century-First Half of the 19th Century)”⁸ also attracts attention as one of the important works in terms of conducting comparative analyses with the period we are studying. E.Kalbizadeh defended his PhD thesis entitled “Historical Geography of Nakhchivan (1st Half of the 12th-18th Centuries)”⁹ and published a monograph of the same name in 2016.⁹ The work is important in terms of conducting a comparative analysis of the changes that occurred in the historical geography of Nakhchivan in the 19th-20th centuries with previous periods. A number of the author's articles are directly devoted to the issues of the historical geography of Nakhchivan in the period we are studying.¹⁰ In recent

Azərbaycana qarşı ərazi iddiaları və qanlı cinayətləri / İ.Hacıyev. – Naxçıvan: Əcəmi NPB, – 2012. – 192 s.; İrəvanın ermənilərə verilməsi tarixi-siyasi şəraitində imzalanmış bəzi müqavilələrin bu prosesə təsiri // – Naxçıvan: AMEA Naxçıvan Bölməsinin Xəbərləri, İctimai Humanitar Elmləri Seriyası, – 2017. №3, – s. 33-41.; Naxçıvan tarixinə dair qaynaqlar / İ. Hacıyev, E. Kəlbizadə. -Bakı: Elm və təhsil, – 2018. – 328 s.; Qars müqaviləsi və Naxçıvanın taleyi // 525-ci qəzet. – 2011, 5 oktyabr. – s. 2.; Naxçıvanın itirilmiş torpaqları və Naxçıvanla bağlı bir xəritə haqqında // “Elm” qəzeti, – 2008, 18 mart. – №7/10, – s. 5; Araz-Türk Cümhuriyyəti / İ.Hacıyev. – Naxçıvan: Əcəmi NPB, – 2021. – 160 s.

⁷ Səfərli, H.Y. Naxçıvan bölgəsinin tarixi coğrafiyası haqqında qeydlər // – Naxçıvan: AMEA Naxçıvan Bölməsinin Xəbərləri, İctimai və humanitar elmlər seriyası. – 2012. №1, – s. 26-31.

⁸ Budaqova, S.İ. Naxçıvan diyarının tarixi coğrafiyası (XVIII əsrin ikinci yarısı – XIX əsrin birinci qərini) /S.Budaqova. – Bakı: Elm, – 1995. – 96 s.

⁹ Kəlbizadə, E.H. Naxçıvanın tarixi coğrafiyası (XII-XVIII əsrin I yarısı) / E.H.Kəlbizadə. – Naxçıvan: Əcəmi, – 2016. – 200 s.

¹⁰ XX əsrin 20-ci illərində Naxçıvan diyarının inzibati-ərazi quruluşu (tarixi-coğrafi araşdırma) // – Naxçıvan: AMEA Naxçıvan Bölməsinin Xəbərlər jurnalı, – 2017. №1, – s. 160-172; Ümummilli lider Heydər Əliyev və Naxçıvanın tarixi coğrafiyasının tədqiqi məsələləri // Azərbaycanşünaslığın aktual problemləri

years, several articles by A. Abdullayev on the historical geography of Nakhchivan city have been published, directly related to the period we are researching, and the author also touched on the issue in his PhD dissertation.¹¹ Information on various issues of the historical geography of Nakhchivan in the 19th and early 20th centuries is also found in the works of M.Gasimli,¹² S.Babayev,¹³ Z.Shahverdiyev,¹⁴ A.Bagirov,¹⁵ I.Kazimbeyli,¹⁶ M.Guliyev,¹⁷ A.Hajiyev,¹⁸ E.Shikhali-

mövzusunda VI beynəlxalq elmi konfransın materialları, II hissə, – Bakı, – 5-7 may 2015. – 2015. – s. 53-54.

¹¹ Abdullayev, A.K. XIX əsr Naxçıvan şəhərinin tarixi coğrafiyası // –Naxçıvan: NDU-nun Elmi əsərləri, – 2018. № 6 (95), – s. 33-37; XIX əsr Naxçıvan şəhərinin tarixi coğrafiyasının bəzi məsələlərinə dair // – Naxçıvan: “Naxçıvan” Universitetinin Elmi əsərləri, – 2018. № 3, – s. 211-216; Naxçıvanda sənətkarlığın tarixi coğrafiyası (XVIII əsrin ikinci yarısı-XIX əsrin birinci yarısı) // – Naxçıvan: NDU-nun Elmi əsərləri, – 2015. № 2 (67), – s. 72-74.

¹² Qasımlı M.C. “Erməni məsələsi”ndən “erməni soyqırımı”na: gerçək tarix axtarışında (1724-1920) / M. Qasımlı. – Bakı: Mütərcim, – 2014. – 468 s; Ermənistanın sovetləşdirilməsindən Azərbaycan ərazilərinin işğalınadək erməni iddiaları: tarix – olduğu kimi (1920-1994-cü illər) / M. Qasımlı. – Bakı: ARPEİF, – 2016. – 520 s.

¹³ Babayev, S.Y. Naxçıvan Muxtar Respublikasının coğrafiyası /S.Babayev. –Bakı: Elm. – 1999. – 298 s.

¹⁴ Şahverdiyev Z.Ə. Naxçıvan bölgəsi XIX-XX əsrin əvvəllərində / Z.Şahverdiyev. – Bakı: Elm, – 2008. – 264 s.

¹⁵ Bağirov, A.K. Naxçıvanın oykonimləri / A.Bağirov. – Bakı: Nurlan, – 2008. – 336 s; Naxçıvanın urbanonimləri / A.Bağirov. – Bakı: ADPU-nun nəşriyyatı, – 2014. – 172 s; Onomalogiya problemləri: [2 cilddə] / A.Bağirov. – Bakı: Elm və təhsil, – 2010. – c.1. – 436 s.

¹⁶ Kazimbəyli, İ.F. Azərbaycanın İrəvan bölgəsi XIX-XX əsrin əvvəllərində: / tarix üzrə elmlər doktoru dis. / – Naxçıvan: 2017. – 345 s; Çar Rusiyasının Cənubi Qafqazda köçürmə siyasətinin tarixi-siyasi aspektləri (İrəvan bölgəsi üzrə) // – Bakı: AMEA Tarix İnstitutunun Elmi əsərləri, – 2017. – c. 68, №1, – s. 38-49; Naxçıvan: əhalisi, sosial-iqtisadi və siyasi tarixinə dair (1828-1920-ci illər) / İ.Kazimbəyli. – Bakı: Elm, – 2007. – 175 s.

¹⁷ Quliyev, M.R. Naxçıvan xanlığının Qafqazda hərbi-siyasi mövqeyi və əlaqələri /M. Quliyev. – Naxçıvan: Əcəmi NPB, – 2013. – 184 s.

¹⁸ Hacıyev, A. Qars və Araz-Türk respublikalarının tarixindən / A.Hacıyev. – Bakı: Azərənşr, – 1994. – 97 s.

yev,¹⁹ S.Hajiyeva,²⁰ Y.Rahimov²¹ and others. Information on various issues of the historical geography of Nakhchivan in the 19th and early 20th centuries is also found in the works of Zahmat Shahverdiyev²² and others.

In the book “Nakhchivan from Ottoman rule to Soviet rule (1918-1921)” by Turkish author I.E.Atnur, not only the military-political processes that took place in the region at that time, but also the territorial changes were touched upon. The use of Ottoman documents in the research increases the reliability of the information provided by the author.²³ The works of Z.Adjar²⁴ and E.Gokdemir²⁵ touch upon some issues related to the historical geography, territory, capital, and population of the Araz-Turkish Republic. The research of Russian journalist and historian Rudolf Ivanov is important in terms of studying some issues of the historical geography of Nakhchivan in the early years of Sovietization and on the eve of autonomy.²⁶ The source base of the research is primarily the

¹⁹ Şixəliyev, E.A. İngiltərənin geosiyasi maraqlarında “erməni məsələsi”nin yeri və Azərbaycan təsiri (1917-1920) / E.A.Şixəliyev. – Naxçıvan: Əcəmi,–2016.– 144s.

²⁰ Hacıyeva, S.A. XVIII-XIX əsrlərdə Naxçıvanda əkinçilik // – Naxçıvan: AMEA Naxçıvan Bölməsinin Xəbərləri,– 2017. № 3, – s.79-84; XVIII-XIX əsrlərdə Naxçıvanda maldarlıq // – Naxçıvan: NDU Elmi əsərləri, – 2018. № 2 (91), – s. 49-52; Naxçıvanda sənətkarlıq (XII-XIX əsrlər) / S.Hacıyeva. – Naxçıvan: Əcəmi, – 2017. – 184 s.

²¹ Rəhimov, Y.N. Naxçıvan XIX əsr rus mənbələrində / Y.Rəhimov. –Bakı: Elm və təhsil, – 2014. – 180 s; XIX əsrin sonlarında Naxçıvan bölgəsinin kənd təsərrüfatı // – NDU Elmi əsərləri, – 2018. № 6 (95), – s. 61-65; Naxçıvan: siyasi və sosial-iqtisadi tarixinə dair (XIX-XX əsrin əvvəlləri) / Y.N.Rəhimov. – Naxçıvan: Əcəmi, – 2019. – 208 s.

²² Şahverdiyev Z.Ə. Naxçıvan bölgəsi XIX-XX əsrin əvvəllərində / Z.Şahverdiyev. – Bakı: Elm, – 2008. – 264 s.

²³ Atnur, İ.E. Osmanlı idarəçiliyindən Sovet idarəçiliyinə qədər Naxçıvan (1918-1921) / İ.Atnur. – Naxçıvan: Əcəmi NPB, – 2013. – 496 s.

²⁴ Acar, Z.Z. Araz-Türk Cumhuriyeti // II Uluslararası Aras havzası sempozyumu, – İstanbul, – 13-15 Aralık, – 2001. – s. 372-386.

²⁵ Gökdemir, A.E. Cənubi-Karbi Kafkas Hükümeti. / E.Gökdemir. – Ankara, – 1998. – 307 s.

²⁶ İvanov, R.N. Basqın /R.İvanov. – Naxçıvan: Əcəmi, – 2013. – 464 s.; Нашествие / Р.Иванов. – Москва: Герои Отечества, –2009. – 448 с.

documents and materials stored in the funds of the State Archive of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic (NMRDA) and the Central Scientific Archive of the Nakhchivan Branch of ANAS, many of which are included in scientific circulation for the first time. At the same time, copies of some documents brought to the State Archive of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic (NMRDA), the originals of which are stored in the State Archive of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the National Historical Archive of Georgia, and the National Archive of Armenia, were also used. Books containing speeches, speeches and statements of the national leader Heydar Aliyev, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, and a number of works published on the history of Nakhchivan constitute an important part of the source base of the research.

The object and subject of the research. The historical geography of the Nakhchivan region, one of the ancient regions of Azerbaijan (1828-1924), is the main object of the research. The subject of the research is the essence of the military and political processes taking place in the Nakhchivan region during the period covered by the research, the religious and ethnic composition of the population, the impact of agriculture, cattle breeding, and crafts on the historical geography of the region.

The goals and duties of the research. The main goal of writing the dissertation is to study the historical geography of the Nakhchivan region in 1828-1924, the ethnic composition of the population, the geography of the economy, etc. in detail, using scientific methods. In order to achieve the above-mentioned goals, the following tasks were set:

- To study the historical geography of Nakhchivan within a defined chronological framework, and to make generalizations on separate stages in this regard;
- To reveal the changes that occurred in the historical geography of Nakhchivan after its occupation by Russia;
- To analyze the purposeful policy of Tsarist Russia in creating the “Armenian province”;

- To conduct a study and comparative analysis of the borders and administrative division of the territory of the Nakhchivan region at separate stages;
- To determine the effects of the Russian occupation and resettlement policy on the ethnic composition of the region;
- To study the changes that occurred in the historical geography of Nakhchivan during 1918-1924, to determine the effects of military-political processes on geography;
- To study the place of Nakhchivan in the administrative-territorial structure of the Araz-Turk Republic and the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic;
- To reveal and analyze controversial border issues in the early 20s of the 20th century;
- To clarify how and for what purposes the borders and administrative-territorial structure were changed in the years covered by the study;
- To provide a scientific interpretation of the historical-geography, neighborhoods, progress and decline of the cities existing in Nakhchivan (Nakhchivan, Ordubad);
- To scientifically analyze the historical geography of agriculture and crafts, etc.

The methods of the research. The methodological basis of the dissertation is the scientific principles of historical understanding - historicity and objectivity. During the research, specific methods of historical research were used: comparison, periodization, logic, classification, critical analysis. During the research, taking into account the specific features of the study of historical geography, progressive, reductive (retrospective and retrogressive), typological, comparative-contrast methods characteristic only for this field were also used. Using the progressive method, the processes of decline and development of residential areas in the region were determined in the research work. When specifying the borders, the comparative comparison method was applied and comparisons were made with the borders of neighboring administrative and political units.

Cartographic methods were also applied when using a number of maps of the period under study.

The main provisions of the defense:

1. Considering the changes that occurred in its historical geography, the history of the Nakhchivan region during this period can be divided into the following stages: the “provincial period”; the period of the region; the period of local administrations and the Republic; the first months of the Sovietization and autonomy period.

2. After the occupation of the Nakhchivan Khanate by Tsarist Russia, a number of territories were gradually separated from Nakhchivan and merged with other administrative units, and this process took on a more ruthless character, especially after Sovietization.

3. As a result of the implementation of the resettlement policy, an attempt was made to gradually change the ethno-demographic and religious-confessional situation in the region. For this purpose, the resettlement of Molokan-Russians, Gregorian-Armenians and a number of other small ethnic elements was carried out in the region at different times.

4. Before the resettlement of Armenians to these territories, neither an Armenian state existed in the region, nor did Armenians live en masse.

5. Since the Nakhchivan region is located in a strategic geographical area, it has been of interest to major powers since World War I, which has affected its historical geography.

6. The ongoing military-political processes have also affected the geography and nature of the economy and employment.

Scientific novelty of the research. The scientific novelty of the research is determined by many factors. They are as follows:

- The historical geography of the Nakhchivan region in 1828-1924 was studied in a comprehensive manner for the first time;
- The history of the Nakhchivan region in 1828-1924 was periodized for the first time not on the basis of a general historical approach, but on the basis of a historical-geographical approach;

- The impact of the military-political processes taking place in the region in 1828-1924 on the historical geography of agriculture and crafts was assessed for the first time;
- The geography of the settlement of newcomers during the resettlement process in the Nakhchivan region was determined;
- Within the determined chronological framework, the processes taking place in the internal structure of cities and large settlements, in the principle of the location of neighborhoods, were systematically studied and compared for the first time in separate stages.

Theoretical and practical significance of the research. The scientific provisions of the research can help resolve some controversial issues in our historiography, as well as provide a coherent response to the political claims of Armenians regarding the territory of Nakhchivan. The practical significance of the research work is explained by the fact that the results obtained in the dissertation can be used as a first experience in conducting specialized courses in the history faculties of higher education institutions, writing generalized works, preparing textbooks, and conducting similar research in other regions of Azerbaijan. In addition, it is possible to use it in conducting scientific research on the mentioned periods of Nakhchivan history, and in teaching lessons on the historical geography of Nakhchivan.

Approbation and application of research. The main content of the dissertation is reflected in several articles of the author published at different times in our republic and abroad. Articles on the results obtained by the author have been published in prestigious scientific journals of Azerbaijan, Poland, Ukraine, Turkiye and other countries, and reports have been made at international conferences.

Name of the organization where the dissertation work is performed. The dissertation work was carried out at the “History of the Caucasus” department of the Institute of History, Ethnography and Archaeology of the Nakhchivan Branch of ANAS.

The total volume of the dissertation with a sign indicating the volume of the structural sections of the dissertation

separately. The dissertation consists of an introduction, three chapters, a conclusion, a list of references and appendices. The total volume of the dissertation is 180 pages, 353,961 characters with marks. The introduction part consists of 10 pages, 19,682 characters, Chapter I consists of 41 pages, 87,107 characters, Chapter II consists of 54 pages, 120,155 characters, Chapter III consists of 34 pages, 70,332 characters, and the conclusion consists of 6 pages, 11,180 characters.

II. MAIN CONTENT OF THE DISSERTATION

The “**Introduction**” justifies the relevance of the topic, discusses the performed degree of the research, object, subject, goals and duties, and the methods used in writing the dissertation. Information is provided on the main provisions and innovations put forward for defense, and the theoretical and practical significance of the research is justified.

In the first paragraph of the first chapter of the dissertation entitled “Changes in the Historical Geography of Nakhchivan after the Russian Occupation”, the historical geography of Nakhchivan was studied during the period when it was included in the “Armenian Province” artificially created after the occupation of the region by Tsarist Russia. It was determined that on March 21, 1828, the Russian Emperor Nicholas I issued a manifesto on the end of the war with the Qajar state and the signing of peace between the two states, and a so-called administrative unit, the “Armenian Province”, was created.²⁷ Our calculations show that the area of the province at that time was 27,312 km². At the time of its creation, the "Armenian Province" administratively consisted of two regions and one region: Iravan and Nakhchivan regions and Ordubad region. Iravan province included 15 regions of the former Iravan Khanate, Nakhchivan

²⁷ Акты, собранные Кавказкою Археологическою Коммиссиею. Архив Главного Управления Наместника Кавказскаго. / Издан под редакциею председателя комиссии д.с.с. Ад.Берже. – Тифлис. Типография Главного Управления Наместника Кавказскаго. Т. 7. –1878. – с. 487.

province included 5 regions, and Ordubad region included 5 regions.²⁸ It should be noted that the Mehri region, which had been under the Nakhchivan Khanate for a long time during the khanate period, remained part of Karabakh under the terms of the Turkmenchay Treaty.²⁹ Only in 1850 was Mehri taken from Shusha gaza and merged into Ordubad region. Nakhchivan province, which formed the southeastern part of the “Armenian province”, was located at 39⁰ longitude and 41⁰ latitude. The province bordered Karabakh province to the northeast and east, and Azerbaijan province, which remained part of the Qajar state, with its center in Tabriz, to the south and southwest. The Araz River flowed along the border between Nakhchivan province and Azerbaijan province. In the northwest, Nakhchivan province bordered Iravan province. In this direction, the border line of the two provinces began on the left bank of the Araz, first extending 40 versts along the Araz River to the village of Danzik in the Daralayaz region, from where it then joined Lake Goycha and the territories of the Yelizavetpol region. It extended to the Karabakh branch in areas such as Zangezur, Khan-Eyvaz and Damcherman.³⁰ Cartographic calculations show that the area of Nakhchivan province during this period was 5121 km². Archival documents indicate that Nakhchivan province was divided into two regions: Nakhchivan and Ordubad. The area of the Nakhchivan region of the Nakhchivan province varied between 3414-3755 km². The Nakhchivan region itself was also administratively divided into the Alinjachay, Nakhchivan, Mavazi-Khatun, Khok, and Daralayaz regions. In some sources, the Ordubad region was listed as a separate administrative unit - region, directly subordinate to the “Armenian province”. The Ordubad region included the Ordubad, Aylis, Daste, Bilev, and Chenab regions. Part

²⁸Kazımbəyli, İ.F. Azərbaycanın İrəvan bölgəsi XIX-XX əsrin əvvəllərində: / tarix üzrə elmlər doktoru dis. / – Naxçıvan: 2017. – s. 108.

²⁹ İvanov, R.N. Basqın /R.İvanov. – Naxçıvan: Əcəmi, – 2013. – s. 160.

³⁰ Никитин, К.А. Город Нахичевань и Нахичеванский уезд / СМОМПК (сборник материалов для описания местностей и племен Кавказа). – Тифлис: Издание Управления Кавказского Учебного Округа, – Т. II. – 1882. – с. 118.

of the present-day Nakhchivan territories (the territories of the present-day Sharur and Sadarak regions) was then included in the Iravan province. The Tsarist government adopted the Statute on the structure of the administration of the “Armenian Province” on June 23, 1833. The administrative-territorial division of the Iravan province was changed. The province was divided into four regions - Iravan, Sharur, Surmeli and Sardarabad. At the end of the 1930s, the area of the “Armenian province” was 23,610 km², the area of the Nakhchivan province was 6,185 km², the area of the Nakhchivan region of the Nakhchivan province was 5,047 km², and the area of the Ordubad region was 1,138 km².

The second paragraph of the first chapter examines the changes that occurred in the historical geography of Nakhchivan during its time as part of the Georgian-Imereti and Yerevan governorates. The territory of Yerevan and Nakhchivan was incorporated into the Georgian-Imereti governorate on January 1, 1841, with the status of a “gaza” according to the administrative division of Tsarist Russia. The entire territory of the Nakhchivan region consisted of 3 regions: Nakhchivan, Ordubad and Daralayaz regions. Nakhchivan region was bordered by Karabakh region of Kaspi (Caspian) province from the northeast and east. The Araz River, flowing along the southern and southwestern borders of the region, formed the border of the Qajar state with the Azerbaijan province. From the northwest, Nakhchivan region bordered with the territories of Iravan region. Taking into account the indicated borders, it can be said that the area of Nakhchivan region is more than 6000 km². By the decree of Nicholas on December 14, 1846, the administrative-administrative system of the South Caucasus was changed. The Nakhchivan region, which was part of the Iravan and Nakhchivan regions, was included in the Tbilisi governorate. Both the distance, the local ethno-psychological situation, and national-cultural traditions made it difficult to administer Nakhchivan and Iravan from Tbilisi. For this reason, on June 9, 1849, a new governorate, the Iravan governorate, was established. The new governorate and its bodies began to operate

on January 1, 1850.³¹ The Iravan province included the territories of the former Nakhchivan and Iravan khanates, including the Alexandropol region (without the Akhalkalaki area) and part of the Mehri area. On December 9, 1867, Alexander II issued a decree on changes in the administration of the Caucasus and the South Caucasus (Transcaucasia). After this decree, Ordubad region, which had operated as an independent region within the Iravan province for seventeen years, was merged into Nakhchivan region and turned into a region. The number of regions within the Nakhchivan region reached three: Nakhchivan, Ordubad and Daralayaz.³² On February 25, 1868, the Yelizavetpol Governorate was established. Part of the Ordubad region (Mehri area) was incorporated into the newly established Yelizavetpol Governorate. Zangezour region was established within the Yelizavetpol Governorate.³³ After the changes made in the 1960s, the Iravan governorate again consisted of five uyezds (Iravan, Alexandropol, Novo-Bayazid, Nakhchivan, Echmiadzin). In the early 1870s, changes were made to the boundaries of the uyezds, and in 1874, the Sharur-Deralayaz and Surmeli uyezds were created.³⁴ As a result of the changes that took place until the 70s-80s of the 19th century, the territory of the Iravan province in 1878 was 27 thousand 822 km². The Iravan province was divided into 7 regions. Nakhchivan region: covered an area of 4447.8 km², Sharur-Daralayaz region: covered an area of 2999.4 km². As a result of the conducted research, it was found that in 1917 the territory of the Iravan province was equal to 26 thousand 395.7 km². Presumably, the decrease in the area of the province was the result of the transfer of the Mehri area and a number of other settlements to

³¹ *Naхçıvan tarixi: [3 cilddə] / Baş məs. V.Talıbov. – Naхçıvan: Əcəmi, – c. 2. – 2014. – s. 109.*

³² *Зелинский, С.П. Три магала: Нахичеванский, Ордубадский и Даралагезский: Географическо-статистическое и сельско-хозяйственное описание // Сборник сведений о Кавказе. т. VII. –Тифлис, – 1880. – с. 209.*

³³ *Azərbaycan tarixi: [7 cilddə]. Bakı: Elm, – c. 5, – 2008. – s. 197.*

³⁴ *Şahverdiyev Z.Ə. Naхçıvan bölgəsi XIX-XX əsrin əvvəllərində / Z.Şahverdiyev. – Bakı: Elm, – 2008. – s. 38.*

the Yelizavetpol province. The following regions were identified as part of the province: Iravan, Alexandropol (Gumru), Nakhchivan, Ordubad and Novo-Bayazid.³⁵ The governorship was administratively and territorially divided into regions, the latter into fields, and these into villages. Our calculations show that the area of Nakhchivan gaza in the early period of the establishment of Iravan governorship was 5325.84 km². Accordingly, 2879.14 km² fell to the Nakhchivan area, and 2446.7 km² to the Daralayaz area. The area of Ordubad gaza was 3288.82 km². When we take this into account, it is possible to say that after the abolition of Ordubad gaza and its merger with Nakhchivan, the area of Nakhchivan gaza reached 8613 km². However, if we take into account that after this change made in the 60s of the 19th century, the Mehri area, which was previously part of Ordubad region, was merged with Yelizavetpol province, then in order to determine the more accurate size of the area, it is necessary to subtract the area of Mehri region from this figure. The area of Mehri area is indicated in the sources as 1850 square meters, which means an area of 2105 km². Thus, it is possible to clarify that after the merger, the area of Nakhchivan gaza was 6508 km². The area of Sharur gaza, which was part of Iravan gaza of Iravan governorship, was more than 1740 km². The area of Nakhchivan gaza was determined as 4202 km² according to the 1917 Caucasian calendar. During this period, 122,208 people lived in the gaza.³⁶

The third paragraph of the chapter analyzes the impact of the resettlement policy of Tsarist Russia, the settlement of Armenians and other peoples in Nakhchivan on the historical geography of the region. In 1827-1829, Azerbaijanis constituted more than 90 percent of the population in Nakhchivan. Over the next 5 years, 1,400 Azerbaijani families left the region, and the share of Azerbaijanis in

³⁵ İrəvan xanlığı. Rusiya işğalı və ermənilərin Şimali Azərbaycan torpaqlarına köçürülməsi / Y.Mahmudov, T.Mustafazadə, S.Məmmədov [və b.]. – Bakı: CBS, – 2010. – s. 403.

³⁶ Hacıyev, İ. M. Naxçıvan qəzası // –Naxçıvan:Axtarışlar,–2019.–c. 9, №1,–s.224.

the population decreased to 60%.³⁷ It has been established that the Russian Empire, in order to consolidate its position in the South Caucasus and implement its future plans of aggression, massively relocated Armenians from Iran and the Ottoman Empire to the lands of Northern Azerbaijan, based on the terms of the Turkmenchay and Edirne treaties. One of the most insidious steps taken was the Gregorianization and Armenization of non-armenians living in these territories (descendants of Albanians and Kipchaks, representatives of religious orders who came to the region for various purposes). Analysis of the data shows that Azerbaijanis predominated among the urban population of the province - 64% in the city of Iravan, more than 66% in Nakhchivan, and 98% in Ordubad. According to the 1832 census, Muslims (Azerbaijani Turks - N.A) lived in 463 villages in the Iravan province, Armenians in 98, and Azerbaijanis and Armenians lived mixed in 65 villages. According to the information on the ethnic composition of the population in the regions and neighboring regions mentioned below in the statistical materials as of January 1, 1916, in Nakhchivan gaza: Azerbaijanis - 81 thousand 708 people (59.0%), Armenians - 54 thousand 209 people (40.0%); in Sharur-Deralayaz gaza: Azerbaijanis - 60 thousand 183 people (66.7%), Armenians - 29 thousand 165 people (32.3%); in Zangezur gaza: Azerbaijanis - 66 thousand 370 people (63.6%), Armenians - 32 thousand 686 people (31.2%); In Iravan gaza: Azerbaijanis were 74.2 thousand people (48.0%), in Iravan governorship as a whole, Azerbaijanis were 423 thousand and 123 people (37.7%), Armenians were 669 thousand and 871 people (59.79%).³⁸ Activities aimed at changing the ethnic composition of the region's population continued into the early XX century.

³⁷ Həsənov, H. XIX əsrin ortalarında Naxçıvana erməni köçürmələri və onların demoqrafik duruma təsiri // Naxçıvan bu gün: islahatlar və perspektivlər mövzusunda beynəlxalq simpoziumun materialları, – 5-6 oktyabr 2007, – Bakı: Nurlan, – 2008. – s. 135.

³⁸ Muradov, Ş., Baxış, Ç. Azərbaycan Respublikasında etno-demoqrafik proseslər: tarixi dəyişikliklər və reallıqlar / Ş.Muradov, Ç.Baxış. – Bakı, – 2013. – s. 17.

The second chapter is entitled **“Historical geography of Nakhchivan at the beginning of the XX century (1918-1924)”** The first paragraph of the chapter examines the impact of the military and political processes that took place in the Nakhchivan gaza at the beginning of the XX century on the historical geography of the region. After the overthrow of Tsarism in Russia on February 27, 1917, dual power emerged in the Nakhchivan gaza, as in all other parts of the empire. The Special South Caucasus Committee, established on March 9, began to create executive committees and commissariats of public organizations that were the authorities of the provisional government in the entire South Caucasus, including in the Azerbaijani gazas, starting from the same month. At the end of April, the Special South Caucasus Committee appointed plenipotentiary commissars to the Nakhchivan and Sharur gazas. In the summer of that year, the establishment of local authorities of the provisional government in the Nakhchivan region was completed. In November, the South Caucasus Commissariat (Zakavkom) was established.³⁹ The replacement of the South Caucasus Commissariat by the Transcaucasian Seim (legislative body) in February 1918 and the intensification of its activities to divide the South Caucasus into independent states further deepened the contradictions in the Nakhchivan National Committee and made joint activities between Musavatists and Dashnaks impossible.⁴⁰ In May 1918, the creation of three independent republics in the South Caucasus was announced. The population of the region saw its future fate in conjunction with the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic. The new republic also considered the region an integral part of itself. According to the Treaty of Batum signed between the Ottoman Empire and the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic on June 4, the Sharur part of the Sharur-Deralayaz gaza and the Nakhchivan gaza, except for Ordubad, were transferred to the Ottoman state. In addition, it was

³⁹ Azərbaycan Demokratik Respublikası: Azərbaycan hökuməti (1918- 1920). / Tərtib ed.: V. Allahverdiyev, Ş. Mehdiyev. – Bakı: Gənclik, – 1990. – s. 20.

⁴⁰ Sadiqov, S. Naxçıvan Muxtar Respublikası tarixindən / S.Sadiqov. –Bakı: İrşad mərkəzi, – 1995. – s. 9.

decided that the Gamarli, Ulukhanli, and Vedibasari regions of the Iravan gaza would temporarily become part of Ottoman Turkey.⁴¹ During this period, the Armenian Dashnaks did not give up their territorial claims against Nakhchivan. Thus, in the summer of 1918, Andranik attacked the Nakhchivan region with a band of 800 bandits, and on August 7 of that year, in order to help the local population, the Turkish pasha Kazim Garabekir entered Nakhchivan, and the arbitrariness of the Armenian-Dashnak forces in the Nakhchivan lands was prevented. After the 1918 Mudros Peace Treaty, Ottoman forces were forced to leave Nakhchivan on November 11. The local population declared the establishment of the Araz-Turkish Republic in November 1918 to protect themselves from Armenian aggression. The Araz-Turkish Republic, which existed until March 1919, prevented the Nakhchivan region from falling under Armenian occupation.⁴² The Nakhchivan Governorate-General (in documents this governorate is also called the “South-Western Azerbaijan Governorate-General” - N.A.), established by the decision of the government of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic on February 28, 1919, covered the Nakhchivan, Ordubad, Vedibasari, and Sharur-Deralayaz regions. The region was occupied by the British in January 1919.⁴³ Although the Dashnaks captured part of Nakhchivan in June 1919 with the direct assistance and participation of British officers, the military units of the Nakhchivan National Committee crushed the regular army of the Dashnaks and expelled them from Nakhchivan.⁴⁴ In early July 1919, the British forces handed over these territories to the Americans and left Nakhchivan. It was planned that the new governor-general, consisting of the lands of Nakhchivan and Sharur-

⁴¹ Qafarov, V.V. Batumi konfransı və Azərbaycan // – Bakı: Tarix və onun problemləri, – 2009. №1-2, – s. 85

⁴² İsgəndərov A.C. Müsəlman Şərqiində ilk respublika // – Bakı: “Xalq qəzeti”. – 2014, 24 may. – s. 5.

⁴³ Şixəliyev, E.A. İngiltərənin geosiyasi maraqlarında “erməni məsələsi”nin yeri və Azərbaycana təsiri (1917-1920) / E.A.Şixəliyev. – Naxçıvan: Əcəmi, – 2016.–s.40.

⁴⁴ Şixəliyev, E.A. Böyük Britaniyanın arxiv materialları əsasında İngiltərənin “erməni” siyasəti və Naxçıvana təsiri (1917-1920-ci illər) // – Naxçıvan: Naxçıvan Dövlət Universiteti Elmi əsərlər jurnalı, – 2016. № 5 (79). – s. 33.

Deralayaz, would be governed by a USA representative. This caused sharp protests from the local Azerbaijani population. The USA representatives left Nakhchivan in late 1919 - early 1920. In fact, the unrest that occurred in 1918-1920, the activation of the Armenians, taking advantage of the presence of the British and Americans in the region, led to frequent changes in the borders of the region. As a result, after the proclamation of Bolshevik power in Azerbaijan and its integral part, the Nakhchivan region, Soviet Russia tried to use such unrest to strengthen its position. In connection with the transfer of Armenia under the control of the Bolsheviks, the Azerbaijan Military Revolutionary Committee issued a statement on December 1, 1920. The statement, signed by the chairman of the Military Revolutionary Committee, N. Narimanov, was written under Russian dictation and aimed at resolving the *“territorial disputes between the two Soviet republics”* in a way that was contrary to the national interests of Azerbaijan. The population of Nakhchivan expressed strong opposition to the December 1, 1920 statement of the Azerbaijan Military Revolutionary Committee and subsequent decisions.

In the second paragraph of the second chapter, the historical geography of the Araz-Turkish Republic was studied. As a result of the conducted analyses, the conclusion reached is that the borders of the Araz-Turkish Republic covered the Nakhchivan, Sharur-Deralayaz gazas, Ordubad province, as well as the territories of Sardarabad, Ulukhanli, Vedibasari, Gamarli, Mehri, etc. Its area was 8696 km², and its population was more than one million people.⁴⁵ Studies show that the center of the Araz-Turk Republic was Nakhchivan, Kars, Igdir, Gamarli, etc. cities. The conducted analyses and study of processes confirm that the main center of the Republic was Nakhchivan.

The third paragraph of the second chapter studies the establishment of the Nakhchivan ASSR and its administrative-territorial division. With the Moscow and Kars international treaties,

⁴⁵ Hacıyev, İ.M. Araz-Türk Respublikasının yaranması və bölgənin erməni işğalından qorunması uğrunda mübarizəsi // – Bakı: Dövlət idarəçiliyi: nəzəriyyə və təcrübə jurnalı. – 2018. №1(61), – s. 147.

Russia, Turkey and the South Caucasus republics gave Nakhchivan an international legal guarantee of recognition as an autonomous entity within Azerbaijan. However, the legal establishment of the right of the Nakhchivan region to be an autonomous republic within the Azerbaijan SSR was delayed until February 1924. The region was called the Nakhchivan Soviet Socialist Republic in 1920-1923, the Nakhchivan Autonomous Region in 1923-1924, and the Nakhchivan Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic from February 9, 1924 to November 17, 1990.⁴⁶

In the early 1920s, a process of mass, and sometimes spontaneous, creation of new gaza and regions was carried out in Azerbaijan. According to the administrative territorial division in 1920, the Azerbaijan SSR included 15 gaza, 131 nahiya, and 1,451 villages. During this period, many experimental zonings were also carried out in the Nakhchivan region. In many cases, when such zonings were carried out, settlements and territories belonging to the Nakhchivan region were transferred to the Armenian SSR under the name of clarifications. As in previous periods, in 1924, the Nakhchivan Soviet Socialist Republic was divided into 3 gazas: Nakhchivan, Ordubad and Sharur gazas. Each gaza was in turn divided into regions (circles). The Nakhchivan Soviet Socialist Republic consisted of 12 regions: Nakhchivan gaza consisted of 5, Ordubad gaza consisted of 3, and Sharur region consisted of 4. Nakhchivan gaza consisted of 5 - Tumbul, Abraquonus, Jahri, Shahbuz, Julfa regions. Ordubad gaza consisted of 3 - Yukhari Aza, Yukhari Aylis, Paragha regions. Sharur gaza consisted of 4 - Givrag, Yengija, Nehram, Sadarak regions.⁴⁷ According to the information about the Nakhchivan Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic from 1924, the administrative-territorial division of the region was as

⁴⁶ Səfərli, H.Y. Naxçıvan bölgəsinin tarixi coğrafiyası haqqında qeydlər // – Naxçıvan: AMEA Naxçıvan Bölməsinin Xəbərləri, İctimai və humanitar elmlər seriyası. – 2012. №1, – s. 29.

⁴⁷ Gürcüstan (AUCF) Arxivindən Naxçıvan Respublikasının tarixi haqqında seçilmiş materiallar // Naxçıvan Muxtar Respublikası Dövlət Arxivi, Fond № 314, siyahı № 5a, iş № 66 , v – 16.

follows. The area is 5979 km², 12 areas, 88 village councils, 222 villages, and there is no information about the courtyards. The regions are: Abraqunus, Jahri, Julfa, Azin, Bash Norashen, Yukhari Aylis, Yeniyengija, Givrag, Narimanov, Paragha, Sadarak, Tumbul.⁴⁸ In 1925, the gazas were abolished, and the number of regions (rayons) was increased to 10. In 1926, the Nakhchivan ASSR was divided into 8 regions - Bash Norashen, Givrag, Tumbul, Narimanov, Abraqunus, Julfa, Paragha and Ordubad regions, and was divided into Sharur, Nakhchivan, Julfa and Ordubad regions. In August 1930, two more independent regions - Shahbuz and Abraqunus regions - were added to these regions, and in 1948, after the Abraqunus region was merged with the Julfa region, the Nakhchivan ASSR was administratively divided into five regions.⁴⁹ In 1930, the previously organized 8 regions in the territory of Nakhchivan were divided into 5 regions (Nakhchivan region, Norashen region, Abraqunus region, Ordubad region and Shahbuz region) and 242 settlement names were registered. Unable to unite Nakhchivan with the Armenian SSR, the Armenians, with the help of their protectors, were able to snatch certain lands from the Nakhchivan territory whenever the opportunity arose. On February 18, 1929, by the decision of the Transcaucasian Central Executive Committee, the terms of the Moscow and Kars treaties signed in 1921 were grossly violated, and 9 villages of Nakhchivan - Gurdgulag, Khachik, Horadiz of Sharur region, Oghbin, Aghkhech, Almali, Itqyran, Sultanbey of Shahbuz region of Nakhchivan region, Gorchevan village of Ordubad region, as well as part of the lands of Kilit village, along with their arable lands and pastures, were transferred to the Armenian SSR, as a result of which the territory of the Nakhchivan ASSR decreased by 657 square kilometers. The territory of the Nakhchivan ASSR was reduced to 5,329.6 km² by tearing away 658.4 km² of its original territory from the 5,988 km² it had in 1926 and annexing it to

⁴⁸ Babayev, X. Naxçıvan MSSR-nin inzibati-ərazi bölgüsü və demoqrafik vəziyyəti (1926-cı il ümumittifaq əhali siyahıyaalma materialları əsasında) // – Bakı: Tarix və onun problemləri, – 2012. №4, – s. 101.

⁴⁹ Bağırov, A.K. Naxçıvanın oykonimləri / A.Bağırov. – Bakı:Nurlan,–2008.– s.34.

Armenia.⁵⁰ In 1929, the Central Executive Committee of the Transcaucasian Federation forcibly took away a number of summer and rural areas of Sadarek, one of the largest settlements of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, and gave them to the Armenian SSR. In 1930, the settlements of Aldera, Lehwaz, Astazur, Nuvedi, etc. were given to Armenia and the Mehri region was created in that area. Armenia's territorial claims to Nakhchivan continued in subsequent periods. The bloody crimes committed by Armenian nationalists in connection with their territorial claims to Nakhchivan did not bypass the village of Karki. As early as 1938, part of the Karki lands was given to Armenia with the consent of the Azerbaijani government.

The third chapter of the dissertation is named “**Historical geography of population, agriculture and crafts**”. The first paragraph of the chapter studies the ethno-confessional composition of the population of the region at the turn of the 19th-20th centuries. Immediately after the Russian Empire occupied the South Caucasus, in order to implement its future plans for occupation, the Qajars massively resettled Armenians living in Iran and Turkey to the lands of Northern Azerbaijan, including the territory of the Nakhchivan Khanate. In the 1830s, 81,749 people (16,078 families) were Muslims, 25,151 people (4,428 families) were Armenians, and 324 people (67 families) were representatives of other minorities in the “Armenian Province” (on the territory of the Iravan and Nakhchivan Khanates).⁵¹ In 1898-1909, the total number of people living together in the Sharur-Deralayaz and Nakhchivan regions was 182,669 people. Of them, 280 were Russians, 67,121 were Armenians, Aysors and Greeks, and 115,258 were Azerbaijanis (Turks).⁵² The

⁵⁰ Məmmədov, N. Azərbaycanın ərəzi bütövlüyünə edilən qəsdlərə qarşı Az.MİK-in mübarizəsi arxiv sənədlərinin “dili” ilə // – Bakı: Tarix və onun problemləri, – 2013. № 3. – s. 74.

⁵¹ Kazımbəyli, İ.F. Azərbaycanın İrəvan bölgəsi XIX-XX əsrin əvvəllərində: / tarix üzrə elmlər doktoru dis. / – Naxçıvan: 2017. – s. 331.

⁵² Naxçıvan Muxtar Respublikası tarixinə dair Ermənistan SSR Mərkəzi Dövlət Arxivindən seçilmiş sənədlər // Naxçıvan Muxtar Respublikası Dövlət Arxivi, Fond № 314, siyahı № 5a, iş № 9, – v. 20

Aysors and Greeks on this list were Christians by religious affiliation.

The second paragraph of the chapter studies the historical geography of agriculture in the region (19th-early 20th centuries). It was established that both during the khanates and at the beginning of the 19th-20th centuries, the main occupation of the population of the Nakhchivan region was agriculture and cattle breeding. According to historical literature and sources of the time, the main agricultural sector in the Nakhchivan Khanate was grain growing. Wheat, barley and millet were mainly grown in grain growing. Almost the majority of the population was engaged in grain cultivation. Even cattle breeders grew grain for their own use. After the occupation, the tsarist government imported high-yielding grain varieties from the Novorossiysk region and abroad to increase grain production in Northern Azerbaijan.⁵³ In the middle of the 19th century, there was relative progress in the production of grain products in Northern Azerbaijan, including Nakhchivan. One of the most widely grown cereals in the Nakhchivan region was rice. This crop was cultivated around the city of Nakhchivan and in 13 villages of the region of the same name, in 6 villages of the Alinj region and in the western part of the Daralayaz region.⁵⁴ In Sharur, rice was grown in all villages except Khanliglar, Dasharkh, and Shangirey manors.⁵⁵ Cotton was grown in the vicinity of Nakhchivan city and in 20 villages of the same-named region, in all villages of Khok region, in the villages of Arazin, Abraqunus, Julfa, and Shurut of Alinja region, and in 250 khalvars of lands in the Ordubad region.⁵⁶ At the beginning of the 20th century, the number of cotton ginning factories in the

⁵³ Григорьев, В.Н. Статистическое описание Нахичеванской провинции / В. Григорьев. – Санкт-Петербург: Типографии Департамента Внешней Торговли, – 1833. – с. 160-171.

⁵⁴ Rəhimov, Y.N. Naxçıvan: siyasi və sosial-iqtisadi tarixinə dair (XIX-XX əsrin əvvəlləri) / Y.N.Rəhimov. – Naxçıvan: Əsəmi, – 2019. – s.18.

⁵⁵ Григорьев, В.Н. The work shown, – с. 88.

⁵⁶ Григорьев, В.Н. Статистическое описание Нахичеванской провинции / В. Григорьев. – Санкт-Петербург: Типографии Департамента Внешней Торговли, – 1833. – с. 70.

Nakhchivan, Sharur and Daralayaz regions increased and their geographical location expanded. According to information from 1912, 41 cotton ginning factories were operating in the villages of the Sharur region. At the beginning of the 20th century, the total number of cotton ginning factories in Sharur-Daralayaz was 49, and in the Nakhchivan region - 44.⁵⁷ Horticulture can be divided into three geographical regions according to the level of development - Ordubad, Nakhchivan and Sharur. Ordubad was famous for its fruit growing not only in Azerbaijan, but also in the entire South Caucasus. There were up to 45 hectares of vineyards in the city of Nakhchivan alone. Ordubad grapes were distinguished and known outside the region for their taste and shape. A special place in melon cultivation was occupied by watermelon and melon cultivation. In the 20s-30s of the 19th century, melon plants were grown mainly in Nakhchivan and Alinja regions - in Nakhchivan city, in the villages of Yarimja, Shikhmahmud, Khalilli, Gulubaydizesi, Sirab, Nazarabad, Jahri, Mazra, Goshadize, Tumbul, Sirab, Didivar, Yamkhana, Tazakand, Nehram, Arazin, Abraqunus, Bananiyar, Saltag, Norashen, Khanaga.⁵⁸ World War I, as well as the constant aggression and occupation of Dashnak Armenians, and unstable government, dealt a major blow to the economy in almost all regions of Nakhchivan. In 1914-1920, the areas of cotton, grain, and silkworm farming decreased significantly, and most of the vineyards, fruit, and mulberry orchards were destroyed.⁵⁹

The third paragraph of the third chapter discusses the historical geography of cattle breeding in the region. It has been established that at the beginning of the 19th-20th centuries, the population of Nakhchivan and Sharur-Daralayaz regions can be divided into three groups according to the level of cattle breeding and animal husbandry. The first group of villagers lived mainly in Nakhchivan region and Sharur province. They kept a small number of cattle only for the purpose of cultivating arable land and meeting their own

⁵⁷ İvanov, R.N. Basqın /R.İvanov. – Naxçıvan: Əcəmi, – 2013. – s. 200-222.

⁵⁸ Григорьев, В.Н. The work shown, – с. 90.

⁵⁹ Sadıqov, S. Naxçıvan Muxtar Respublikası tarixindən / S.Sadıqov. – Bakı: İrşad mərkəzi, – 1995. – s. 34.

needs. The second group consisted of the population that, along with agriculture, was more engaged in cattle breeding and animal husbandry than the first group. Such villagers lived mainly in the foothills and mountainous regions, in areas with less favorable conditions for agriculture than the first group (Ordubad, Julfa, Shahbuz, etc.). The workers in the third group, since they lived mainly in mountainous regions, were mainly engaged in cattle breeding and animal husbandry. This group of people mainly settled in the Daralayaz region. Those who lived in the mountain villages of the Nakhchivan region and Sharur province and led a semi-nomadic lifestyle were also included here. In the villages of Sust, Tazakend, and Shahbuz of the Nakhchivan region, almost the entire population was engaged in cattle breeding and animal husbandry.

The fourth paragraph of the chapter examines the historical geography of craftsmanship in the 19th and early 20th centuries. During this period, many areas of art developed and craft centers where various craftsmen gathered functioned. The crafts produced by Nakhchivan craftsmen have almost taken a unique place and gained fame in the Middle East. Analysis of the information provided by the sources allows us to conclude that the main craft centers in the Nakhchivan region, both during the khanates and after the occupation by Tsarist Russia, were the cities of Nakhchivan and Ordubad.⁶⁰ In rural areas, home crafts were more widespread. Among the Nakhchivan artisans were weavers, tailors, coppersmiths, potters, jewelers, blacksmiths, masons, tanners, bezzaz, etc. During the period under study, there were many artisan shops in Nakhchivan, where, in addition to the crafts mentioned above, tailors, shoemakers, blacksmiths, and blacksmiths practiced their professions and sold their products.

The last paragraph of the chapter studies the historical geography of cities in the region during the period under study. At the turn of the 19th-20th centuries, there were two cities in the

⁶⁰ Шопен, И. Исторической памятник состояния Армянской области в эпоху ея присоединения к Российской империи. / И. Шопен. – Санкт-Петербург: Типография Императорской Академии Наук, – 1852. – с. 50.

region, Nakhchivan and Ordubad. In the 19th century, wars between Russia and the Qajar state over the city of Nakhchivan led to the decline of the city. However, after the Russian occupation, the city gradually began to develop again. Calculations allow us to say with certainty that the area of the city in the 1930s was approximately 10 km². When taken together with the surrounding agricultural lands, the area of Nakhchivan city was 28.39 km². In the 1970s, Nakhchivan was one of 10 cities in Northern Azerbaijan, along with Baku, Shamakhi, Guba, Lankaran, Yelizavetpol (Ganja), Shusha, Nukha (Sheki), Zagatala, and Ordubad, which had city status. During this period, the experience of Russian urban planning culture was spreading in Northern Azerbaijan. After the 1930s, there were 13 neighborhoods in Nakhchivan. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, due to the increase in the population of Nakhchivan, the city area also grew. In the southern part of the city, in connection with the construction of the “Station” building, residential houses, warehouses, and industrial buildings were built around the station along the railway. A military camp was built in the north of the city. In 1828-1924, the second settlement in the region to have city status after Nakhchivan was Ordubad. In the 19th century, the area of Ordubad city, including its suburban gardens, was 12 square miles. The area of Ordubad city was bordered by Yukhari Andemij in the north, Kotam in the east, Araz River in the south, and Daste village in the west.⁶¹ From our research, it is clear that the city of Ordubad bordered not with Upper Andemij to the north, but with the village of Lower Andemij.

The final provisions of the research are expressed in the **Conclusion** part of the dissertation. We conclude that the administrative-territorial divisions carried out by both Tsarist Russia and the Bolsheviks in the territory of Azerbaijan, especially in Nakhchivan in the 19th and early 20th centuries, were carried out without taking into account cultural, ethnic and historical realities.

⁶¹ Сафарова, Х. Территория города Ордубад в XIX - нач. XX вв. // –Bakı: Bakı Universitetinin Xəbərləri, Humanitar elmlər seriyası, – 2007. - №2, – s 92.

During this period, so-called administrative units such as the “Armenian province” were created, and the Nakhchivan region was included in various governorates, violating its historical integrity. The political and military events that took place in the region in 1918-1924 directly affected the geopolitical status of Nakhchivan, the Ararat Republic made claims to this territory, and the Araz-Turkish Republic was established in order to defend the region. Although the organization of the Nakhchivan ASSR was determined by international treaties, during the Soviet period, the terms of these treaties were violated and some territories were annexed to the Armenian SSR. During the research period, the demographic advantage in Nakhchivan was mainly Muslim Turks, and attempts were made to settle Russian sectarians in the region along with Armenians. Although the cities of the region declined as a result of the wars, economic revival was observed in the second half of the 19th century, and especially craftsmanship reached a significant stage of development in cities and villages.

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

1. Naxçıvanın inzibati ərazi quruluşunda dəyişikliklər (1924-1940-cı illər) // – Naxçıvan: Naxçıvan Dövlət Universitetinin Elmi əsərləri, İctimai elmlər seriyası, – 2018, № 6(95), – s. 77-81.

2. “Erməni vilayəti”nin yaradılması tarixi coğrafiyamıza edilən qəsddir // – Naxçıvan: Naxçıvan Dövlət Universitetinin Elmi əsərləri, İctimai elmlər seriyası, – 2019, №2 (99), – s. 57-61.

3. Naxçıvan şəhərinin tarixi coğrafiyası (XIX-XX əsrin əvvəlləri) // – “Naxçıvan” Universitetinin Elmi əsərləri, – 2020, №1(16), – s. 176-185.

4. Naxçıvan MSSR-nin yaradılması və onun inzibati ərazi bölgüsü // – “Naxçıvan” Universitetinin Elmi əsərləri, – 2020, №2(17), – s. 192-205.

5. Naxçıvanda əkinçiliyin tarixi coğrafiyası (XIX-XX əsrin əvvəlləri) // – Naxçıvan Dövlət Universitetinin Elmi əsərləri, İctimai elmlər seriyası, – 2020, №2 (103), – s. 40-46.

6. Araz-Türk Respublikasının tarixi coğrafiyası // Naxçıvan: “Mədəniyyətlərin qovuşduğu məkan”. – Beynəlxalq Elmi Konfransın materialları (22-23 oktyabr 2020). Naxçıvan -2021, – s. 82-87.

7. The study of the historical geography of Nakhchivan in the 19th-20th centuries in the period of independence in Azerbaijani historiography // – RS Global, Dolna 17, Warsaw, Poland, – 27 iyul, – 2023, – s. 1-7.

8. Ordubad şəhrinin tarixi coğrafiyası (1828-1924) // – Akademik Tarih ve Düşünce Dergisi, ISSN: 2148-2292, 10(2) – 2023, – s. 524-531.

9. Azərbaycanın Rusiya tərəfindən işğalından sonra Naxçıvanın tarixi coğrafiyasında baş verən dəyişikliklər (XIX əsr) // – AMEA Elmi Əsərlər İctimai və humanitar elmlər seriyası, – 2024, №1, – s. 76-80.

10. Naxçıvan diyarında XIX-XX əsrin əvvəllərində sənətkarlığın tarixi coğrafiyaya təsiri // – Geostrategiya, – 2024, №2 (80), – s. 91-95.

11. Naxçıvanda maldarlığın tarixi coğrafiyası (XIX-XX əsrin əvvəlləri) // – Geostrategiya, – 2024, №3 (81), – s. 125-128.

12. The resettlement of armenians to Nakhchivan in the early XIX-XX centuries and its impact to the ethnic structure of the people // – Modern aspects of Modernization of science: status, problems, development trends. Materials of the 41th International Scientific and Practical Conference, – February 7, – 2024, Ankara (Turkey), – c. 408-415.

13. Armenian claims to Nakhchivan and its impact to the historical geography of the region (1918-1924s years) // – 1st International Canadian Scientific Research Congress. – May 1-3, – 2024, Toronto, Canada, – c. 14-17.

14. Böyük dövlətlərin Naxçıvan siyasəti və bunun bölgənin tarixi coğrafiyasına təsiri (1918-1921-ci illər) // – AMEA Elmi Əsərlər İctimai və humanitar elmlər seriyası, – 2025, №1, – s. 46-52.

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