

REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

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ABSTRACT

of the dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Sciences

**STATE-CREATION ACTIVITY OF CZARIST RUSSIA
AND ARMENIANS IN THE TERRITORIES OF
AZERBAIJAN**

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I. GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DISSERTATION

Relevance of the topic and degree of development.

Researching the little-studied and obscure pages of the Homeland history is one of the important tasks facing our historians. In this regard, activities of Czarist Russia authorities and the Armenians which planned and implemented for centuries to create an Armenian state in Azerbaijani lands, is of particular importance.

Although some aspects of the issue were touched in the Russian-language studies of Soviet era, the problem hasn't been studied in Azerbaijan history. Using this, Armenian historians could master the entire history of historical Azerbaijani lands, they called "Eastern Armenia" and Christian melikates existing in these lands, and to present to world history science as the "History of Armenia".

Only after Azerbaijan regained its political independence claims were made that this concept has no scientific basis, contains false statements, and distorts historical reality. Despite the conducted research, this issue hasn't been specifically studied and a number of important problems haven't been fully investigated. This problem, of special scientific and political importance needs new research. In this regard, the dissertation is of special relevance.

Armenians, always protected by Czarist Russia in 18th - 1st half of 19th centuries, became powerful means of pressure in the 2nd half of 19th century in artificial "Armenian question" raised against the Ottoman Empire by great powers.

Great powers always used the "Armenian card" to maintain their positions in the South Caucasus, to secure their economic and political interests. Unfortunately, even today, traditional policy regarding the South Caucasus, especially Azerbaijan, rich in oil and gas resources, is continued. Armenians, fully protected by their supporters, tried to create a second Armenian state in the territory of Azerbaijan, which they kept under occupation for nearly 30 years. President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, has repeatedly and unequivocally declared to the world that Armenians once created a state on the Azerbaijani lands covering Iravan and sur-

rounding areas. Azerbaijan will not allow the aggressor Armenia to create a second Armenian state on its territory.¹

Our country's consistent diplomatic struggle for liberating native Karabakh from enemy occupation and bravery of Azerbaijani army created a glorious history within a month and a half. As a result of anti-terror measures of our army in Karabakh date of the integration of the Azerbaijani lands, which began in Patriotic War for liberation of Karabakh, ended on September 19-20, 2023. On October 15, 2023, the State Flag of the Republic of Azerbaijan was raised in Khankendi city, village founded by founder of Karabakh Khanate Panahali Khan.

The idea of creating Armenian state in South Caucasus was not a real plan of Czarist Russia. The empire used Armenians as a tool to realize its strategic plans, to occupy the South Caucasus, including Azerbaijani khanates, and consolidated in these lands. Main goal of the dissertation is to study the causes, features, stages and consequences of these activities on the basis of primary sources. Another important goal has become a priority topic of Armenian historiography - false claims for belonging historical Azerbaijani lands "to Armenians for centuries", "Armenians majority in these lands"; non-objective approach to question of belonging the territory of modern Republic of Armenia and mountainous part of Karabakh; The goal is proving and exposing on the basis of primary sources that the fake Armenian history created for establishing an Armenian state at the expense of Azerbaijani lands, is based on fabricated facts and has no basis.

Although the researchers of the Soviet era of Azerbaijan - A.Abdurrahmanov, H.Abdullayev, V.Leviatov, F.Aliyev² and others

¹ <https://president.az/az/articles/view/11828> (28.05.2018)

² Абдурахманов, А. Азербайджан во взаимоотношениях России, Турции и Ирана / А.Абдурахманов. – Баку: “Изд. АН Азерб., ССР”, – 1964. – 98 с.; Абдуллаев, Г. Азербайджан в XVIII веке и взаимоотношения его в Россией / Г.Абдуллаев – Баку: “Изд. АН Азерб., ССР”, – 1965. – 621 с; Левиатов, В. Очерки из истории Азербайджана в XVIII веке / В.Левиатов. – Баку: “Изд. АН Азерб., ССР”, – 1948. – 228 с.; Алиев, Ф. Миссия посланника русского государства А.П.Волынского в Азербайджане (1716-1718) / Ф.Алиев. – Баку:

studied in detail issues as economic, socio-political situation of the 18th century, Azerbaijan's position in Russia's Eastern policy, etc., the problem remains untouched.

Beginning from the end of the last century, historical works that did not serve the ideology of the time and presented historical events more objectively began to be written. J. Mustafayev's research³ published in that period based on primary sources studied military marches of Russian troops to Azerbaijan at the end of 18th century and showed Armenians' activity in capture of Derbend.

In the monograph presented by S. Kerimova⁴, for the first time was studied Armenians' role in formation of the occupation policy of Czarist Russia in the South Caucasus in the 18th-19th centuries.

The researches of T. Mustafazadeh should be specially mentioned in illumination of the invasion policy of Russian Empire in South Caucasus, including Azerbaijan in the 18th century. The work "Azerbaijan and Russian-Turkish relations in the first half of the 18th century"⁵ written by the author on the basis of primary sources, covered the events related to march of Peter I to Caspian provinces in detail, and for the first time, the role of religious-ethnic factors in invasion policy of Czarist Russia in these marches was shown. In another research of the author⁶, in Alimurad Khan's bargain, who seized power in Iran in the 80s of 18th century, with the Russian ruling circles on the distribution of Azerbaijani lands, and the creation of the Armenian state was also discussed. In recent investigations of T. Mustafazadeh⁷, Armenian factor in the South Caucasus,

Элм, – 1979. – 122 с; Алиев, Ф. Азербайджано-русские отношения в XV-XIX вв / Ф. Алиев. – Баку: Элм, – 1985. – 158 с.

³ Мустафаев, Дж. Северные ханства Азербайджана и Россия. (конец XVIII-начало XIX в) / Дж. Мустафаев. – Баку: Элм, – 1989. – 128 с.

⁴ Kərimova, S. Çarizmin Azərbaycanın işğalında və müstəmləkəçilik siyasətində erməni siyasətbazlarının rolu / S. Kərimova. – Bakı: Azər nəşr, – 1995. – 192 s.

⁵ Mustafazadə, T. XVIII yüzillik-XIX yüzilliyin əvvəllərində Osmanlı-Azərbaycan münasibətləri / T. Mustafazadə. – Bakı: Elm, – 2002. – 372 s.

⁶ Mustafazadə, T. XVIII yüzillik-XIX yüzilliyin əvvəllərində Osmanlı-Azərbaycan münasibətləri / T. Mustafazadə. – Bakı: Elm, – 2002. – 372 s.

⁷ Mustafazadə, T. Avropa diplomatiyasında "erməni məsələsi" və ya Türkiyəni bölüşdürmək planı (Rusdillə sənədlər əsasında) / T. Mustafazadə. – Bakı: Turxan, –

emergence of the “Armenian case” in European diplomacy and other issues were highlighted, also attempts for creation a Georgian-Armenian tsardom in South Caucasus under protection of Peter I and the role of local Christians in implementation of the South Caucasus policy of Catherine II government were also clarified.

In the researches of S.Hajiyeva and G.Mammadova⁸, new information was given on the basis of archival materials related to plans for the creation of a state for Armenians during Russia contracted a bargain with Alimurad Khan, who seized power in Iran in 1880s, V.Zubov’s military campaign to Azerbaijan and the problem was approached from a new perspective.

In a number of investigations that appeared at the end of 20th - early 21st century, scientific studies related to exposure of the groundless territorial claims of Armenian historians to Azerbaijan, mass relocation of Armenians to Northern Azerbaijani lands and other important issues were revealed.⁹ Among the studies of the period, the work co-authored by V.Arzumanly and N.Mustafa¹⁰ is worth mentioning. For the first time, Armenians’ efforts to create a state at the expense of Azerbaijani lands were briefly touched in the monograph.

2015. – 352 s.; Mustafazadə, T. Erməni məsələsi”ndən erməni terrorizminə / T.Mustafazadə. – Bakı: Turxan, – 2016. – 140 s.

⁸ Гаджиева, С. Азербайджан во внешней политике правительства Екатерины II / С.Гаджиева. – Баку: Элм, – 2004. – 148 с.; Мамедова, Г. О походе В.Зубова в Азербайджан 1796 г. / Г.Мамедова. Баку: Элм, – 2003. – 91 с.

⁹ Алиев, И. Нагорный Карабах: история, факты, события / И.Алиев. – Баку: Элм, – 1989. – 104 с.; Вердиева, Х. Переселенческая политика Российской империи в Северном Азербайджане (XIX начале XX вв.) / Х.Вердиева. – Баку: Алтай, – 1999. – 298 с.; Köçərli, T. Qarabağ / T.Köçərli. – Bakı: Elm, – 2016. – 472 s.; Вердиева, Х. «Родословная» армян и их миграция на Кавказ с Балкан / Х.Вердиева, Р.Гусейн-заде. – Баку: Элм, – 2003. 168 с.; Кулиева, В. Роль и позиция мусульманского духовенства в социально-политической и культурной жизни Азербайджана в конце XIX-начале XX вв. в ракурсе армяно-азербайджанских политических отношений / В.Кулиева. – Баку: Нурлан, – 2003. – 371 с.; Xəlilli, X. Qarabağ: etnomənəvi inkişaf tarixi / X.Xəlilli. – Bakı: Günəş, – 2006. – 79 s.

¹⁰ Arzumanlı V. Tarixin qara səhifələri. Deportasiya. Soyqırım. Qaçqınlıq / V.Arzumanlı, N.Mustafa. – Bakı: Qartal, – 1998. – 280 s.

Generalized histories of Azerbaijan¹¹ also touched on certain points related to the topic.

In the works of V.Umudlu and A.Mammadli¹², the occupation of Northern Azerbaijan by Czarist Russia and the struggle of the Azerbaijani people against colonialism, the arrival of Armenians in the South Caucasus and other issues were investigated.

In the joint research of Y.Mahmudov and K.Shukurov about the history of Karabakh and Nakhchivan¹³, the real facts about the occupation of the region by Czarist Russia, the resettlement of Armenians and the history of the Christian meliks have been revealed. In K.Shukurov's monograph dedicated to the history of the Turkmenchay Treaty, the relocation of Armenians to the territory of Azerbaijan occupied by Russia and its consequences were analyzed. In recent investigations of the author, the issues of the creation of the Armenian state on the Azerbaijani lands were analyzed, and it was noted that the provisions of the Armenian historical literature about them have no scientific basis and are a myth with political goals.¹⁴

Another researcher, M.Suleymanov, in his work written mainly

¹¹ Azərbaycan tarixi (uzaq keçmişlərdən 1870-ci ilə qədər). (S.Əliyarlının redaktəsi ilə). – Bakı: Azərbaycan, – 1996. – 872 s.; Azərbaycan tarixi (7 cilddə), (XIII-XVIII əsrlər). – Bakı: Elm, – III cild – 1999. – 584 s.; Azərbaycan tarixi (7 cilddə), (XIX əsr). – Bakı: Elm, – IV cild – 2000. – 508 s.

¹² Umudlu, V. Şimali Azərbaycanın çar Rusiyası tərəfindən işğalı və müstəmləkəçilik əleyhinə mübarizə (1801-1828) / V.Umudlu. – Bakı: Elm, – 2004. – 184 s.; Məmmədli, A. Ermənilərin gerçək tarixi / A.Məmmədli. – Bakı: Elm, – 2005. – 436 s.

¹³ Mahmudov, Y. Qarabağ. Real tarix. Faktlar. Sənədlər / Y.Mahmudov, K.Şükürov. – Bakı: Elm, – 2005. – 380 s.; Mahmudov, Y. Naxçıvan: tarixi və abidələri / Y.Mahmudov, K.Şükürov. – Bakı: Təhsil, – 2007. – 216 s.

¹⁴ Şükürov, K. Türkmənçay – 1828: Tarixi xronika (ixtisarla) / K.Şükürov. – Bakı: Çasıoğlu, – 2006. – 188 s.; Yenə onun: Azərbaycan torpaqlarında Ermənistan dövləti necə yaradıldı: Tarixi, nəticələri və Azərbaycanın müasir baxışı // – Xalq qəzeti, – 2019, 23, 24, 26, 30 aprel, 19 may.; Yenə onun: Bir erməni tarix mifinin də sonu: İsarail Ori və erməni azadlıq hərəkatı haqqında // Qarabağ Azadlıq Təşkilatı “Qarabağ dünən, bu gün və sabah” / 19-cu elmi-əməli konfransın materialları. Bakı: – 2020. – 214 s. – s.117-121.

on the basis of Russian and Persian-language literature¹⁵, investigated the roots of Armenian nationalism and aggression, and clarified the source of Armenians' baseless claims to Azerbaijani lands.

In the dissertation submitted by A.Abbasova¹⁶ to receive the title of Doctor of philosophy in history, religious and ethnic factors in Peter I's aggression policy against the South Caucasus were investigated.

The monograph on the history of the Iravan khanate, the product of the collective work of the Institute of History prepared under the guidance of Y.Mahmudov¹⁷ should be mentioned in particular. In the book, based on primary sources with irrefutable facts such important issues as being of the Iravan khanate ancient land of Azerbaijan, the occupation of it by Czarist Russia and the resettlement of Armenians, the creation of the "Armenian province", the mass Armenianization of historical place names belonging to Azerbaijanis, etc. are illuminated.

Armenian falsifications were exposed with solid facts in the researches of G.Hajiyev, Z.Hajiyeva, R.Huseynzadeh¹⁸.

In Y.Mahmudov's work, which exposes the fictitious "Armenian history"¹⁹ with solid facts, it is emphasized in particular that there was never a state called "Greater Armenia" in history, and that this concept was invented later by Armenian forgers in order to claim the lands of Azerbaijan, Turkey and Georgia.

¹⁵ Süleymanov, M. Erməni millətçiliyi və təcavüzkarlığı tarixindən / M.Süleymanov. – Bakı: Hərbi nəşriyyat, – 2008. – 398 s.

¹⁶ Abbasova, A. XVIII əsrdə Rusiyanın Cənubi Qafqaza qarşı işğalçılıq siyasətində dini-etnik amillər: / Tarix elmləri namizədi alimlik dərəcəsi almaq üçün təqdim edilmiş dissertasiyanın avtoreferatı / . – Bakı: 2009. – 27 s.

¹⁷ İrəvan xanlığı. Rusiya işğalı və ermənilərin Şimali Azərbaycan torpaqlarına köçürülməsi / Y.Mahmudov [və b.]. – Bakı: Çarşıoğlu, – 2009. – 576 s.

¹⁸ Hacıyev Q. Qarabağ tarixi / Q.Hacıyev. – Bakı: Təknur, –2014. – 228 s.; Hacıyeva Z. Raffi və onun Qarabağ haqqında mifik məlumatları // RU Xəbərlər №1. – Bakı, 2013. – s.65-70.; Гусейнзаде, Р. Кавказ и армяне / Р.Гусейнзаде. – Баку: Печатный дом «Апастрофф», – 2014. – 486 с.

¹⁹ Mahmudov, Y. "Real tarix və "Böyük Ermənistan uydurması" / Y.Mahmudov. – Bakı: Turxan, – 2014. – 144 s.

In his research, I.Hajiyev²⁰ confirmed that the foundation of the future Armenia was laid with the creation of the so-called “Armenian province” and that the pro-Armenian policy was implemented starting with Peter I.

During the investigation of the problem, the works of Turkish historians were also used. In the works of F.Kırzioğlu and I.Heremi²¹ the fact of relocation of Armenians and other ethnoses from the Ottoman territory to the Azerbaijani lands captured during the Safavi-Ottoman wars at the end of the 16th century was reflected. Although another researcher, E.Uras, in his large-scale monograph²² focuses on bringing the “Armenian issue” to the agenda in the international world, but some space is also devoted to the projects designed for the creation of the Armenian state.

Although K.Beidilli’s²³ article covered the relocation of Armenians from Eastern Anatolia to Russia in 1828-1829, it was not even mentioned that the territories where the Armenians resettled were occupied Azerbaijani lands.

Among the Russian-language studies on the subject, is worth noting first of all the works of diplomats, soldiers and other officials who were direct participants in Russian troops’ marches to the South Caucasus.²⁴ In these studies, marches of Russian troops to Azerbaijan

²⁰ Гаджиев, И. Территориальные притязания и кровавые преступления е армян против Азербайджана / И.Гаджиев. – Москва: «Столица», – 2016. – 182 с.

²¹ Kırzioğlu, F. Osmanlıların Kafkas ellerini fethi (1451-1590) / F.Kırzioğlu. . – Ankara: “Türk Tarih Kurumu Basımevi”, – 1976. – 552 s.; Rəhimizadə, İbrahim (Həməmi). Osmanlı ordusunun Azərbaycana yürüşləri (XVI əsrin sonu). (Nəşrə hazırlayan, ön sözüün və şərhlərin müəllifi: Rauf Şeyxzamanlı). / İ.Rəhimizadə. – Bakı, – “Nurlan”, – 2007. – 218 s.

²² Uras, Esat. Tarihte Ermeniler ve Ermeni Meselesi. İstanbul, 1987. / E.Uras. – İstanbul: “Belge yayınları”, – 1987. – 798 s.

²³ Beydilli K. 1828-1829 Osmanlı-Rus savaşında Doğu Anadolu'dan Rusiyaya köçürülen ermeniler // – Ankara: Türk Tarih Kurumu, Belgeler, Türk Tarih Belgeleri Dergisi, – 1988, cilt XIII, sayı: 17'den ayrı basım, – s. 365-478.

²⁴ Утверждение русского владычества на Кавказе [в 3-х тт.] / Под ред. В.Потто. –Тифлис: Типография Я.И. Либермана, – т 1. – 1902. – 308 [X] с.; Тифлис: Типография Я.И. Либермана, – т 2. – 1902. – 527 [XV] с.; Потто В. Кавказская война в отдельных очерках, эпизодах, легендах и биографиях: [в 5 томах] / В.Потто. – Санкт-Петербург: Тип. Е.Евдокимова, – 1887. Том II, –

under the leadership of Peter I and V. Zubov, two-faced activities of Armenians, can be traced. Chapter VI of S.Solovyov's work²⁵ dedicated to the activities of Peter is called "Peter I in the Caspian Sea". The author, who widely benefited from G.Ezov's work, gave wide space to the issues such as the march of Peter I to the Caspian coastal regions, his relationship with the Christian population, especially the Armenians, etc.

Although the intervention of the Russian Empire in the South Caucasus during the time of Peter I and successors, the international situation of the period is studied in the works of some Russian-speaking authors of the Soviet era²⁶, they rather justify the occupation policy of the empire than the true nature of this intervention. For instance, V.Listsov studied in detail the economic and political reasons for Peter I's march to the Caspian coastal regions, and even called chapter III of the work "The establishment of the Georgian-Armenian tsardom under the protection of Russia".

Among the authors of the Soviet era, O.Markova²⁷ illuminated Russia's South Caucasus policy in the 18th century and the international situation of the time based on the rich archival documents presented in her monograph. In the work, one can trace the preparation of the idea of creating a state for Armenians in the palace of Catherine II. However, in accordance with the requirements of the

821 с.; В.Потто. – Санкт-Петербург: Тип. Е.Евдокимова, –1888. Том III, – 728 с.; Бутков, П. Материалы для новой истории Кавказа с 1722 по 1803 г. [В 3-х частях] / П.Бутков. – Санкт-Петербург: Тип. имп. АН, – ч. 1. – 1869. – 548 с.; П.Бутков. – Санкт-Петербург: Тип. имп. АН, – ч 2. – 1869. – 601 с.; П.Бутков. – Санкт-Петербург: Тип. имп. АН, – ч 3. – 1869. – 620 с.; Дубровин, Н. История войны и владычества русских на Кавказе. [в 6- ти тт.] / Н.Дубровин. – Санкт Петербург: Тип. И.Н. Скороходова, – т. III. – 1886. – 550 с.

²⁵ Соловьев, С. Чтение и рассказы по истории России /. Сост., и вступ. ст. С.С.Дмитриева; Комм. С.С.Дмитриева и Л.П.Дойниковой; ил. В.В.Лукашова – Москва: «Правда», – 1989. – 768 с. и ил.

²⁶ Смирнов, Н. Политика России на Кавказе XVI-XIX вв /. Н.Смирнов. – Москва: «Изд., социально-экономической литературы», – 1958. – 244 с.; Лыццов, В. Персидский поход Петра I / В.Лыццов. – Москва: «Изд. МГУ», – 1951. – 246 с.

²⁷ Маркова, О. Россия, Закавказье и международные отношения в XVIII веке / О.Маркова. –Москва: «Наука», – 1966. – 322 с.

time, the Czarist Russia's occupation policy and its true purpose remain unexplained.

In the works of Armenian authors who wrote in Russian during the Soviet era²⁸, the ancient lands of Azerbaijan are presented as “ancient Armenian territory” claiming that the 18th century “occupies an important place in the history of the Armenian people, especially in its struggle for freedom”, and that Armenians “had a state with a vast territory”. Events taken place in the region in the 80s of the 18th century, Armenians' relations with Russia, and the plans to create a state on the Azerbaijani lands are widely reflected in the works of A.R.Ioannisyana²⁹. The author did not hesitate to falsify the onomastic materials, presented in the archival documents he added at the end of his book.

During the coverage of mass relocation of Armenians from the Qajar state and the Ottoman Empire after the invasion of the Khanate, giving them special privileges and placing them in the most fertile and most useful lands and other issues, the works of Armenian and pro-Armenian Russian authors who wrote in Russian³⁰ were also included in the research. These works have been critically approached and the historical facts that the authors passed over in silence have been clarified.

²⁸ Арутюнян, П. Освободительное движение армянского народа в первой четверти XVIII века / П.Арутюнян. – Москва: «Изд.-во Академии наук СССР», – 1954. – 504 с.; Галоян, Г. Россия и народы Закавказья / Г.Галоян. – Москва: «Мысль», – 1976. – 445 с.; История армянского народа / Под.ред. М.Г.Нерсисян – Ереван: «Изд.-во Ереванского Унив-та», – 1980. – 460 с.; Иоаннисян, А. Иосиф Эмин / А.Иоаннисян. – Ереван: “Издательство АН Армянской ССР”, – 1989. – 174 с.

²⁹ Иоаннисян, А. Россия и Армянское освободительное движение в 80- х г. XVIII века // А.Иоаннисян. – Ереван: «Изд.-во АН Арм. ССР», – 1947. – 159 с.

³⁰ Ениколопов, И. Грибоедов и Восток / И.Ениколопов. – Ереван: «Айпетрат», – 1954. – 200 с.; Грибоедов, А. Записка о переселении армян из Персии в наши области // Сочинения в двух томах, т.2. – Москва: Издательство «Правда», – 1971. – 368 с.; Тавакалян, Н. Переселение армян из Персии и Турции в Закавказье после присоединения Восточной Армении к России // Историко-филологический журнал АН Арм. ССР. – Ереван: «Изд.-во АН Арм. ССР», – 1978, №3(82), – с.26-40; Тунян, В. Восточная Армения в составе России (1828-1853 гг.) / В.Тунян. – Ереван: «Айастан», –1989. – 171 с.

On the eve of the collapse of the Soviet empire and in the period after it, Armenian “authors”³¹ adhering to the concept of writing the Azerbaijani lands as “historical Armenia” and appropriating the history of the Christian meliks of Karabakh created a false history for themselves.

Armenian-language works were also used during the research of the topic. The work of the Armenian priest Yeghishe Qeghamyan was published in 1915 in the Armenian language, and in Baku in 1917 in abbreviated form in Azerbaijani Turkish³². The work contains other information about the use of Armenians as a tool in the implementation of the Eastern policy of the Russian Empire, the “selflessness” shown by Armenians to the Russian army during the occupation of Eastern Anatolia (1828-1829) etc.

The works of Yervand Shahaziz and Vladimir Grigoryan, one of the Armenian authors of the Soviet era, are dedicated to the history of the city of Iravan and the Khanate of Iravan³³. Although most of those works did not avoid the traditional Armenian disease, the authors had to admit historical truths in some cases.

³¹ Манукян, Е. Процесс консолидации армянского народа в Восточной Армении в конце 20-ых годов XIX века / автореферат диссертации кандидата исторических наук / – Ереван, –1992. – 26 с; Ананян, Ж. Армянский просветитель Иосиф Эмин // – Новая и новейшая история, – 1998, №1, – с.148-163; Тунян, В. «Защитник отечества» – католикос всех армян Нерсес Аштаракец. 1826-1857 гг. / В.Тунян. – Ереван: «Св. Эчмиадзин», –2007. – 440 с.; Магальян, А. Арцахские меликства и меликские дома в XVII–XIX вв. / А.Магальян. – Ереван: «ВМВ-ПРИНТ», – 2012. – 240 с. + 32 с. илл.; Тунян, В. Пристрастие Азербайджана к истории Армении: мифы и реалие / В.Тунян. – Ереван: «Институт истории», – 2013. – 298 с.; Дадаян, С. К вопросу о Куракском трактате 1805 года в русско-персидских отношениях и армянстве Арцаха-Карабаха // – Երևան: Մեծրոպ Մաշտոց Լրատու – 2019. – 295 էջ. – с.21-34.

³² Գեղամյան, Է. Հաերի ազատագրական շարժումների ԺԹ դարում / Գեղամյան Է. – Բարսի: – 1915. – 320 էջ.; Geġamyan E. XIX əsrdə erməni azadlıq hərəkatları / E. Geġamyan. – Bakı: “Açıq söz”, – 1917. – 150 s. // AMEA Tarix İnstitutunun Elmi Arxivi, İnv: AXC -4152.

³³ Յերվանդ Շահազիզ: Հին Երևանը: Երևան: Մելրոնյան Ֆոնդի – 1931 – 262 էջ.; Գրիգորյան, Վ. Երևանի խանութունը 18-րդ դարի վերջում / Վ.Գրիգորյան. – Երևան: ՀՄՄԻ ԳԱ հրատ, – 1958, –228 էջ.

As a bright manifestation of the preservation of the ethno-cultural heritage of the ancient Albanian state, the Armenianization of the history of the Albanian meliks in Karabakh and Zangazur and the falsification of their ethnic identity have been the leading theme of all Armenian-speaking historiography since the end of the 19th century.

The events that took place in Karabakh in 1722-1734 and the history of individual melik families were presented in accordance with the Armenian claims in volumes II and III of the selected works “History of the Armenian People” (in 13 volumes) by Arakel Babayan called Leo³⁴. Ashot Hovhannisyan falsified the history of Karabakh meliks and presented them as “forerunners of the Armenian national liberation movement” in volume I of his two-volume book “Essays on the History of Armenian Liberation Thought”³⁵. In Armen Aivazyan’s large-scale book “Demography of Eastern Armenians in the 17th-18th centuries and the number of the Armenian army in the 1720s”, published in Yerevan in 2022, mainly events taking place on the Azerbaijani lands (Iravan, Nakhchivan, Zangezur and Karabakh) called “Eastern Armenia” in the first half of the 18th century, including the demographic situation, are falsified and presented³⁶.

In the works of English-speaking authors A.Muriel and G.Bournoutian³⁷, an Armenian of Iranian origin, is claimed that the

³⁴ Լեո. Հայոց պատմություն. // Լեո. – հ. II: Երևան: Հայաստան Հրատարակչություն – 1967 – 393 էջ.; Լեո: Հայոց պատմություն. // Լեո. – հ. III, Երևան: ՀՍՍՌ ԳԱ հրատ., – 1968 – 1120 էջ.

³⁵ Հովհաննիսյան, Աշոտ. Դրվագներ հայ ազատագրական մտքի պատմության. // Ա. Հովհաննիսյան – Գիրք I, Երևան: – Հայկական ՍՍՌ ԳԱ Հրատարակչություն, – 1957 – 526 էջ.

³⁶ Այվազյան, Արմեն. Արևելահայության ժողովրդագրությունը XVII–XVIII դարերում և հայոց զորքի թվակազմը 1720-ական թվականներին. // Ա. Այվազյան. – Երևան: ՆՏ Հոլդինգ, – 2022 – 664 էջ.

³⁷ Atkin, Muriel. Russia and Iran 1780-1828 // M. Atkin. – Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, – 1980, – 232 p.; Bournoutian, G. The khanate of Erevan under Qajar rule 1795-1828 // G. Bournoutian. – California and New York: Mazda Publishers in association with Bibliotheca Persica, Costa Mesa, – 1992. – 355 p.

Armenian state existed in the historical lands of Azerbaijan, and that the khanates of Iravan, Ganja, Karabakh and Nakhchivan were part of “Eastern Armenia”. These preconceived ideas were exposed during the research.

A substantial study of the subject is impossible without sources. During the research of the dissertation, we used rich archival materials, published and unpublished in different languages, which we involved in the research for the first time.

The role of “Review books”, which is considered an important source of the first half of the 18th century, should be especially noted³⁸. According to the information provided by the notebooks, one can follow important issues such as the majority of the population living in Karabakh, Iravan and Nakhchivan regions were Azerbaijani Turks, the population was forced to leave their native lands during the Ottoman-Safavi wars, etc. Regarding certain issues related to the topic, it would be appropriate to mention the works of Hasan Jalal³⁹, who was an Albanian Catholicos from 1702-1728, the Polish traveler Y.Krushinski⁴⁰ and the “Armenian Anonymous Chronicle”⁴¹.

In the Karabakh chronicles⁴² written in the 19th century, we

³⁸ Gəncə-Qarabağ əyalətinin müfəssəl dəftəri // Ön söz, tərcümə, qeyd və şərhlərin müəllifi H.Məmmədov. – Bakı: “Şuşa”, – 2000. – 576 s.; İrəvan əyalətinin icmal dəftəri // Araşdırma, tərcümə, qeyd və əlavələrin müəllifləri akd. Z.Bünyadov, t.e.n.H.Məmmədov. – Bakı: “Elm”, – 1996. – 148 s.; Gəncə-Qarabağ əyalətinin icmal, timar ruznamçə və təhvil dəftərləri // Ön söz, tərcümə, qeyd və şərhlərin müəllifi H.Məmmədov. – Bakı: “Nəşriyyat” şöbəsi, – 2023. – 605 s.

³⁹ Есаи, Хасан Джалалян. Краткая история страны Албанской (1702-1722 гг.) // Перевод с древнеарм. языка Т.Тер-Григоряня. Предисловие и подготовка к изданию академика З.Буниятова. – Баку: «Элм», – 1989, – 48 с.

⁴⁰ Kuřinski Y. Xristian səuyahın tarixi / Fars dilindən çevirən Şahin Fazil. – Bakı: “Azərnəşr”, – 1993. – 105 s.

⁴¹ Армянская анонимная хроника 1722-1736 гг. / Пер. с турецкого и примечания академика АН Азерб. ССР Буниятова З. – Баку: «Элм», – 1988. – 64 с.

⁴² Azərbaycan: beynəlxalq münasibətlər və diplomatiya tarixi (1639-1828) // Araşdırma, tərcümə, qeyd və əlavələrin müəllifləri Y.Mahmudov, K.Şükürov. – I cild. – Bakı: “Regionların inkişafı ictimai birliyi”, 2009. – 512 s.; Qafqazda “erməni məsələsi”. Rusiya arxiv sənədləri və nəşrləri üzrə / (3 cildə). Ön söz: T.Heydərov.

find detailed information about our topic. Among the printed sources, the collections prepared on interstate agreements, foreign policy acts, Russian archival documents and publications⁴³ contain valuable information rich in facts of the investigated period.

The collections of documents⁴⁴ published by A.A.Bakikhanov Institute of History on the basis of archival materials of various countries are indispensable sources for rewriting the pages of Azerbaijan history that were falsified for special purposes.

“The Revan Fethname” by Kamani Mustafa Agha⁴⁵ has a special place among the printed Turkish-language sources. In the work, the events that happened during the description of the 90-day siege of the Iravan fortress by the Ottoman army in 1724 are important for our topic.

Among the various printed sources, Russian-language sources related to the problem we are studying are predominant. We used documents included in volumes I-VII of the Caucasian Arch-

Tərtibçi-müəlliflər: T.Heydərov, T.Bağiyev, K.Şükürov. – I cild. 1724-1904. – Bakı: “Elm”, . – 2010. – XX+716 s.

⁴³ Azərbaycan: beynəlxalq münasibətlər və diplomatiya tarixi (1639-1828) // Araşdırma, tərcümə, qeyd və əlavələrin müəllifləri Y.Mahmudov, K.Şükürov. – I cild. – Bakı: “Regionların inkişafı ictimai birliyi”, 2009. – 512 s.; Qafqazda “erməni məsələsi”. Rusiya arxiv sənədləri və nəşrləri üzrə / (3 cildə). Ön söz: T.Heydərov. Tərtibçi-müəlliflər: T.Heydərov, T.Bağiyev, K.Şükürov. – I cild. 1724-1904. – Bakı: “Elm”, . – 2010. – XX+716 s.

⁴⁴ Azərbaycan tarixi arxiv sənədlərində (XVIII-XX əsrin əvvəlləri) Türkiyə Cümhuriyyəti Başbakanlıq Osmanlı Arxivinin sənədləri / Ön söz: Y.Mahmudov. Tərtibçi mətni: G.Nəcəfli. – I c. – Bakı: Çəşioğlu, – 2010. – 508 s.; Azərbaycan tarixi arxiv sənədlərində (XVIII-XX əsrin əvvəlləri) Rusiya Dövlət Hərbi Tarix Arxivinin sənədləri / Ön söz: Y.Mahmudov. Tərtibçi mətni: G.Nəcəfli. – I c. – Bakı: Çəşioğlu, – 2010. – 616 s.; – II c. – Bakı: Çəşioğlu, – 2012. – 620 s.; Azərbaycan tarixi arxiv sənədlərində (XVIII-XX əsrin əvvəlləri) Türkiyə Cümhuriyyəti Başbakanlıq Osmanlı Arxivinin sənədləri / Ön söz: Y.Mahmudov. Tərtibçi mətni: G.Nəcəfli. – II c. – Bakı: Çəşioğlu, – 2012. – 408 s.; Azərbaycan tarixi arxiv sənədlərində (XIX-XX əsrlər). Ermənilərin Şimali Azərbaycan torpaqlarına köçürülməsi (Azərbaycan Dövlət Tarix Arxivinin sənədləri) / Ön söz: Y.Mahmudov. Tərtibçi mətni: K.Şükürov. – I c. – Bakı: Çəşioğlu, – 2013. – 752 s.

⁴⁵ Kamani Mustafa Ağa. Revan Fethnamesi // M.Münir Aktepe. 1720-1724 Osmanlı-İran münasibətləri. – İstanbul: “İ.Ü.E.F. Yayınları”, – 1970. – XVI+90 s.

eographic Commission Acts⁴⁶ prepared by the orientalist A.P.Berge, to illuminate the events taken place in the first half of the 19th century.

Mass relocation of Armenians from the Qajar Iran to the lands of Azerbaijan occupied by the Russian Empire, official instructions, directions, etc. issues related to the resettlement are reflected in S.Glinka's work⁴⁷.

The main source for determining the population and ethnicity of the Iravan and Nakhchivan khanates at the end of the 18th century and the beginning of the 19th century, is the cameral census compiled by I.Chopin in 1829-1832 under the instructions of the Russian government. The author included the results he obtained in his book⁴⁸ published in 1852. The materials presented in the work is a valuable source confirming the resettlement of Armenians from Iran and the Ottoman Empire to the territory of the Iravan and Nakhchivan khanates, which were occupied by the Ottoman Empire.

Although compiled in 1823, "Statistical Description of Nakhchivan Province" printed in 1833 and "Description of Karabakh Province"⁴⁹ printed in 1866 are also of this type. The information in the cameral descriptions of Iravan province of Zangazur mahal and Karabakh province published by N.Ahmadli recently can be considered an invaluable source.

After the establishment of the "Armenian province" by the Czarist regime, Armenians started publishing large volumes of books

⁴⁷ Глинка, С. Описание переселения армян азербиджанских в пределы России / С.Глинка. – Москва: Типография Лазаревых Института восточных языков, – 1831. – 142 с.

⁴⁸ Шопен И. Исторический памятник состояния Армянской области в эпоху присоединения к Российской империи / И.Шопен.– Санкт-Петербург: тип. Имп. Акад. наук, – 1852. – 1232 с.

⁴⁹ Григорьев В. Статистическое описание Нахичеванской провинции / В.Григорьев. – Санкт-Петербург: тип. Деп. внеш. торг., – 1833. – 264 с.; Описание Карабахской провинции, составленное в 1823 году, по распоряжению главноуправляющего в Грузии Ермолова, действительным статским советником Могилевским и полковником Ермоловым П-м. – Тифлис, – 1866 // Azərbaycan Respublikası Dövlət Tarix Arxivi, fond № 24, siyahı № 1, iş № 141.

in Russia in order to introduce to the public the fiction that the Russian-Armenian relations have ancient traditions and that the Armenians are an aboriginal ethnos in the South Caucasus. The multi-volume collection of documents⁵⁰ on the historical overview of the Armenian people and the collection of documents published by the Armenian author G.Ezov⁵¹ are among such books. 305 documents covering the years 1698-1736 were reflected in the collection presented by the latter with extensive comments. Those documents reflect the projects presented to European and Russian rulers for the purpose of seizing Azerbaijani lands and establishing an Armenian state in these lands.

In mid-20th century, a multi-volume collection of documents⁵² compiled in Russian by A.Papazyan based on the Persian-language documents of Matenadaran was published. The documents in the collection allow us to follow the process of the Armenian Church taking over Azerbaijani lands in different ways in the 14th-16th centuries. The continuation of these documents (1652-1731; 1734-1797) was collected by K. Kostigyan and printed in two volumes in English in Yerevan.⁵³ We have taken advantage of the facts given in those collections and exposed the lies about our history.

A multi-volume collection of documents dedicated to the history of “Russian-Armenian relations” in the 18th century, based

⁵⁰ Собрание актов, относящихся к обозрению истории Армянского народа / ч. I, – Москва: «В типографии Лазеревых Института Восточных языков», – 1833. – 391 с.; ч. II, – 1838. – 304 с.

⁵¹ Эзов, Г. Сношения Петра Великого с армянским народам (документы) /. Г.Эзов. – Санкт-Петербург: Типография Императорской Академии Наук, – 1898. – 512 с.

⁵² Персидские документы Матенадарана, I. Указы. Выпуск первый, (XV-XVI вв.) / Сост. А.Д.Папазян. – Ереван: «Изд-во АН Арм. ССР», 1956. – 316 с.; Выпуск второй, (1601-1650 гг.) / Сост. А.Д.Папазян. – Ереван: «Изд-во АН Арм. ССР», 1959, – 596 с.; Персидские документы Матенадарана, II. Купчие. Выпуск первый, (XIV-XVI вв.), Сост. А.Д.Папазян. – Ереван: «Изд-во АН Арм. ССР», 1968, – 642 с.

⁵³ Persian documents of the Matenadaran: decrees, Volume III (1652-1731) / by K.Kostikyan, Yerevan: “Չախչախ”, 2005, – 728 p.; Persian documents of the Matenadaran: decrees, Volume IV (1734-1797) / by K.Kostikyan, Yerevan: “Nairi”, 2008, – 387 p.

on materials collected from various archives of Russia during the years of Soviet rule, was published by the Institute of History of the Academy of Sciences of Armenia. We have used the volumes of those collections⁵⁴ containing materials related to our topic. Some of those documents are identical to the materials presented by G.Ezov. Therefore, in the research process, we used both collections in a comparative way.

The events occurring in the South Caucasus after the occupation of the Nakhchivan and Iravan khanates by the Russian Empire were reflected in a two-volume collection of documents called “Unification of Eastern Armenia to Russia”.⁵⁵ During the research, those materials were used to expose false claims about our history.

From the German-language sources, the information about the ethnic composition of the population living in the Iravan region in the section “Travel to Persia” of “Travel to Persia and Eastern India”⁵⁶ published in Nuremberg in 1716 (Gothic font) by the traveler Caspar Schillinger is very valuable. Another German researcher, Friedrich Neumann, published in Leipzig in 1834, “The history of the resettlement of forty thousand Armenians who migrated from the Iranian province of Azerbaijan to Russia in 1828”⁵⁷ is similar to

⁵⁴ Армяно-русские отношения в первой трети XVIII века / Сб. документов. Под редакцией Ашота Иоаннисяна. – т.II. ч.1. – Ереван: «Изд-во АН Арм. ССР», – 1964. – CV(105)+ 396 с.; Армяно-русские отношения в первой трети XVIII века / Сб. документов. Под редакцией Ашота Иоаннисяна. – т.II. ч.2. – Ереван: «Изд-во АН Арм. ССР», – 1967. – 420 с.; Армяно-русские отношения во втором тридцатилетии XVIII века / Сб. документов. Под ред. В.К.Восканяна. – т.III. – Ереван: «Изд-во АН Арм. ССР», 1978.– 409 с.; Армяно-русские отношения XVIII веке. 1760-1800 гг. / Сб. Документов. Под ред. В.К.Нерсесяна. –т.IV. ч.II. – Ереван: «Изд-во АН Арм. ССР», 1990.– 590 с.

⁵⁵ Присоединение Восточной Армении к России / Сб. документов. Под ред. Ц.П.Агаяна. – т.I (1801-1813). – Ереван: «Изд-во АН Арм., ССР», –1972. – 716 с.; – т.II (1814-1830). – Ереван: «Изд-во АН Арм., ССР», –1978. –658 с.

⁵⁶ Schillinger, F.G. Persianische und Ost-Indianische Reise / F.G.Schillinger – Nürnberg: – 1716. – 15+534 S.

⁵⁷ Neumann F. Geschichte der Übersiedlung von vierzigtausend Armeniern, welche im Jahre 1828 aus den persischen Provinz Adarbaidshan nach Russland auswanderten / F.Neumann. – Leipzig: “Weirmann’sche Buchbandlung”, – 1834. – 108 S.

the above-mentioned work of S.Glinka, but contains different information.

Among the Armenian-language sources, the information provided by the version of Cambr⁵⁸ in the Armenian language, which is considered 18th-century source, was subjected to less manipulation than the Russian translation⁵⁹, we mainly used the version in the Armenian language.

Regarding the topic we are studying, we have also used the documents obtained from various archives of Russia during the Soviet era, which are currently preserved in the Scientific Archive of the Institute of History.⁶⁰ In these documents, it is possible to trace the activities of Czarist Russia and Armenians on the Azerbaijani lands.

We have made use of numerous documents that have not been used in Azerbaijan historiography so far, such as the Khatti-Humayun Fund⁶¹ of the Ottoman Archive of the Prime Minister's Office of the Republic of Turkiye (BOA). In the letters addressed to the government palace by the officials of Qars, Erzurum, Trabzon, Bayburt and other regions, valuable facts were obtained regarding the relocation of Armenians from the territory of the Ottoman empire to Azerbaijan lands.

Our direct reference to the primary sources preserved in the Russian Empire Foreign Policy Archive (REFPA) enables an objective examination of the proposed research. Because most of the important facts related to our history were presented to us in the

⁵⁸ Երեխանցի Սիմեօն. Ջամբո: Գիրք, որ կոչի յիշակարան արձանացուցիչ, հայելի եւ պարունակող բնավից որպիսութեանց Սրբոյ Աթոռոյս, եւ իւրոյ շրջակայից վանօրէիցն / Ս.Երեխանցի. – Վաղարշապատ, “Էջմիածնի Սուրբ Կաթողիկոսի տպարանը” – ՌՀԻԳ (1773) –304 էջ.

⁵⁹ Երեխանցի Սիմեօն. Ջամբո: Գիրք, որ կոչի յիշակարան արձանացուցիչ, հայելի եւ պարունակող բնավից որպիսութեանց Սրբոյ Աթոռոյս, եւ իւրոյ շրջակայից վանօրէիցն / Ս.Երեխանցի. – Վաղարշապատ, “Էջմիածնի Սուրբ Կաթողիկոսի տպարանը” – ՌՀԻԳ (1773) –304 էջ.

⁶⁰ Rusiyanın İranla Əlaqələri (1762-1773-cü illər) // AMEA, Tarix İnstitutunun Elmi Arxivi, Fond №1795/1; №1795/2; №1795/4; №1795/5.

⁶¹ Hatt-i Hümayun / Türkiye Cumhuriyeti Başbakanlık Osmanlı Arşivi

works of Armenian authors with serious distortions. From the documents belonging to REFPA's 5⁶², 77⁶³, 100⁶⁴, 101⁶⁵, 194⁶⁶ and 343⁶⁷ funds, valuable documents related to the subject we are investigating have been involved in the research.

The rich materials stored in Russian State Military History Archives No. 52⁶⁸, 476⁶⁹, 482⁷⁰, and 846⁷¹ were also used in connection with the topic we are researching. In these documents, it is possible to follow the activities of Czarist Russia and Armenians to create an Armenian state in the territory of the Karabakh and Iravan khanates, and an Albanian Czardom in the lands belonging to the Derbend, Guba and Baku khanates, as well as the process of mass relocation of Armenians from the territories of the Qajar and Ottoman states to the lands of Azerbaijan.

We also benefited from rich materials stored in Funds 9⁷², 10⁷³, 15⁷⁴, 23⁷⁵, 77⁷⁶ of Russian State Ancient Acts Archives.

Documents belonging to the "Russland-97a" fund⁷⁷ of the Political Archive of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany were also used to clarify the concept of

⁶² Фонд №5, Секретные мнения коллегии иностранных дел / Архив Внешней Политики Российской Империи (АВПРИ)

⁶³ Фонд №77, – Сношения России с Персией / АВПРИ.

⁶⁴ Фонд №100, – Сношения России с Арменией / АВПРИ.

⁶⁵ Фонд №110, – Сношения России с Грузией / АВПРИ.

⁶⁶ Фонд №194, – Миссия в Персию 1809-1913 гг. / АВПРИ

⁶⁷ Фонд №343, – Армянские дела / АВПРИ.

⁶⁸ Фонд № 52, – Бумаги Канцелярии князя Потемкина – Таврического, 1788 г. / Российский Государственный Военно-Исторический Архив (РГВИА).

⁶⁹ Фонд № 476 – Русско-персидская война 1826-1828 / РГВИА.

⁷⁰ Фонд № 482 – Кавказские войны / РГВИА.

⁷¹ Фонд № 846 – Военно-Ученый Архив (ВУА) / РГВИА.

⁷² Фонд № 9, – Кабинет Петра I / Российский Государственный Архив Древних Актов (РГАДА).

⁷³ Фонд № 10 – Разряд X, Кабинет Екатерины II и его продолжение, / РГАДА.

⁷⁴ Фонд № 15 – Разряд XV, Дипломатический отдел, / РГАДА.

⁷⁵ Фонд № 23 – Разряд XXIII, Кавказские дела, / РГАДА.

⁷⁶ Фонд № 77 – Сношения России с Персией, / РГАДА.

⁷⁷ Karte. Georgien. – Rußland №97a, R.11054 / – Politisches Archiv des Auswärtigen Ams (PAAA); Telegramm. Pera, den 24. Juni 1918. Der K. Botschafter an Auswärtiges Amt. Nr. 986. – Rußland №97a, R.11050 / PAAA.

“Armenian state”.

The object and the subject of the research: The object of the research is the history of Azerbaijan at the beginning of the 18th-19th centuries, and the subject is the activity carried out in that period. In accordance with the object and subject of the selected topic, the activity of tsarist Russia and Armenians to create a state in Azerbaijan were investigated on the basis of primary sources and materials of literature in different languages.

Goals and objectives of the research: The main goal of the dissertation submitted for defense is to present a problem that has not been a special object of research in Azerbaijani historiography - the activities of Czarist Russia and Armenians to create a state on the Azerbaijani lands in the 18th century and the first half of the 19th century, and based on new archival documents, Armenian-language sources, as well as printed archival documents, works of Azerbaijani and foreign authors, exposing false claims regarding the presentation of Azerbaijani lands by Armenians as Armenian lands.

The Russian Empire used the Armenians as a tool to realize its far-sighted strategic intentions, to occupy the Azerbaijani khanates, to strengthen in these lands, and to create a Christian buffer zone on the border with the Ottoman state. On the other hand, the Armenians made political claims to the lands of Azerbaijan, performed treacherous activities for its capture, and became a tool in the struggle against the khanates. The purpose of the dissertation is also to study and systematize the stages, causes and consequences of the emergence of these activities.

In the research, the following specific tasks were set and an attempt was made to solve them:

- To clarify the essence of the concept of “Armenian state”, whether the historical Armenian state has a connection with Czarist Russia and the state that Armenians plan to establish on the Azerbaijani lands in terms of territory and legal-political succession;
- To highlight the Gregorianization of the Christian population of Karabakh, the existence of Christian princes and their basis for establishing a state, and other issues;
- To prove the facts of attributing the Khamsa melikates of

Karabakh to Armenian statehood, falsifying their ethnic identities and misappropriating their history by Armenians;

- To determine the factors that gave the initial impetus to the idea of creating an Armenian state in the 1st half of the 18th century and to analyze the projects and plans drawn up by Armenians for the purpose of creating a state on the Azerbaijani lands;
- To prove with historical facts the policy of Peter I to take advantage of the Armenians to realize the economic and strategic interests of Russia in the occupation of the South Caucasus;
- In the 60s and 80s of the 18th century the projects and plans drawn up by Armenians for the purpose of creating a state on the Azerbaijani lands, their content and characteristics;
- To determine the influence of the international situation in the second half of the 18th century on the actions of Czarist Russia and Armenians to create a state at the expense of Azerbaijani lands;
- Based on primary sources to prove Catherine the Great's policy of using Armenians to realize Russia's economic and strategic interests in the occupation of the South Caucasus and her plans to establish a Christian state on the Azerbaijani lands;
- To analyze the project and military campaign plans and their characteristics prepared by Czarist Russia and Armenians for the purpose of establishing a state on the Azerbaijani lands beginning from the conclusion of the Georgievsk Treaty to the end of the century (1783-1800);
- To determine the policy of taking advantage of the "Armenian factor" during the occupation of the Northern Azerbaijani khanates by the Russian Empire;
- To study the nature and consequences of the creation of the Armenian province in the historical lands of Azerbaijan;
- To clarify the essence of Czarist Russia's policy of mass relocation of Armenians to the occupied lands of Azerbaijan for a special purpose;
- To analyze and assess the results of the activities of Czarist Russia and Armenians to create a state on the Azerbaijani lands.

Research methods: Taking into account the latest achie-

vements of world history and homeland historiography, theoretical approach, mutual comparison and generalization were used in the research. While conducting research on the topic of the dissertation, attempt was made to take advantage of sources and historical literature that provide information on this problem, even if it is insignificant, in addition to obtaining information from archival documents, they were carefully researched and analyzed, and the extent to which the documents reflect the objective reality was determined by comparing them with information from other sources and efforts were made to clarify the issues related to the topic.

The main provisions of the defense:

– At any moment of the last centuries of our history, it is impossible to consider the territorial claims of Armenians to Azerbaijani lands, including Karabakh, outside the prism of the active occupation policy of Czarist Russia in the South Caucasus. In order to substantiate these claims, by appropriating the history of the Azerbaijani people and making it their own Armenian historians skillfully falsified the documents of the time and created a false history.

– The Russian Empire, which wanted to reach the warm seas, needed to create a reliable base at the junction of the borders of Turkiye, Iran and Azerbaijan, so that it could use that area as a military base as soon as favorable conditions arose. The Russian Empire, which tried to realize this policy, played the role of patron for the Armenians and took advantage of them as a tool.

– Taking advantage of the weakening of the Safavi state, the Armenians were able to find their way to European and then Russian palaces by setting up a fictitious history and preparing certain plans and projects to realize their goals. However, the Russian invasions that began in the first quarter of the 18th century - when the South Caucasus was of greater economic and transit importance for Russia - with the death of Peter I ended in failure.

– In the 60s - 80s of the 18th century, many projects were drawn up by the Armenians for the purpose of creating a state for the Armenians at the expense of the Azerbaijani khanates and the eastern lands of the Ottoman state. The Armenians, who got financial

opportunities in the big cities of the country, by various means tried to realize these plans by gaining the trust of people with high authority in the Russian ruling circles.

– Starting from the 80s of the 18th century the government of Catherine II tried to realize the plan of creating a vassal Armenian state on the Azerbaijani lands and even planned to expand this puppet state at the expense of the lands of the Ottoman state in the future. However, the events taking place in the North Caucasus since 1785, the support of the Azerbaijani khans by the Ottoman state, made the Czarist government temporarily abandon its plans to invade the region.

– However, the Treaty of Yassy (December 1791) concluded with the Ottoman state created great opportunities for Russia's activity in the South Caucasus. Czarist Russia's desire to reconquer the Caspian coastal provinces has accelerated considerably. The creation of the vassal groups such as “national state” for the Christian meliks in Karabakh, the “Czardom of Ararat” for the Armenians who settled in Iravan - in Uchkilsa and its surroundings from time to time, and the “Czardom of Albania” in the Caspian regions came up on the agenda. However, since the end of the 80s of the 18th century, Agha Mohammad Khan Qajar, who took power in Iran, joined the struggle for the South Caucasus, which made the situation much more tense.

– Finally, in the spring of 1796, the government of Catherine II sent Russian troops to Azerbaijan under the leadership of Valerian Zubov. General Zubov was also given a secret instruction to “overthrow the Khan of Karabakh and give power to Christian meliks”. However, the sudden death of Catherine II on November 6, 1796 led to the recall of Russian troops from the South Caucasus.

– From the beginning of the 19th century, Czarist Russia began to use the “Armenian factor” again to implement its policy of aggression. During the occupation of the khanates, special Armenian battalions were established in Tiflis.

– Although the occupation of the khanates of Azerbaijan north of Araz (Araxes) was completed, the minority of Armenians in these regions did not allow the policy of the Russian Empire to create a buffer Christian state on the border of the Qajars and the Ottoman

states. That is why the mass resettlement of Armenians to the occupied lands of Azerbaijan began. As a result of this bloody policy, for a short period of time, Armenians settled on the Azerbaijani lands.

Scientific novelty of the research: The main scientific novelty of the dissertation is that Czarist Russia and Armenians' activities to create a state on the Azerbaijani lands for the first time is a complex, separate research object. Information provided by numerous archival documents and Armenian and other Christian sources involved in the research for the first time, as well as historical literature and various source materials, allowed us to thoroughly and deeply study this problem. The analysis of these rich materials gives us the reason to consider what is presented below as the scientific novelty of the dissertation.

- For the first time, the problem of activities of Czarist Russia and the Armenians to create a state on the Azerbaijani lands was investigated as a separate research object;
- The factors that motivated the activities of Armenians to create a state on the Azerbaijani lands were divided into three important stages and justified by primary sources;
- The falsification of the ethnic identity of the Christian meliks of Karabakh by the Armenians and the misappropriation of their history in the 18th century has been proven on the basis of primary sources;
- The emergence of plans to create an Armenian state on the Azerbaijani lands in the first quarter of the 18th century, the plans of Peter I to resettle Christians in the occupied Caspian coastal areas, and the attempts to create a Georgian-Armenian Czardom under Russian auspices were studied on the basis of scientific literature and new archival documents;
- In the 60s - 80s of the 18th century, the projects and plans drawn up by Armenians for the purpose of creating a state on the Azerbaijani lands were studied and systematized, and their content and characteristics were determined;
- In the second half of the 18th century, the influence of the international situation on the actions of Czarist Russia and Armenians to create a state on the Azerbaijani lands, the mediating role of Armenians in the implementation of Catherine the Great's Eastern

policy were investigated based on primary sources;

- After the conclusion of the Treaty of Georgiyevsk (1783), the activities of creating an Armenian state on the Azerbaijani lands based on the military plans and projects drawn up by the ruling circles of Czarist Russia have been proven on the basis of archival sources of the time;
- The creation of the Armenian province on the historical Azerbaijani lands laid the ground for the Russian Empire to create an Armenian state on the lands of Northern Azerbaijan in the future and its severe consequences were determined;
- The use of the “Armenian factor” by Czarist Russia during the occupation of the Northern Azerbaijani khanates, the mass relocation of Armenians to the occupied Azerbaijani lands with a special purpose, was investigated on the basis of the primary sources of the period;

The theoretical and practical importance of the research:

The practical importance of the dissertation is primarily is that the actual material and generalizations brought in the research work, the scientific results obtained from these materials, can be used in the history faculties of universities, in conducting specialty courses on “Tzarist Russia and the Armenians’ activities to create a state on the Azerbaijani lands”, writing generalized works, teaching and can be widely used in the preparation of teaching materials, holding scientific conferences and seminars.

The results of the dissertation can be used in the preparation of textbooks and teaching aids on the history of Azerbaijan, as well as in the teaching of the history of Azerbaijan in higher and secondary specialized schools, in the giving special courses such as international relations, Armenian studies.

Approbation and application: The dissertation work was carried out in the department “History of international relations of Azerbaijan” of A.A. Bakikhanov Institute of History, Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences. The author worked in various archives and libraries of Turkey, the Russian Federation and the Federal Republic of Germany for the perfect writing of the dissertation work. The provisions covering the main content of the dissertation are

reflected in the author's monograph ("Attempts to establish an Armenian state in the territory of Azerbaijan in the 18th century", Baku, 2007; "Azerbaijan in the 18th-19th centuries" (in Russian). Bishkek, 2010; "Attempts to establish an Armenian state in the territory of Azerbaijan in the 18th century" (in Turkish) Istanbul, 2014; co-authored "The relocation of Armenians to the lands of North Azerbaijan in the 19th century", Baku, 2020; "The resettlement of Armenians to the lands of Northern Azerbaijan in the 19th century is an irrefutable truth of history" (in Russian), Baku, 2020; "Games of Great Powers to create an Armenian state on the territory of Azerbaijan". (in Russian), Bishkek, 2021) and in scientific articles, as well as in her speeches at conferences in Azerbaijan, as well as in the cities of Ankara, Eskisehir, Erzurum, Izmir, Igdir, Van of Turkiye, Budapest in Hungary, and Skopje in North Macedonia.

The name of the organization where the dissertation work was carried out: A.A. Bakikhanov Institute of History, Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences.

The structure and total volume of the dissertation: The research work consists of introduction, 5 chapters, conclusion and list of references. The total volume of the dissertation (excluding the list of used literature) consists of 517.286 marks, including Introduction 49253, Chapter I 57249, Chapter II 78026, Chapter III 38564, Chapter IV 129562, Chapter V 149115, Conclusion 15310 characters.

II. THE MAIN CONTENT OF THE DISSERTATION

In the introduction the relevance of the subject, scientific novelty is justified, the subject, object, goals and tasks of the research are summarized, the geographical and chronological framework is defined, the degree of elaboration, including the source base is disclosed, the main propositions submitted to the defense are characterized, the historiography of the problem, the methodological basis of the research is reviewed, the practical importance and approbation of the work are indicated.

Chapter I, entitled “Factors that gave the initial impetus to the idea of creating an Armenian state on the Azerbaijani lands”, consists of three sub-chapters. In the 1st sub-chapter called “*On the essence of the concept of the Armenian state*”, is stated that the territory called “Greater Armenia” is a geographical concept, that it does not belong to the Hay ethnos, which later called itself Armenian, and that the territories called “Eastern Armenia” by Armenian historians and their patrons are also fictitious. The primary sources, which are not part of Greater Armenia, have been investigated based on the research of historians who mainly study ancient sources.

It should be noted that in the works of Musa Khorenli, who is considered to be an Armenian source of the early Middle Ages, was mentioned that Armenians are “*a small, very few, weak people and often live under the rule of foreigners*”⁷⁸.

In the first half of the 19th century, Ivan Chopin, who created a cameral description of the newly created Armenian province by order of the Russian Empire, wrote in his work about the ancient history invented by Armenians: “*Armenians are not the local population of Armenia (meaning the Armenian province - G.N), they came here from Assyria*”.⁷⁹ The author continues this idea in his subsequent

⁷⁸ Մովսէս Խորենացի: Հայոց պատմութիւն, էջ.6; Моисея Хоренского. История Армении, с.3-4.

⁷⁹ Шопен, И. Исторический памятник ..., – с.229.

research and writes: *The population living in the southern region, which we call Armenia, completely different people by origin*".⁸⁰

In the 2nd sub-chapter called "*Karabakh: Gregorianization and the history of meliks*", is stated that there is no scientific-historical basis for describing the territory of ancient Albanian state as a part of "Armenia" by Armenian historians; that the main changes in the history of Karabakh occurred with the elimination of Albanian state during the Arab caliphate; ensuring the religious supremacy of Armenians in the mountainous part of the province and its manifestation in the ethnic field over time as a result of the tragic policy of the Caliphate regarding Azerbaijan; The history of Albania was analyzed based on the primary sources and researches of Azerbaijani historians.

Armenian authors tend to exaggerate the role of the five Christian principalities that existed in the territory of Karabakh in the 18th century, to introduce almost every melikate as an example of Armenian national statehood, an institution that preserves traditions of Armenian statehood for centuries, and at the same time trying to prove that the Armenian population is the local inhabitants of the territory of historical Karabakh and at the same time trying to prove that the Armenian population is the local inhabitants of Karabakh.⁸¹

Primary sources give reason to prove that the Christian meliks who existed in the Karabakh territory still in the 18th century kept the Albanian mentality. Thus, in the official documents (in Persian) of the Safavi and Afshar rulers at the end of 17th - first half of the 18th centuries, related to the Christians living on the Azerbaijani lands, unlike the Catholicos of the Uchkilse (Three Churches) and the feudal lords, the word Armenian was not used anywhere in the documents addressed to the Christian population of Karabakh. For example: in Sultan Hussein's (1694-1722) edicts and letters add-

⁸⁰ Шопен, И. Новая заметки на древняя истории Кавказа и его обитателей / И.Шопен.– Санкт-Петербург: – 1866. – с.26.

⁸¹ Иоаннисян, А. Россия и Армянское.., – с.15-16; Арутюнян, П. Освободительное движение.., – с.60; Магальян, А. Арцахские меликства.., – с.31; Հովհաննիսյան, Ս. Դրվագներ հայ..., – էջ.47-69; Այվազյան, Ս. Արևելահայության ժողովրդագրությունը.., – էջ.122.

ressed to Albanian Catholicos Hasan Jalal⁸² in 1699-1701, Tahmasib II's (1722-1732) to Melik of Veranda Muhammad Hussein⁸³ in 1730, Nadir Afshar's edicts and letters addressed to Khachin meliks as Khan⁸⁴ in 1734 and as Shah in 1736 and to Dizag⁸⁵ meliks in 1745, the word "Armenian" was not used anywhere.

Along with this, Armenian authors "*wished to create a national state in the territory of the five melikates of Arsak (Karabakh) with the perspective of liberating the entire Armenia and ... deliberately invented fantastic figures about the local forces.*"⁸⁶ However, according to the information of 1734, there were only 4 villages in Khachin mahal. Since the population of one of those villages completely left the village, only 3 villages remained here.⁸⁷

It is also possible to trace the fact that the Karabakh meliks were of Albanian origin in the letters they addressed to the Russian Czars. Based on primary sources, T.Mustafazadeh writes: "*It is clear from the letter written by four meliks - Isay, Shirvan, Sergey and Joseph to Peter I in March 1723 that the Christians living in Azerbaijan at that time called themselves Albanians (Avgans).*"⁸⁸

It should also be noted that the issue of ethnic identity in most of the letters written in Armenian on behalf of the Christian meliks of Karabakh was completely falsified by Armenians during the translation of those letters into Russian. For example: the phrase "*Alba-*

⁸² Persian documents of the Matenadaran: decrees, volume III., – p.p.142-144, 340-341, 624-627,149-152, 346, 637-642.

⁸³ Persian documents of the Matenadaran: decrees, volume III., – p.p.184, 376, 700.

⁸⁴ Persian documents of the Matenadaran: decrees, volume IV., – p.p. 25-28, 41-43, 130-133, 144-146, 205-210, 237-243.

⁸⁵ Persian documents of the Matenadaran: decrees, volume IV., – p.p.61-62, 163, 285- 287.

⁸⁶ Şükürov, K. Azərbaycan torpaqlarında Ermənistan dövləti necə yaradıldı // Xalq qəzeti, – 2019, 26 aprel. – s.8.

⁸⁷ See: Persian documents of the Matenadaran: decrees, volume IV: doc.4(p.26-27).

⁸⁸ Mustafayev T. Qarabağ (Gəncə) bəylərbəyliyi XVIII əsrin I qərinəsində. // Bakı: Azərbaycan EA Xəbərləri, tarix, fəlsəfə və hüquq seriyası, – 1988. №3, – s. 38.

nian Turks”⁸⁹ in the letter written in Armenian by Karabakh meliks to Peter I in March 1723, in order to protect themselves from destructive attacks in the surrounding area was replaced by the phrase “Albanian Muslims”⁹⁰ during the translation of the letter into Russian.

In another letter written in Armenian by the Christian meliks of Karabakh to Peter I on March 20, 1724, it is stated: “We are Albanians and we are Uti by nationality (*Մէք Աղղւլաւնք էւք և ազգով Ուտիք*)”⁹¹

In the Armenian version of the letter addressed by meliks to Catherine II on September 2, 1781, they wrote about themselves, “We belong to the descendants of the Czars of the Arshaki (*Արշակունի*) and Alban (*Աղղւլ*) thrones”.⁹² Armenians falsified the Russian translation of the document and wrote “we are descendants of ancient Armenian chiefs”.⁹³

Apparently, throughout the 18th century, the Karabakh meliks did not forget their ethnicity.

In the third sub-chapter called “Initial stage of settlement of Armenians on the Azerbaijani lands” based on the various sources included in the research, the initial stages of the settlement of Armenians on the Azerbaijani lands and the factors that motivated the idea of creating an Armenian state at the expense of these lands were analyzed.

⁸⁹ Армяно-русские отношения в первой трети XVIII века, – т. II, ч. II, – с. 30-31; Nəcəfli, G. Qarabağın xristian alban məliklərinə dair // – “İrək yolu”, Azərbaycan Universitetinin elmi jurnalı. Xüsusi buraxılış. – Bakı, 2021, – s. 73-82. – s. 80.

⁹⁰ Армяно-русские отношения в первой трети XVIII века, – т. II, ч. II, – с. 30-31; Nəcəfli, G. Qarabağın xristian alban məliklərinə dair // – “İrək yolu”, Azərbaycan Universitetinin elmi jurnalı. Xüsusi buraxılış. – Bakı, 2021, – s. 73-82. – s. 80.

⁹¹ Челобитания удийцев к Петру I (20 март 1724 г.) // АВПРИ, фонд. №100 “СРА” 1724 г, оп. 100/4, дело 1, – л. л. 27-27 об.

⁹² Обращение карабахских меликов к Екатерине II. (02 сентября 1781г.) // РГВИА, фонд. №52, оп. 1/194, дело 270, л. л. 5-6; Махмудов, Я. Переселение армян на земли Северного Азербайджана в XIX веке – неопровержимая правда истории. / Я. Махмудов, Г. Наджафли. – Баку: «Турхан», 2020, – 120 с. – с. 15-16.

⁹³ Армяно-русские отношения XVIII веке., – с. 183.

With the permission of the Garagoyunlu ruler Jahanshah, in 1441, the center of activity of the Armenian Catholicos was moved from the city of Sis in Cilicia to the Uchkilse (Uchmuadzin) monastery located near the present city of Iravan⁹⁴. Qaragoyunlu rulers protected the Armenian Catholicoses and gave them freedom. Uchkilse, which became the center of Armenian Catholicism, by various means began to seize villages, fields, farmlands, monasteries and other property belonging to Azerbaijani Turks. In a document dated 1687 kept in Matenadaran, it is stated that we (i.e, Armenians - G.N.) lands belonging to Muslims (Azerbaijani Turks - G.N.) “...either buy, or seize, or take it from the owner’s hands, or buy it with a bribe, or we get it as a gift or take it by force”⁹⁵ P.T.Arutunyan, who wrote the preface to the version of “Cambr” translated into Russian, had to admit when commenting on this document that “... it was in these ways that the land ownership of the Armenian church and secular feudal lords was formed in the 15th-18th centuries”⁹⁶ Even the village of Uchkilse (Valarshabad), where the Armenian Catholic Church located, was taken from the Azerbaijani Turks in parts by various means starting from 1443.

We should note with regret that the next stage that gave impetus to the settlement of Armenians in the territory of Azerbaijan is closely related to the Safavi-Ottoman war that took place in the 16th-17th centuries and the beginning of the 18th century. These wars were accompanied by forced migration, and the peaceful Turkish-Muslim population of the region moved to other regions of the country because of the Sunni- Shiite enmity. According to the information referred to the sources of the period, *the Ottoman army led by Farhad Pasha entered Shoreyel and Talin mahals of Iravan region in August 1583. The local population had left their lands and moved to Ağridağ and its nearby winter pastures.*⁹⁷ Taking advantage of the opportunity created in such cases, the Armenian church bought the Azerbaijani villages occupied by the Ottomans at a

⁹⁴ Երեմիանցի Միսեոս. Ջամբր., – էջ.100.

⁹⁵ Ереванци С. Джамбр., – с.28.

⁹⁶ Ереванци С. Джамбр., – с.28.

⁹⁷ See: Kırzioğlu, F. Osmanlıların Kafkas ellerini fethi., – s.346.

favorable price and settled the Armenians who flocked here from different provinces of Turkey to those areas.

The same situation can be observed in Ganja-Karabakh beylerbeyate as well. *“Representatives of the Ottoman government showed extreme tolerance towards the Christian population of Karabakh, while they were in an uncompromising position towards the local Shiite population. Therefore, the cities and villages abandoned by Azerbaijanis were settled by Christians – Armenianized Albanians”*.⁹⁸

Thus, the above-mentioned reasons whet the appetite of Armenians to create a state at the expense of the Azerbaijani lands in the beginning of the 18th century. The Armenians, who prepared plans to realize this goal, began to look for patrons abroad.

Chapter II called **“Activities of Czarist Russia and Armenians to create an Armenian state on the Azerbaijani lands in the first half of the 18th century”** consists of two sub-chapters.

In the first sub-chapter called *“Projects drafted for the establishing an Armenian state on the Azerbaijani lands”* based on primary sources, the projects drafted by Armenians in the first half of the 18th century previously submitted to European and then Russian states were involved in the research.

The separatist activity of Uchkilse Catholicos; addressing of Israel Ori, the son of Zangazur melik to Western Europe with the request for Armenians’ protection; Ori’s plans, who came to Uchkilse and then to Ganjasar monastery at the end of the 17th century, that could not materialize here; Ori’ effort to make the Zangazur officials to sign white sheets so that he could write what he wanted when presenting to the European rulers; preparation of the Crusade to the territory of Azerbaijan with the help of Western European countries⁹⁹ and other issues have been investigated in this section.

In 1699, Israel Ori presented to the Palatine Elector Johann

⁹⁸ Rəhimizadə, İbrahim (Hərəmi). Osmanlı ordusunun Azərbaycana yürüşləri., – s.196, 199; See: Гəncə-Qarabağ əyalətinin müfəssəl dəftəri, – s.15,16.

⁹⁹ See: Эзов, Г. Сношения Петра Великого .., – s. XXI-XXIII; Nəcəfli, G. XVIII əsrdə Azərbaycan ərazisində erməni dövləti yaradılması cəhdləri / G.Nəcəfli. – Bakı, “Nurlan”. – 2007. – 246 s. s.30-39.

Wilhelm the “Palatine Project”, which contained 36 articles about the forged letters signed by 10 meliks of Zangazur and the “restoration of the Armenian state”. However, each of the Western European states he appealed said that they could not join this initiative, that it was impossible to send military forces to the Caspian Sea shores without the consent of Russia, and they recommended obtaining the consent of Peter I for this initiative.¹⁰⁰

In fact, the international conditions at that time prevented the European states from entering into direct conflicts with the Ottoman Empire. Since the war of the “Holy League” with the Ottoman state had just ended, the European states did not want to violate the peace Treaty of Karlowitz (1699), which was quite favorable for them. These states, which did not hesitate to use various means to undermine the power of the Ottoman state, hesitated to directly use this opportunity and prevented the implementation of Armenian projects in this matter. They tried to direct it to Russia, which was more interested in this matter.¹⁰¹

Israel Ori, who came to Moscow in the spring of 1701, addressed Peter I by writing false information on the white sheets he had signed to the Christian meliks of Zangazur a year ago. In total, in July 1701 alone, Ori sent 11 letters to Peter I through boyar F.A. Golovin. On July 14, 1701, he sent to Peter I the military plan consisting of 5 points, showing all the directions of movement of the Russian troops to the South Caucasus, and it was promised the Armenians and Russian fighters to unite.¹⁰²

On July 25, 1701, Israel Ori was able to present the 18-point “Moscow project” to Peter I through F.A. Golovin, which was prepared to tempt the Russian troops to march to the South Caucasus. In this project, he prepared a plan for military intervention not only in the territories belonging to the Safavi state, but also in the Ottoman

¹⁰⁰ See: Nəcəfli, G. XVIII əsrdə Azərbaycan ərazisində.., – s.47-48.

¹⁰¹ Uras, Esat. Tarihte Ermeniler ve Ermeni Meselesi., s.745; Наджафли Г. Азербайджан в XVIII-XIX веках / Г.Наджафли. – Бишкек: «Бийиктик», – 2010. – 247 с. + 16 иллюс. с.53-54.

¹⁰² See: Эзов, Г. Сношения Петра Великого.., – с.80-83; Армяно-русские отношения..., т. II, ч. I, – с.205-208.

lands.¹⁰³ If in the “Palatinate project” presented by I.Ori to the European states, Russia’s role was only to agree to the passage of troops through its territory, while in the “Moscow project” presented to Peter I, participation of Russian army of 25.000 people (15.000 cavalry, 10.000 infantry) was planned.¹⁰⁴

In both projects, the borders of the Armenian state were considered to be established within the boundaries of the Safavi and Ottoman empires. These areas were mainly the northwestern lands of Azerbaijan - Chukhursaad province, Ganja-Karabakh, partly South Azerbaijan and Eastern Anatolia territories belonging to the Ottoman state.

In second sub-chapter of the chapter entitled “*Policy of Peter I for taking advantage of the Armenians in the occupation of the South Caucasus*”, Peter I’s (1682-1725) secret goal regarding the South Caucasus, the use of Armenians as a tool for the realization of this goal and other issues have been analyzed.

Czar Peter I, who tried to turn Russia into a world empire; so showed great interest in the Caspian Sea and the countries around it, which he considered to be the “true junction of the entire East” in the southeast direction. He wanted to take the southwestern and southern shores of the Caspian Sea that is, Azerbaijan and Gilan, to turn the Caspian Sea into his internal lake, and to develop a profitable sea trade for him. He intended to get way leading to India from here and on the other hand, to unite with Armenians and Georgians and threaten the Eastern borders of his main rival, the Ottoman Empire.¹⁰⁵

Until the beginning of the 18th century, Russia did not have the strength for military and political aggression, so it carried out only economic policy against the Safavi state. However, realizing that this policy was of little importance, Peter I decided to seize the Caspian provinces through military invasion. A neat “reason” was

¹⁰³ See: Эзов, Г. Сношения Петра Великого..., – с.85-91; Армяно-русские отношения..., т.II, ч.I, – с.210-216.

¹⁰⁴ See: Nəcəfli, G. XVIII əsrdə Azərbaycan ərazisində..., – s.54-56.

¹⁰⁵ See: Mustafazadə, T. Rusiyanın Cənubi Qafqaz və Ön Asiya siyasətində erməni amili (XVIII-XIX əsrin əvvəli) // – Bakı: AMEA, Tarix İnstitutu “Elmi Əsərlər”. “Xüsusi buraxılış”, – 2015. № 52, 53, 54, 55, – s.352-358. – s.352.

needed for this. Such a “reason” was the idea of “*helping the Christians living in this region – the unfortunate Armenians and Georgians in the fight against oppressive Muslims*”.¹⁰⁶

Along with preparations for the march to the Caspian coastal provinces, Peter I also paid special attention to legalizing this occupation. The main document reflecting the official propaganda of Peter I was the Manifesto dated July 15, 1722.¹⁰⁷ In May 1722, Peter I, who left Moscow for Astrakhan together with his wife Catherine I Alekseyevna, arrived in Astrakhan on June 15, where he signed the Manifesto addressed to the population living in the Caspian coastal areas.¹⁰⁸

In the manifesto written in Russian, Persian and Azerbaijani, Haji Davud and Surkhai Khan’s slaughter of the Russians in Shamakhy and Safavi Shah’s failure to take measures against this provocation were stated as the reasons for march of Peter. It should also be noted that if Peter I reassured the Christian population living in the South Caucasus under the pretext of “saving them from the Muslims”, he told the Shia Muslims living in the Caspian coastal regions that he was “*on friendly terms with the Safavi Shah, and he announced that he had come not to seize his territories, but to save them from rebelled feudal lords and neighboring Turks*”.¹⁰⁹

In order to study the western shores of the Caspian Sea, Peter I sent one of his close people, A.P.Volinsky, to the Safavi state, with the condition that he would pass through Shirvan by caravan from Azerbaijan. At the same time, Peter I gave a secret instruction to Volynsky, who was on his way to Isfahan as an envoy. In paragraph VIII of the instructions given to him, was written: “*He had to learn about Armenians, their number, where they live, whether there are nobles among them, and what their situation is*”.¹¹⁰

Taking advantage of Armenians and Georgians, Peter I sent B. Türkistanov on July 2 to King Vakhtang VI of Kartli with a letter,

¹⁰⁶ See: Nəcəfli, G. XVIII əsrdə Azərbaycan ərazisində.., – s.37-38, 68.

¹⁰⁷ Azərbaycan: beynəlxalq münasibətlər və diplomatiya.., – s.100-101,105-107.

¹⁰⁸ Mustafazadə, T. Avropa diplomatiyasında “erməni məsələsi” ..., s.32.

¹⁰⁹ Мустафазаде Т. Азербайджан и русско-турецкие.., с.46.

¹¹⁰ Mustafazadə T. Avropa diplomatiyasında.., s.30.

informing him that the Russian troops would soon arrive on the shores of the Caspian Sea, that all the Christians living in the South Caucasus should unite and help him, and that the city of Iravan would be destroyed. He demanded that it be captured by Vakhtang so that it would not fall into the hands of the Ottoman Turks.¹¹¹ Armenian clerics who had relations with Vakhtang VI were familiar with Peter's plans and completely shared them. The letter of Archbishop Minas Parvazyan, the head of the Armenian diocese in Tiflis, dated December 22, 1722, to vardapet Minas stated: "*You know that Iravan is the key to the Iranian lands (Safavi state - G.N.) and our intention is to seize Iravan Fortress. If it is in our hands, neither the Turks nor the Iranians will be able to do anything to us.*"¹¹²

At the time, many letters addressed to Peter I began to be sent on behalf of the Christian meliks of Karabakh. In one of these letters, it is requested that the Karabakh region, as well as the "*Gafan region between Karabakh and Iravan*" be transferred to the protectorate of the Russian Empire and extensive description of existing roads, mountains and other natural-geographic areas from the Caspian Sea up to Karabakh were given.¹¹³

After the occupation of the Caspian coastal areas, Peter I first planned to change the demographic situation in order to strengthen here. For this purpose, was intended to reduce the number of Turkish-Muslim population, to move Christians, primarily Armenians, to the mentioned areas and settle.

In January 1724, the Russian government secretly sent Ivan Karapet, an officer of the Russian army, to Karabakh with the task of "*uniting the forces of the Christian meliks of Karabakh and resisting the Ottomans if necessary*".¹¹⁴ On November 5, 1724, the Russian Foreign Affairs Collegium gave a secret mission to three Armenians from Astrakhan Ivan Karapet being on the head: "*Make the*

¹¹¹ See: Армяно-русские отношения., т. II, ч. I, с. 7-13.

¹¹² Армяно-русские отношения., т. II, ч. I, с. XXXI.

¹¹³ Запись заявлений, сделанных в государственной Коллегии иностранных дел представителями астраханских армян (5 ноябр 1724 г.) // АВПРИ, фонд. №100 "СРА", оп. 101, дело 2, 1724 г. – лл. 27об, 28.

¹¹⁴ See: Армяно-русские отношения, т. II, ч. I, с. LVIII-LIX.

Christians of Karabakh and Patriarch Isai move to the Caspian provinces.”¹¹⁵

Peter I’s “*Majesty’s Decree to the Armenian People*” (*Высочайшая грамота* 10.11.24) provided for taking Armenians under the protection of the Russian Empire and settling them in the Caspian coastal areas – Gilan, Mazandaran, Baku, etc.¹¹⁶ On the same date, Peter I wrote in his other decree (*Высочайшие указы*) sent to General Matyushkin directly about the relocation of Armenians to the occupied lands: “*Armenians in Gilan, Mazandaran, Baku, Derbend and other Caspian regions if they move to the provinces, they should be offered the most convenient and profitable places available in cities and villages, and local residents who do not have a good attitude towards Russia should be evicted from there*”.¹¹⁷

Colonel Ostafyev was assigned to settle Armenians in Baku city and the surrounding villages of the city, as well as Colonel Yunger was assigned to settle Armenians in Derbend and villages near the city.¹¹⁸

It is clear from all the decrees of Peter I that he paid such attention and patronized the Armenians for the sake of Russia.

Chapter III called “Plans and projects drawn up for the purpose of creating an Armenian state in the lands of Azerbaijan in the second half of the 18th century”, consisting of 2 sub-chapters, covers the projects and military plans drawn up by Armenians for the purpose of creating an Armenian state on the Azerbaijani lands in the second half of the 18th century.

The first sub-chapter called “*Projects for the Creation of an Armenian State on the Azerbaijani Land (1760-1782)*”, mainly deals from the time when Catherine II (1762-1796) came to power until the Treaty of Georgievsk, projects of Armenians presented to Russia and other European countries were illuminated.

In the 60s of the 18th century an Armenian from Hamadan

¹¹⁵ Доношения Персией, Грузией и Арменией // АВПРИ, фонд. №77, “СРП”, оп.1, 1729 г., дело 3, – л.119.

¹¹⁶ Эзов, Г. Сношения Петра Великого., – с.392-393.

¹¹⁷ Эзов, Г. Сношения Петра Великого., – с.396-397.

¹¹⁸ See: Мустафазаде Т. Азербайджан и русско-турецкие., с.142-143.

Iosif Emin called for “*creating a united Armenian-Georgian state*” under the rule of the Georgian Czar Irakli II and proposed a project for the Christian meliks living in the territory of the Karabakh Khanate “*to establish a joint Armenian-Georgian army on the European model under the rule of Irakli II*”.¹¹⁹ In November 1761, meeting with Chancellor Vorontsov, I.Emin’s proposal about “*creating a Georgian-Armenian state union under the patronage of the powerful Russian Empire*” was welcomed. Even the Empress Elizabeth, who was lying ill, approved this project and expressed her opinion that “*the presence of an Armenian state in the South Caucasus would be of great importance for Russia, especially in the conditions of war with Turkey*”.¹²⁰

During the Russian-Turkish war (1768-1774) the project “Liberation of Armenia” and “Establishment of an Armenian state under the protection of Russia” prepared by Moisey Sarafov (Movses Sarafyan – G.N.), a resident of Astarkhan, who took over the ownership of the textile manufactory, was submitted to the College of Foreign Affairs of Russia in the summer of 1769.¹²¹ In this project, consisting of 14 paragraphs was planned to organize a military march from two directions to the Azerbaijani lands. The first direction was to be organized “*by water through the Caspian Sea and by land through the territory of Iran*”, and the second direction “*by passing through the territory of Georgia*”.¹²²

In the mentioned period, the wealthy Armenian Ivan Lazarev (Hovanes Aghazaryan - G.N.), who worked as a jeweler in the Petersburg palace and the archbishop of Armenians in Russia Iosif Argutinsky (Hovsen Argutyan - G.N.) was more active. By various means, they gained the trust of high-ranking officials in Russian ruling circles – prince G. Potemkin, general A. Suvorov, chancellor

¹¹⁹ See: Nəcəfli G. XVIII əsrdə., s.109-110.

¹²⁰ Ананян Ж.А. Армянский просветитель Иосиф Эмин. // – Москва: Новая и новейшая история, –1998, №1, – с.148-163. – с.156; See: Nəcəfli G. XVIII əsrdə., s.110.

¹²¹ Проект Мовсеса Сарафова //АВПРИ, фонд. №110 “СРГ”, оп.110/2, 1761 г. дело 2, – лл.90-92об.

¹²² Ананян Ж.А. Армянский просветитель., с.156.

A. Bezborodko, took advantage of this and put forward a project called “Creation of an Armenian state under the protection of Russia” with their help and tried to realize it.¹²³

At the beginning of 1780, Ivan Lazarev handed A.Suvorov the so-called “Report” (“Докладная записка”) – “*Measures about the political situation of Armenia and the restoration of the Armenian state*”. Besides the plans of “*restoration of Greater Armenia and establishment of a separate Armenian state in Iravan*”, a fictitious map named “Ancient Armenian Territories” with Suvorov’s signature was also presented to prince G.Potyomkin.¹²⁴

I.Argutynsky, trying to take advantage of the opportunity opened for Russia by the Küçük Gaynarca peace treaty, presented his project “*Creation of the tsardom of Ararat*” to the Russian authorities.¹²⁵ The project was approved by Catherine II.

In the 60s -70s of the 18th century, Indian Armenian Shaamir Shaamiryian (Shahemir Shahemiryian) drafted another plan – management form of the “Armenian state” that would be created. According to this plan: “*the independent Armenian state to be created should be headed by an Armenian Czar; the state must have a permanent representative in St. Petersburg; A lifelong contract should be signed with Russia; In order to ensure the security of Armenia, the Russian garrison of 6.000 men had to stay in Armenia for 20 years*”.¹²⁶

The circle in Madras also prepared and published the draft Constitution of the future Armenian state consisting of 2 volumes and 521 articles. According to Shaamiryian, the state to be created should be either a republic or a constitutional monarchy like England.

Thus, taking advantage of the tense international situation in the third quarter of the 18th century and the help of Russia, the rich

¹²³ See: Собрание актов, относящихся..., с.68-70; Армяно - русские отношения..., т.IV, ч.II, с.151-152.

¹²⁴ Армяно - русские отношения..., т.IV, ч.II, с.7, с.151-152.

¹²⁵ Uras E. Tarihte Ermeniler ve..., s.749; Necefli G. XVIII. Asırda Azərbaycan Torpaqlarında Ermeni Devleti Kurma Teşebbüsleri. İstanbul, 2014, s.125-126.

¹²⁶ История армянского народа (под.ред. М.Г.Нерсисян)..., с.173.

Armenians tried to realize plans and projects they had prepared for this purpose with the help of the Russian Empire, bringing to the fore the idea of creating an Armenian state at the expense of the historical northwest lands of Azerbaijan.

In the second sub-chapter called “*Military plans drawn up for the purpose of establishing an Armenian state on the Azerbaijani lands (1783-1800)*”, projects drawn up by Armenians in the period from the Georgievsk Treaty to the end of the century were studied. Immediately after the signing of the Treaty of Georgiyevsk (24.07.83) between Russia and Georgia, the project “Russian-Armenian Treaty” for the establishment of an Armenian state in the western lands of the Iravan Khanate and the eastern lands of the Ottoman Empire, was prepared by I.Argutinsky and submitted to the Russian authorities. This plan, consisting of 18 paragraphs contained a wide range of assumptions about the “political structure of the Armenian state”.¹²⁷ The plan envisaged the conclusion of a military alliance between the Armenian state which would be established in the form of absolute monarchy and Russia, the construction of a port on the Caspian Sea for the Armenians, and the capital of the state being any point in Ani or Ararat (Agri) region. I.Argutinsky cannot give an exact opinion about the capital of the Armenian state to be created; the capital of the Armenian state to be created could be any place in Ani or Ararat (Agri) region.

In the mentioned period, another project called “Russian-Armenian Agreement” (“Southern Project”) consisting of 17 articles was prepared by Sh. Shaamiryán and submitted to the Russian authorities. The project envisaged the establishment of a united Armenian-Georgian state headed by Irakli II.¹²⁸

Shaamiryán understood very well the impossibility of creating an Armenian state in the historical lands of Azerbaijan without the help of Russia. Therefore, he tries to establish a relationship with the Russian authorities, even to strengthen the Russian-Armenian union, offered the Armenians living in Madras to move to Qizlar and

¹²⁷ Uras E. Tarihte Ermeniler ve..., s.753-754.

¹²⁸ See: Nəcəfli G. XVIII əsrdə..., s.122.

live under the patronage of Russia.

There were differences in mutual relations between the Armenian state to be created and the Russian Empire in both projects. “Northern Project” envisaged the Armenian state to be in direct vassal dependency of Russia, the appointment of Armenian Czar by Russian emperor, and the permanent maintenance of Russian army on the territory of this state. In the “Southern Project”, the dependence of this Armenian state on Russia was defined as the annual payment and withdrawal of a certain military force during the war. Sh. Shaamiryán saw the political structure of the future Armenian state not as an absolute; monarchy, but as a bourgeois republic and dependence on Russia only in paying tribute. Despite slight differences both projects were united by the same idea. The plan to create a state for the Armenians had to be implemented only with the military assistance of the ruling circles of Tsarist Russia and mainly at the expense of occupation of the Azerbaijani lands.

However, in mid of the 80s of the 18th century the Russian ruling circles, who started negotiations with Alimurad Khan, who took power in the east of Iran, decided to seize the South Caucasus not by military means, but by peaceful one, which was more profitable for them. Tsarist Russia’s policy prompted Armenians to get closer to the Georgians in order to realize their intentions. That is why Sh. Shaamiryán expressed his hope in his letter to Irakli II that “*an independent Georgian-Armenian state will be created with the help of Russia*”.¹²⁹

In the second half of the 18th century, the Russian Empire was unable to continue active colonialist policy in the South Caucasus until the end, this project and military plans drawn up for this purpose of creation of an Armenian state at the expense of Azerbaijani lands, did not materialize.

Chapter IV, entitled “Plans of Czarist Russia to create an Armenian state on the Azerbaijani lands in the second half of the 18th century”, consists of three sub-chapters. In the first sub-chapter

¹²⁹ Армяно-русские отношения XVIII века..., с.9; Nəcəfli G. XVIII əsrdə..., s.126.

entitled “*The influence of the international situation on the activities of Czarist Russia to create an Armenian state at the expense of Azerbaijani lands*” the influence of the international situation on the activities of Czarist Russia on the creation of a state on the Azerbaijani lands in the second half of the 18th century is considered.

In the second sub-chapter called “*South Caucasus policy of Catherine II: Armenians as a tool*”, the preparation in St. Petersburg of military campaign plans of Russian troops to the South Caucasus starting from the end of 1779; strengthening of Russian influence in the South Caucasus by seizing the Caspian coastal provinces in the autumn of 1782; decision-making to rely on two vassal Christian states, which will become Russia’s political and strategic outpost in the South Caucasus against Iran and Turkey - Georgia and t “Armenia” to be created; appointing of prince G.Potyomkin as the commander-in-chief for Caucasian affairs, and his relative general P.Potyomkin as the head of the Caucasian defense line; according to the government’s order, P.Potyomkin, first of all, should establish relations with the Georgian Czar Irakli II and Armenians, etc. have been investigated.

On March 28, 1783, at the next meeting of the Board of Foreign Affairs in Petersburg, the goal of Russia’s South Caucasus policy was expressed as: “*to own the Caspian Sea*”, “*to create an alliance with Georgians and Armenians*”.¹³⁰ In G.Potyomkin’s letter in this regard to prince A.Bezborodko, was mentioned that according to the map presented to Catherine II, we will occupy only the territories up to Baku. The territories consisting of Karabakh and Garadagh together with the kingdom of Irakli will be united with Turkish Armenia.¹³¹

¹³⁰ Наставление князя Г.А.Потемкина генералу П.С.Потемкину // АВПРИ, фонд. №5 “Секретные мнения КИД”, опис 5, част 1, (1783-1787 гг.) дело 580, – лл.117; Nəcəfli G. XVIII əsrdə..., s.126.

¹³¹ Письмо Г.А.Потемкина Таврическому князю А.А.Безбородко // АВПРИ, фонд. №5 “Секретные мнения КИД”, опис 5, част 1, (1783-1787 гг.) дело 582, – лл.103-106; Махмудов Я.М., Наджафли Г.Дж. Игры великих держав по созданию армянского государства на территории Азербайджана. / Я.М.Махмудов, Г.Дж. Наджафли. – Бишкек: «Улуу Тоолор», – 2021. – 392 с, с.201.

In the semi-chapter, on the basis of rich materials the secret orders of Catherine II to P.Potyomkin through G.Potyomkin in April-May 1783 – the overthrow of Ibrahim Khan of Shusha; the establishment of an Armenian province in Karabakh that depends only on Russia; using all the possibilities for the organization of this province, placing a great number of Armenians in Karabakh; handing the administration of this province to the Christian meliks as soon as the necessary conditions arose; in accordance with the empress' promise to the Armenians, the creation of a Christian state that will be delivered to the Armenians through G.Potyomkin; the facts about the Armenians always being in the center of attention for the creation of a strong Christian state in Asia and the Karabakh region under the supreme protection of Russia were studied.¹³²

In May 1783, Prince Grigory Potyomkin gave the following instructions to General Pavel Potyomkin: “*Armenians had to be always kept ready for Russia's plans in Armenia (in the document, the territory of the Iravan Khanate is presented under this name - G.N.) and in Karabakh*”, *Armenians should be cherished in order to create a strong Christian state consisting of Armenian and Karabakh territories in Asia under the supreme protection of Russia*”.¹³³

It is possible to observe that at the end of 1783, plans to seize the South Caucasus, including the Azerbaijani lands, and to help the Armenian state intensified in the Russian palace. At the time, two directions were considered for the intervention of Russian troops to the South Caucasus – *first, Derbend and along the Caspian Sea coasts to Anzali; and the second - attacking Karabakh and Garadagh*

¹³² See: Из ордера Г.А.Потемкина П.С.Потемкину (6 апреля 1783 г.) // РГВИА, фонд. №52, оп.2/203, дело 90, – лл.8-8об; Донесения князя Потемкина о резолюции про Ибраим хана Шушинского, о докторе Рейнегсе и о Фатали хане, от 19 мая 1783 г. Херсон // РГВИА, фонд. №52, оп.1/194, дело 32, – лл.1а-1аоб; Маркова О.П. Россия, Закавказье и международные..., – с.185; Mustafazadə T.T. XVIII yüzillik-XIX yüzilliyin əvvəllərində... s.60; Azərbaycan tarixi arxiv sənədlərində (XVIII-XX əsrin əvvəlləri). I cild. Rusiya Dövlət Hərbi Tarix Arxivinin sənədləri., s.91-92.

¹³³ Докладная записка П.С.Потемкина Г.А. Потемкину (мая 1783 г.) // РГВИА, фонд. №52, оп.2/203, дело 29, – л.31 – *surəti*: АМЕА ТІЕА, fond. №1795 /3/ – с.751.

from Georgia, and this campaign was supposed to end with the capture of Iravan. If the war with the Ottoman state did not happen, the Russian ruling circles planned to focus their main activities on the capture of Iravan and the creation of the Armenian state.¹³⁴

Since the Armenian population in the region was small in number, both sides – Czarist Russia and Armenians tried to take advantage of the other Christian population. The use of Christian meliks in the Karabakh Khanate and their taking into own hands in different ways was in the focus of both sides' attention. For example, General Potyomkin wrote in his secret letter to Prince Potyomkin that he had sent a gold watch to each of the nobles of Karabakh and spent 385* rubles on it, and the deliverer of the gifts was given 100 rubles.¹³⁵

And I.Argutinsky wrote in his letter dated September 10, 1784 addressed to Prince Potemkin: “*If the Shusha Khan is accepted under the patronage of the Empress, then I humbly request that our meliks (Karabakh meliks – G.N.) be accepted under Russian protection as a special structure.*”¹³⁶

Although the creation of an Armenian state is considered necessary in most of the military campaign plans prepared by the ruling circles of Russia, it appears that there was not any concrete idea regarding the specific area in which this state to be established, the form of administration, and whether the Iravan Khanate to be included in this state or not.

In the third sub-chapter entitled “*Last initiatives of Catherine II in the South Caucasus policy: secret instructions given to Valerian*”

¹³⁴ Реляция Г.А.Потемкина Екатерине, г.Дубровна // АВПРИ, фонд. №77 “СРП” оп.6. 1784 г. дело 469, – л.1-2; Армяно-русские отношения XVIII века., с.299.

* Considering that the price of 1 pound (16 kg) of flour at that time was 86 kopecks, one can imagine the value of the funds spent by the Russian ruling circles on the owners of Karabakh.

¹³⁵ Рапорт по секрету П.С.Потемкина Г.А.Потемкину (15 ноября 1783 г.) Георгиевская крепость // РГВИА, фонд. №52, оп.1/194, дело 286, ч.1, – лл.1-2.

¹³⁶ Письмо Иосифа Аргутинского Г.А.Потемкину (10 сентября) // РГАДА, ф.15, Разряд XV, Дипломатический отдел, оп.1, дело 149, л.196.

Zubov” the initiatives of tsarist Russia, which gained a wide activity in the South Caucasus after the Treaty of Yassy, to implement its plans to re-conquer the Caspian coastal provinces is traced. It was determined that during the invasion campaign of V.Zubov to Azerbaijan in 1796, tsarist Russia again planned to establish a Christian state in the territory of the Karabakh Khanate, as in 1783, and a secret instruction was given to V.Zubov from Petersburg “to overthrow the Karabakh Khanate and give power to local Christians”.¹³⁷

Chapter V entitled “**Activities of Czarist Russia and Armenians in Azerbaijan in the first half of the 19th century**” consists of 4 sub-chapters. In the first sub-chapter called “*Armenian factor, during the occupation of Northern Azerbaijan khanates by Russia*”, the policy of making sufficient use of the “Armenian factor” during the war waged by the Russian Empire with the Gajar state for the occupation of Azerbaijani lands in the first half of the 19th century was investigated.

At the same time, we trace Armenians’ claim to larger territories to establish their own state, encouraged by the end of the occupation of the Azerbaijani khanates. For example, Kh. Lazarev, in his project presented to the tsar's officials (December 27, 1827), was not satisfied with the territory of the occupied Iravan and Nakhchivan khanates, and wanted Sheki, Shamakhy and Karabakh khanates to join the Armenian state as well.¹³⁸

In the second sub-chapter, called “*Establishment of the Armenian province in north-western Azerbaijan lands and the consequences of this measure*”, the creation, essence and consequences of the Armenian province to be created in the occupied Azerbaijani lands were studied. The creation of a new administrative structure in the occupied Azerbaijani lands - the Armenian province, which corresponds to the interests of Russia and the expansion of activities in the direction of the Armenianization of the region - were studied.

¹³⁷ Инструкция генералу В.А.Зубову (19 февраля 1796 г.) // РГВИА, фонд. №846 (ВУА), оп.16, дело 2799, – лл.1-7об – *surati*: АМЕА, ТІЕА, fond. RİÜ, 1787-1800, с286.

¹³⁸ Сведения полученные через Армян о Персии и Грузии (27 февраля 1828 г.) // РГВИА, №846 (ВУА), оп.16, дело 4338, – лл.72-73.

In the third sub-chapter called “*Purposeful relocation of Armenians from the Qajar Iran to Northern Azerbaijani lands*”, it was revealed that despite a special instruction to resettle the Armenians relocated from Iran to Iravan, Nakhchivan and Karabakh regions; the given instructions was violated and along with Armenians forcibly moved from Maragha, Tabriz, Khoy, Selmas, Urmiya, Dilman regions, Armenians living in the territory called Iranian Kurdistan were also resettled to the occupied Azerbaijani lands.¹³⁹

In the IV sub-chapter entitled “*The purposeful resettlement of Armenians from the Ottoman Empire to the Northern Azerbaijani lands*”, the mass relocation of Armenians living in the Ottoman territory to the Azerbaijani lands of was investigated on the basis of new sources. During the resettlement of Armenians, the principle of voluntariness was violated, and influential Russian soldiers and local Armenian priests in the territory of the Ottoman state were used for their forced resettlement. In order to prevent the relocation, the Ottoman state issued “Afvnames” (February 1830)¹⁴⁰ about the forgiveness of the betrayal and atrocities committed by the Armenians during the Russian invasions, but it could not prevent it.

The fact that the relocation of Armenians from the Ottoman Empire to the Iravan region still continued in the 30s and 40s of the 19th century has been confirmed on the basis of new archival documents.¹⁴¹

In the “**Conclusion**” of the dissertation, the main scientific and theoretical conclusions obtained during the research are summarized: –The idea of creating an Armenian state in the South Caucasus was not a real plan of Tsarist Russia. The empire used Armenians as a tool to realize its strategic plans, to occupy the South Caucasus,

¹³⁹ Neumann F. Geschichte der Übersiedlung..., S.54-55.

¹⁴⁰ Serasker Osman Paşa'nın kaimesi // BOA, Hatt-i Hümayun fondu, №1043/43153; №1043/43153D; Beydilli K. 1828-1829 Osmanlı-Rus Savaşı'nda..., s.387.

¹⁴¹ Выписка из отношении Ген.фельд маршала графа Пакевича Эриванского генерал-Адютанту князю Ливену от 8-го августа №256 // АВПРИ, ф.343 “Армянские дела”, оп.46, дело 5. – л.л.25-25об, 26-26об.

including the Azerbaijani khanates, and to consolidate itself in these lands;

– From time to time, Armenians have created a false “Armenian history” by appropriating lands belonging to many states in which they live. As for the essence of the concept of “Armenian state”, the state or state structures presented by them have neither a fixed historical geography nor a tradition. Therefore, the “Armenian state or state structures” established in history had no connection with the Tsarist Russia and the state that Armenians planned to establish on the Azerbaijani lands in terms of territory and legal-political succession;

– Trying to take advantage of every opportunity for their goals, the Armenians first turned to Western Europe to present themselves in the struggle against the Ottoman and Safavi states, but they did not succeed.

– In the 18th century, Armenians, who sought to present the lands belonging to the Azerbaijani khanates as Armenian, to create a support for themselves in the fight against the khans, turned to the Russian tsars and were able to organize themselves here;

– The onomastic units in the primary sources on the subject in different languages, the issue of ethnic identity in the letters written in Armenian on behalf of the Christian-Albanian meliks of Karabakh were seriously falsified when translated by Armenians into Russian;

– In the first three fourth of the 19th century, Tsarist Russia completed the occupation of Northern Azerbaijani lands, the creation of an Armenian province in the lands of the former Iravan and Nakhchivan khanates, and the mass relocation of Armenians from the territories of the Gajars and Ottoman states to this region paved the way for the establishment of an Armenian state in the Northern Azerbaijani lands in the future.

– As a result of this process, which had serious consequences for the local Turkish-Muslim population, Armenians settled in mass in the Azerbaijani lands and were able to build permanent settlements for themselves here.

The main content of the dissertation was reflected in the following scientific works published by the author:

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4. XIX The relocation of Armenians to the lands of North Azerbaijan in the 19th century is an historical truth (together with academician Y.Mahmudov). – Bakı: “Turhan”, – 2020. – 110 p.
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