

**REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN**

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**ABSTRACT**

**of the dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy**

**THE STRUGGLE OF THE NAKHCHIVAN AUTONOMOUS  
REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN AGAINST THE THREAT OF  
ARMENIAN AGGRESSION  
(1988-1993 YEARS)**

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## GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DISSERTATION

**Relevance and performed degree of the topic.** The end of the 80s the beginning of the 90s of the 20th century entered the history of not only Azerbaijan, but the world as a period of fundamental changes. With the decline, defeat and fall of the Soviet Union and the communist system, the bipolar world or the Yalta-Potsdam era in the international system ended and the transformation into a multipolar world system began. Like other countries of the Union, the Republic of Azerbaijan regained its state independence. This was the result of the socio-political processes that took place in the late 80s and early 90s of the 20th century, as well as the national liberation struggle of the Azerbaijani people. On the eve of the restoration of state independence, Azerbaijan faced the groundless territorial claims and aggressive war of Armenia, a neighbor and member of the union. In the historiography of the homeland, Armenia's territorial claims and military aggression against Azerbaijan are mainly studied in the context of the First Karabakh War, while the battles conducted in other directions are evaluated as manifestations of this war. However, a systematic analysis of the unjustified territorial claims of Armenians against Azerbaijan since the 19th century shows that it is inaccurate or incomplete to assess the war waged by Armenia against the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic of Azerbaijan in the late 80s and early 90s of the 20th century as only one of the manifestations of the Karabakh war. it is not a scientific conclusion. In this regard, the study of the struggle of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic of Azerbaijan against the threat of Armenian occupation in 1988-1993 is relevant in terms of clarifying some questions that still remain in historiography.

Another point that makes the study of the topic relevant is how the autonomous republic was saved from the military aggression of Armenia and the threat of occupation. Not only in the country, but in almost the entire post-Soviet space, chaos and anarchy prevail, and in the conditions where the military aggression of Armenia is intensifying day by day, the study of the mechanisms of ensuring social and political stability in the autonomous republic, the study of

how to organize the fight against military aggression with foreign political means is a practical topic. determines its relevance. One of the issues that is important to study is the study of the strategy of the war conducted by the Armenian armed groups in the direction of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic in those years, and in the later period by the Armenian army. Starting the war in the direction of Karki-Sadarak-Karagaj, diversionary activities in the direction of Batabat-Bichenak, relatively less observation of attacks in the direction of Ordubad is important to analyze from a military strategic point of view. From this point of view, it is necessary to study these attacks not as separate battles without a system, but as parts of a single war. In the studied years, Armenia's war against the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, which is an integral part of Azerbaijan, failed. This failure was related to the timely detection of threats to military and national security in the autonomous republic, and systematic work in this area. The factor of the political leader -Heydar Aliyev and the historically formed way of thinking in the population of the region played an important role in the formation of this system and the emergence of a flexible reaction against the aggressor. National leader Heydar Aliyev highly appreciated the struggle of the people of Nakhchivan against the threat of occupation in those years and said:

*“The citizens of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic have never lost their will, they have not broken, they have protected and are protecting the territory of Azerbaijan with bravery and bravery, they have stood guard over their land, they are able and ready to protect their land until the last minute, standing in front of Armenia.”*<sup>1</sup>

The President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, called those years “the real test period” for Nakhchivan. He clearly characterized the importance of the “leader-people model” in the autonomous republic's honorable exit from the current difficulties:

*“The late 1980s were a real testing period for Nakhchivan. Fortunately, under the leadership of the Great Leader, the people of*

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<sup>1</sup> Əliyev, H.Ə. Müstəqilliyimiz əbədidir: [46 cilddə] / H.Ə.Əliyev. – Bakı: Azərneşr, c. 5, – 1998. – s. 133-134.

*Nakhchivan were able to come out of this difficult ordeal with honor. If Heydar Aliyev had not been in Nakhchivan in those years and the people of Nakhchivan had not united closely around the Great Leader, the fate of Nakhchivan could have been very difficult. Because the Armenian nationalists had already started a policy of aggression against Azerbaijan, and their cunning plans included the occupation of Nakhchivan.”*<sup>2</sup>

It was the unity of the leader and the people that not only prevented the military aggression of Armenia, but also allowed the complete withdrawal of the former Soviet army units from the territory of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic. One of the factors determining the relevance of the topic is the study of those historical processes.

It is natural that every military-political process has economic and social effects as well as socio-political manifestations. In most cases, these social and economic effects are negative for the party subjected to military aggression. In this regard, the study of the economic and social problems caused by the military aggression of Armenia and the blockade policy against the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, as well as the ways to eliminate them, is one of the most important issues for the historiography of the Motherland.

In Azerbaijani historiography, there are difficulties arising from objective and subjective reasons related to the writing of works on the late 80s early 90s of the 20th century. Most of the books and articles written about it are subjective or ideological in nature. This makes it necessary to examine the issues in a scientific context. Although there are no works in the historiography of the homeland that directly identify the struggle of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic of Azerbaijan against the threat of invasion by Armenia within the chronological framework of 1988-1993, many scientists and specialists have paid attention to defense and security issues in their works in a general context. The works of Ismail Hajiyev, Adalat Gasimov, Mammad Mammadov, Mais Amrahov, Ogtay Sultanov, Ali Aliyev, Elmira Akhundova, Zahmat Shahverdiyev,

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<sup>2</sup> Əliyev, İ.H. İnkişaf məqsədimizdir: [Çoxcildli] / İ.H.Əliyev. – Bakı: Azər nəşr, c. 62, – 2018. – s. 33-34.

Ismail Zeynalov, Alakbar Jabbarli, Musa Gasimli, Bahar Muradova, Elchin Ahmadov, Havva Mammadova, Hamza Jafarov, Abdulla Mustafayev, Hafiza Aliyeva, Vagif Mammadov, Rafiq Rahimov, Mehman Shabanov and others are especially important in this regard. attracts attention.

I.Hajiyev talked about military-political processes and defense measures in almost all his works on the history of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic on the eve of the fall of the USSR and after the independence. From this point of view, the works entitled “Territorial claims and bloody crimes of Armenians against Azerbaijan”, “Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic on the way to independence”, “Social and political life, socio-economic and cultural development of Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic” are particularly noteworthy.<sup>3</sup>

In A.Gasimov's monographs and articles, H.Aliyev's multifaceted activities for the defense of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic as the head of the Azerbaijan SSR and the independent Republic of Azerbaijan were studied. In his works, he analyzed the work done to prevent Armenia from occupying Nakhchivan in 1990-1993.<sup>4</sup>

In the works of M. Mammadov, the socio-political processes and the development of Nakhchivan are defined as the object of research. It should be unequivocally noted that these works are among the studies that best reflect the struggle of Nakhchivan against the military aggression of Armenia.<sup>5</sup> While studying the history of the national

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<sup>3</sup> Hacıyev, İ.M. Naxçıvan Muxtar Respublikasının ictimai-siyasi həyatı, sosial-iqtisadi və mədəni inkişafı / İ.M.Hacıyev. – Naxçıvan: Əcəmi, – 2011. – 272 s.; Ermənilərin Azərbaycanca qarşı ərazi iddiaları və qanlı cinayətləri / İ.M.Hacıyev. – Naxçıvan: Əcəmi, – 2012. – 192 s.; Naxçıvan Muxtar Respublikası müstəqillik yollarında / İ.M.Hacıyev. – Bakı: Elm və təhsil, – 2016. – 360 s.; Гаджиев, И.М. Территориальные притязания преступления армян против Азербайджана / И.М.Гаджиев. – Москва: Столица, – 2016. – 182 с.

<sup>4</sup> Qasimov, Ə. Q. Heydər Əliyev və Naxçıvan Muxtar Respublikasının inkişaf tarixi / Ə.Q.Qasimov. – Bakı: Turxan, – 264 s.; Naxçıvanın erməni təcavüzündən qorunmasında Heydər Əliyevin xidmətləri // – Bakı: Tarix və onun problemləri, – 2009. № 3, – s. 215-222.

<sup>5</sup> Məmmədov, M.Y. Naxçıvan Muxtar Respublikasında ictimai-siyasi proseslər (1988-2005-ci illər) / M.Y.Məmmədov. – Bakı: Şirvanəşr, – 2005. -208 s.; Siyasətdə Naxçıvan

liberation movement in Azerbaijan in the 20th century, M.Amrahov also mentioned the processes of the 80s and 90s, which are considered its culmination. In his work, the processes taking place in Nakhchivan were also analyzed as an important phase of these processes.<sup>6</sup>

O.Sultanov's work is entirely dedicated to the political struggle in Azerbaijan in the 80s and 90s of the 20th century.<sup>7</sup> The author has thoroughly studied the impact of the political processes that took place in the world and the USSR during those years on the situation in Azerbaijan and the rise of the people's movement. He has deeply analyzed the process of the formation of the people's movement and democratic forces in Azerbaijan, revealing the objective causes of the political and military crises of that period.<sup>8</sup>

A.Aliyev analyzed the events that happened in Nakhchivan in 1914-1992 based on both historical sources and personal testimonies. In particular, the author gave interesting information in his work about the appearance of the first protests against the Soviet Empire and the military aggression of Armenia in Nakhchivan, the first defensive measures implemented to prevent the invasion, and the steps taken to solve the issues of supplying weapons to the established military units.<sup>9</sup>

Book V of the multivolume series "Personality and Time" written by E.Akhundova based on documents, sources, opinions and memories of witnesses is dedicated to the Nakhchivan period of Heydar Aliyev's political activity.<sup>10</sup> Although the work is not scientific in

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dərsləri / M.Məmmədov. – Bakı: Araz, – 2009. – 416 s.; Məmmədov, M.Y. Naxçıvan: dövlət müstəqilliyi uğrunda mübarizənin dayağı / M.Y.Məmmədov. – Bakı: Şirvanəşr, – 2011. – 302 s.

<sup>6</sup> Əmrahov, M. İ. XX əsrdə Azərbaycanda milli-azadlıq hərəkatı. Ali məktəblər üçün dərslik. – Bakı: ADPU-nun nəşriyyatı, – 2018. – 484 s.

<sup>7</sup> Sultanov, O.B. XX əsrin 80-cı illərinin sonu, 90-cı illərinin əvvəllərində Azərbaycanda siyasi mübarizə / O.B.Sultanov. – Bakı: Maarif, – 1995. – 232 s.

<sup>8</sup> Sultanov, O.B. XX əsrin 80-cı illərinin sonu, 90-cı illərinin əvvəllərində Azərbaycanda siyasi mübarizə / O.B.Sultanov. – Bakı: Elm və təhsil, – 2010. – 288 s.

<sup>9</sup> Əliyev, Ə.İ. Əlincə yaddaşı: Naxçıvan 1914-1992 / Ə.İ.Əliyev. – Bakı: Gənclik, –1997. – 304 s.

<sup>10</sup> Axundova, E. Şəxsiyyət və zaman [6 hissə] / E.Axundova. – Bakı: CBS, V hissə. – 2013. – 736 s.

nature, the richness of its sources makes it possible to identify many new facts about the military and political processes in the autonomous republic at that time and bring them into scientific circulation.

In the second volume of the book “History of Azerbaijani Parliamentarism” by M.Gasimli and B.Muradova, published in 2018, discussions held in the Azerbaijani parliament during that period regarding Armenia's military aggression against Nakhchivan are reflected based on archival documents.<sup>11</sup> In M.Gasimli's work “History of the Republic of Azerbaijan”, the struggle for national independence in Nakhchivan, the border movement, the activities of national leader Heydar Aliyev in the direction of ensuring the protection and development of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic were studied on the basis of archival documents and other reliable sources.<sup>12</sup>

E.Ahmadov's monograph paid attention to the most diverse aspects of Armenia's military aggression against the Republic of Azerbaijan, and presented certain information on the effects of the ethnic cleansing process carried out in the late 80s of the 20th century on the autonomous republic, as well as on other areas of the country.<sup>13</sup> In another book by the author, events and facts related to the military aggression of Armenia to Azerbaijan and the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic in 1987-2011 were presented in chronological order. The publication is encyclopedic.<sup>14</sup>

H.Mammadova has researched the historical roots of the Armenia-Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, its key stages, and particularly the situation after the restoration of independence. She focused on the work done within international organizations concerning this issue and the positions held by regional power centers. This work is

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<sup>11</sup> Qasımlı M., Muradova B. Azərbaycan parlamentarizmi tarixi: [2 cilddə] / M.C.Qasımlı, B. Muradova. – Bakı: Mütərcim, c. 2, – 2018. – 680 s.

<sup>12</sup> Qasımlı, M.C. Azərbaycan Respublikasının tarixi (1991-2021): [2 cilddə]. – Bakı: Bakı Dövlət Universiteti, c. I. – 2021. – 384 s.

<sup>13</sup> Əhmədov E.İ. Ermənistanın Azərbaycana təcavüzü: etnik təmizləmə, soyqırımı, terror, işğal / E.İ.Əhmədov. – Bakı: Azərbaycan Respublikasının Prezidenti yanında Elmin İnkişafı Fondu, – 2015. c. 2, – 408 s.

<sup>14</sup> Əhmədov, E.İ. Ermənistanın Azərbaycana təcavüzü: təhlili xronika (1987-2011) Ensiklopedik nəşr / E.İ.Əhmədov. – Bakı: Letterpres, – 2012. – 101 s.

significant not only in terms of the Karabakh conflict but also in the study of the history of Armenians' settlement in Nakhchivan and their territorial claims.<sup>15</sup>

One chapter of the monograph written jointly by Z.Shahverdiyev and I.Zeynalov is called "Historical events of 1989-1993 in Nakhchivan". Although the chapter is not extensive and comprehensive in terms of volume, the authors generally paid attention to the main processes that took place at that time. At the same time, it should be noted that the description and analysis of the processes in the autonomous republic in that period in the work is not systematic.<sup>16</sup> A.Jabbarli's monograph is dedicated to the historical problems of Heydar Aliyev and Nakhchivan. The direct research object of the work is not related to military and political processes. However, as a political leader and statesman, Heydar Aliyev's views on the historical problems of Nakhchivan, as well as the years of his activity here are examined, the work can be considered an important source for studying the subject.<sup>17</sup>

The book "Pages of the Struggle for National Independence and Freedom in Nakhchivan's History (the 80s-90s of the 20th century)" by Hamza Jafarov and Abdulla Mustafayev is one of the significant works in the study of the topic. The authors have thoroughly researched the impact of the Karabakh war on Nakhchivan's socio-political life, the settlement of people expelled from Western Azerbaijan in the cities and districts of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic and the activities of the national leader Heydar Aliyev in

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<sup>15</sup> Məmmədova, H.İ. Azərbaycan Respublikasının xarici siyasətində Ermənistan-Azərbaycan Dağlıq Qarabağ münaqişəsi / H.İ.Məmmədova. – Bakı: Elm, – 2009. – 360 s.

<sup>16</sup> Şahverdiyev, Z.Ə., Zeynalov, İ.A. Naxçıvan Muxtar Respublikası 1991-2001-ci illərdə: [Elektron kitab] / Z.Ə.Şahverdiyev. İ.A.Zeynalov. – Bakı: Qismət, – 2002. – 168 s.

<sup>17</sup> Cabbarlı, Ə. Heydər Əliyev və Naxçıvan tarixi məsələləri / Ə.Cabbarlı. – Naxçıvan: Əcəmi, – 2015. – 232 s.

lifting the blockade on Nakhchivan. They have also incorporated sources from the period into their research.<sup>18</sup>

H.Aliyev's work is directly dedicated to the military processes that took place in that period. The book is written in journalistic language. The opinions and statements of the inhabitants of the villages located along the border zone, the direct witnesses of the participants of the battles have been collected here.<sup>19</sup> In this regard, V.Mammadov's book "Battles of Sadarak" has similar characteristics and attracts attention.<sup>20</sup> M.Shabanov's research primarily focuses on studying the activities of the national leader Heydar Aliyev in ensuring Azerbaijan's territorial integrity.<sup>21</sup>

Relations with the Republic of Türkiye and the Islamic Republic of Iran played an important role in the struggle of the autonomous republic against the military aggression of Armenia on the international political level, especially after January 1990, as well as in the elimination of the economic and social problems caused by the military aggression. In this regard, R.Rahimov's dissertation "Foreign relations of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic (1991-2001)".<sup>22</sup> J.Jahangirli's monograph on Azerbaijan-Türkiye relations.<sup>23</sup> E.Kalbizade, Y.Bakhshiyeva, A.Azimov

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<sup>18</sup> Cəfərov, H., Mustafayev, A. Milli müstəqillik və azadlıq uğrunda mübarizə tarixinin Naxçıvan səhifələri (XX yüzilliyin 80-90-cı illəri) / H.Cəfərov, A. Mustafayev. – Bakı: Elm və təhsil, – 2012. – 170 s.

<sup>19</sup> Əliyeva, H. Naxçıvan necə döyüşdü, müdafiə olundu / H.Əliyeva. – Bakı: Şirvanşır, – 2009. – 168 s.

<sup>20</sup> Məmmədov, V. Sədərək şəhidləri / V.Məmmədov. Novosibirsk: H.Əliyev adına Beynəlxalq Azərbaycan Forumu, – 2007. – 238 s

<sup>21</sup> Şabanov, M.S. Heydər Əliyevin Azərbaycanın ərazi bütövlüyünün təmin olunması sahəsində fəaliyyəti: / Tarix üzrə fəlsəfə doktoru elmi dərəcəsi almaq üçün təqdim olunmuş dis. Avto.: [Elektron resurs] / Heydər Əliyev İrsi Beynəlxalq Elektron Kitabxana, – 2012. URL: <https://lib.aliyev-heritage.org/az/5057166.html>

<sup>22</sup> Rəhimov, R. V. Naxçıvan Muxtar Respublikasının xarici əlaqələri: (1991-2001-ci illər): / tarix elmləri namizədi dis./ – Naxçıvan, 2002. – 147 s.

<sup>23</sup> Cahangirli, C.X. Müasir dövrdə Azərbaycan-Türkiyə münasibətləri / C.X.Cahangirli. – Bakı: – 2006. – 109 s.

Azerbaijan-Iran<sup>24</sup> and Armenia-Iran<sup>25</sup> special mention should be made of his research on Iran relations.

The works of some other authors (Hajifakhraddin Safarli, Emin Shikhaliyev, Elman Jafarli, Fakhraddin Jafarov and Nadir Huseynbeyli, Abdulla Mustafayev) are important in terms of reflecting events and processes that serve to clarify the topic.<sup>26</sup>

The materials of the seventh volume of the multivolume “History of Azerbaijan” published in 2008<sup>27</sup>, “the third volume of the three-volume “History of Nakhchivan”<sup>28</sup>, the work “Heydar Aliyev and the creation of the army” published in 2006<sup>29</sup> were also included in the research.

Among the foreign authors, H.Kurt, N.Sariahmetoğlu, A.V. Antipov, A.A.Markarov, N.V.Kostenko, K.V.Kuzovkin, V.I.Feskov, V.I.Golikov, K.A.Kalashnikov, S.A.Slugin, V.Shironin, T.E.Chaladze, the subject is also a theme some points related to it have been reflected.<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>24</sup> Qasımlı, M.C., Kəlbizadə, E.H. və b. Heydər Əliyev və Qafqaz problemləri / M.C.Qasımlı, E.H.Kəlbizadə, G.M.Musayeva, S.İ.Həbibbəyli. – Bakı: Aspoliqraf, – 2023. – s. 256.

<sup>25</sup> Kəlbizadə E.H. Ermənistan İran İslam Respublikasının Qafqaz siyasətində / E.H.Kəlbizadə, Y.Ü.Baxşiyeva, Ə.D.Əzimov. – Bakı: MTM Innovation MMC, – 2019. – 360 s.

<sup>26</sup> Səfərli, F.Y. Heydər Əliyev irsi - əbədiyaşar təlim / F.Y.Səfərli. – Naxçıvan: Əcəmi, – 2014. – 200 s.; Şihaliyev, E.A, Azərbaycan-Ermənistan ilişkilerinde Rusya ve İran Faktörü: / Tarih (genel türk tarihi anabilim dalında doktora tezi / – Ankara, 2004. – 192 s.; Arifoğlu (Şihaliyev), E. Türkiye ve Azerbaycan açısından ermeni sorunu. Ankara, Türk Vakfı yayınları, – 2001, – 231 s.; Cəfərli, E.Y. Naxçıvanda erməni-Azərbaycan münaqişəsi / E.Y.Cəfərli. – Bakı: Nurlan, – 2008. – 280 s.; Cəfərov, F.A, Hüseynbəyli, N. Naxçıvan tərəqqi illərində (1921-1946-cı illər) // – Naxçıvan: Naxçıvan Dövlət Universiteti Elmi əsərlər, – 2020. № 2 (103), – s. 19-24.; Mustafayev, A.N. Ermənistanın soyqırım və deportasiya siyasətində Naxçıvan / A.N.Mustafayev. – Bakı: ADPU-nin nəşriyatı, – 194 s.

<sup>27</sup> Azərbaycan tarixi: [7 cildə] / – Bakı: Elm, c. 7. – 2008. – 570 s.

<sup>28</sup> Naxçıvan tarixi: [Üç cildə] / – Naxçıvan: Əcəmi, c.3. – 2015. – 560 s.

<sup>29</sup> Heydər Əliyev və ordu quruculuğu / – Bakı: Adiloğlu, – 2006. – 480 s.

<sup>30</sup> Kurt, H. The Times Gazetesinde Dağlık Karabağ Olayları (1988-1991) // Tarih ve gelecek dergisi, – 2021, Mart. – Vol. 7, №1, – s. 81-97; Sariahmetoğlu, N. 21. Yüzyılında Hocalı olayları // Fırat Üniversitesi Orta Doğu Araştırmaları Dergisi, – 2013, c. IX, № 2, – s. 123- 142; Антипов, А.В. Лев Рохлин: Жизнь и смерть генерала:

In the various speeches and speeches of the national leader Heydar Aliyev, who exercised the supreme leadership of the autonomous republic, including its armed forces, during the most difficult periods of military aggression, the facts about the events of that time and the objective political and historical attitude to them were expressed. As a direct witness of those times, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan İlham Aliyev stated his views on the military and political processes that took place in Nakhchivan in 1988-1993 in his speeches from time to time. Thus, the multivolumes “Our Independence is Eternal”, “Development is Our Goal” and “The Return” are important sources for conducting research.<sup>31</sup>

An important part of the sources for the study of that period can be found in the periodicals (“Azerbaijan”, “Khalq” newspaper, “Sharq qapisi”, “Nakhchivan”, “Adalat”, “Vedibasari”, etc. (Azerbaijan); “Hurriyyet”, “Milliyyet” (Turkiye); “Krasnaya Zvezda” (Russia), etc.) organizes printed news and articles. However, when using such sources, the socio-political nature of the processes that took place in that period was taken into account and the information was treated critically. Archival documents (State Archive of Azerbaijan Republic and State Archive of Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic) and official documents (e-ganun.az) constitute an important part of the sources used in the research work. In particular, the cases where the decisions

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[Электронный ресурс] / Royallib.com, – Москва: ЭКСМО-Пресс, – 1998. – 160 с.; Власть и диссиденты: из док. КГБ и ЦК КПСС / Подгот. Текста и коммент: А.А.Макаров, Н. В. Костенко, Г. В. Кузовкин. – Москва: Московская Хельсинкская Группа, – 2006. – 282 с.; Феськов В. И. и др. Вооружённые Силы СССР после Второй мировой войны: от Красной Армии к Советской / В.И.Феськов, В.И.Голиков, К.А.Калашников, С.А.Слугин. – Томск: Издательство Томского университета, ч. 1: Сухопутные войска – 2013. – 640 с.; Чаладзе, Т.Е. Карабахский геноцид: обреченный Ходжалы / Т.Е.Чаладзе; ред. Э. Тагиева. – Баку: Indigo, – 2009. – 846 с.; Широинин, В. КГБ-ЦРУ. Секретные пружины перестройки [Электронный вариант книга] / В. Широинин. – Москва: Ягуар, – 1997. – 131 с.

<sup>31</sup> Əliyev, H.Ə. Müstəqilliyimiz əbədidir: [46 cildə] / H.Ə.Əliyev. – Bakı: Azərənəşr, c. 4, – 1997. 528 s.; c. 5, – 1998. – 500 s.; Əliyev, İ.H. İnkişaf məqsədimizdir: [Çoxcildli] / İ.H.Əliyev. – Bakı: Azərənəşr, c. 62, – 2018. – 400 s.; Qayıdış (1990-1993) / – Bakı: Azərbaycan, – 2008. – 840 s.; Qayıdış (1990-1993). Sənədlər toplusu. – Bakı: Azərbaycan, – 1996. – 780 s.

taken by the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic in 1991 and 1992, stored in fund number 2 of the State Archive of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, allow the disclosure of important issues related to the history of that period.

The fact that the studied period belongs to our most recent history increases the importance of Internet, video and photo resources for research. In the research process, interviews and surveys were conducted with persons who held certain positions at that time, materials from their personal archives (for example, Urfullah Gurbanov, who was the head of the counter-intelligence department of the Nakhchivan State National Defense Committee in the early 90s of the 20th century) and memories were used.<sup>32</sup>

**Object and predmet of research.** The object of the research is the process of the struggle of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic of Azerbaijan against the threat of occupation by Armenia in the years 1988-1993, and the subject is the factors that conditioned Armenia's attacks and military aggression against the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, the forms of organization of Armenian attacks and raids, the defense potential of the autonomous republic during that period, the forms of struggle against the aggressor, and the impacts of military aggression on the region's socio-economic life.

**Research goals and objectives.** The purpose of the study is to examine the history of the struggle of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic of Azerbaijan against the threat of Armenian occupation based on new information, witness statements and new materials brought into scientific circulation, taking into account the changing military and political conditions in the region. A number of tasks are planned for this:

- Investigating the effects of the political struggle against the empire on the military processes in Nakhchivan under the conditions of the decline of the USSR;

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<sup>32</sup> Qurbanov, U.Ə., Qurbanova, R.U. Xüsusi tapşırıq / U.Ə.Qurbanov, R.U.Qurbanova. – Naхçыван: Əсəми, – 2023. – 208 s.; Воспоминания военного депутата о родине Гейдара Алиева / – Нахчыван: Аджери, – 2019. – 152 с.

-Determining the conditions that led to the beginning of the military aggression of Armenia against the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic of Azerbaijan and cross-border clashes in the 80s of the 20th century;

-Analyzing the role of national leader Heydar Aliyev in ensuring political stability in the autonomous republic in the period of political upheavals in the post-Soviet space, including in the Republic of Azerbaijan, in the light of new facts and information;

- Research of the main directions and mechanisms of the struggle with foreign political means against the policy of military aggression carried out by Armenia against the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic;

- Studying the forms and mechanisms of organizing the armed struggle to stop the attacks of Armenia against Nakhchivan;

- Revealing the similar and different features of the battles in Sadarak, Shahbuz, Julfa-Ordubad directions based on comparative analysis;

- Study of threats to military and national security and measures to eliminate them based on the information of the counter-intelligence department of the State National Defense Committee of Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic and other reliable sources;

- Studying the history of the withdrawal of Russian troops from Nakhchivan and the formation of the national army;

- Grouping of the economic and social problems that appeared in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic with the direct effects of the occupation and blockade and researching the activities in the direction of their elimination during that period.

**The methods of the research.** Various general and special research methods—historical-genetic, historical-comparative, content-analysis were used during the writing of the dissertation.

**The main provisions of the defense.** The study of the topic based on new sources and in the context of the military and political conditions of the new era allows us to put forward a number of propositions:

- Armenia's military aggression against Nakhchivan was not only a manifestation of the I Karabakh War, but a military process that emerged as a result of Armenians' baseless claims and goals to capture Nakhchivan. This is proven by the activities of Armenian terrorist political organizations since the 19th century, their propaganda in different parts

of the world in the 70s and 80s, and the statements of the military and political leadership of the Armenian SSR and the Republic of Armenia;

- Points regarding the place and role of parts of the Soviet armed forces in the region in the struggle of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic against the military aggression of Armenia are quite controversial. Although these forces tried to help Armenia, these attempts were neutralized as a result of the strong resistance of the people, the activities of the military-intelligence agencies of the autonomous republic and, most importantly, the purposeful policy of Heydar Aliyev;

- In historiography, it is wrong to characterize the armed groups that carried out attacks against Nakhchivan in the late 80s and early 90s of the 20th century simply as volunteer armed groups, armed bandits, and informal associations. In fact, this is the terminology used by the Armenian political authorities to evade responsibility for the bloody events of the 90s of the 20th century. In fact, the political leadership of the Armenian SSR supported the formation of those armed units in various ways.

- Despite the confusion and all the difficulties of the processes that took place at that time, the military-intelligence agencies operating in Nakhchivan and organized with the participation of the national forces took many successful and adequate measures both in the autonomous republic and in other areas of the country, as well as outside the country's borders, especially in the territory of the aggressor country. have implemented.

- Armenia's military aggression had not only political, but also economic and social effects. Although these effects are quite severe and mostly negative, on the other hand, they have led to the expansion of the autonomous republic's foreign economic and humanitarian relations, and the formation of a more prepared way of life in the population under conditions of blockade and emergency situations.

**Scientific novelty of the research.** In the thesis, for the first time, the struggle of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic against the military aggression of Armenia in the late 80s and early 90s of the 20th century was comprehensively studied. The political, economic and

social effects of the ongoing military processes are systematized in the form of a cause-and-effect relationship:

- For the first time in historiography, the information about the operations carried out by the military intelligence agencies in order to fight against Armenia was brought into scientific circulation.<sup>33</sup>

- The characteristic features of the clashes that took place in the border areas with Armenia according to the territorial and regionalization principles have been determined.<sup>34</sup>

- Many points related to the organizational structure of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic State Defense Committee, which have been protected as closed information for many years, have been clarified for the first time.

- The activities of the military units and political units that carried out the military aggression of Armenia in the direction of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic were studied.<sup>35</sup>

- Evidence that for the first time, the construction of the national army in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic began not after the soldiers of the 75th motorized rifle division and the 41st border detachment left the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic by handing

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<sup>33</sup>Qurbanov, U.Ə., Qurbanova, R.U. Xüsusi tapşırıq / U.Ə.Qurbanov, R.U.Qurbanova. – Naxçıvan: Əcəmi, – 2023. – 208 s.; Qurbanova, R.U. Naxçıvan ermənilərin işğalçılıq planlarında // – “Beynəlxalq İpək Yolu və Naxçıvan” beynəlxalq elmi konfransı, – Naxçıvan: “Naxçıvan” Universiteti, – 22-23 noyabr, – 2022, – s. 429-432.

<sup>34</sup>Qurbanova, R.U. Ulu öndər Heydər Əliyevin Naxçıvan dövrü fəaliyyəti və Milli Müdafiə Komitəsinin yaradılması // – Naxçıvan: “Naxçıvan” Universiteti. Elmi əsərlər. – 2020. № 4. – s. 175-181.

<sup>35</sup>Qurbanova, R.U. Heydər Əliyev və Naxçıvandan başlanan ordu quruculuğu (1-ci hissə) // Naxçıvan: “Naxçıvan” Universitetinin Elmi Əsərlər jurnalı, – 2021. № 2, – s. 157-163.; Qurbanova, R.U. Dağlıq Qarabağ hadisələri və Naxçıvan // Beynəlxalq Sosial və Humanitar Elmlər üzrə III Qarabağ Müasir Tədqiqatlar Konqresi, – Qarabağ: İKSAD, – 07-10 iyun, – 2022, – s. 123-129.

over weapons, ammunition and equipment, but earlier with the efforts of national leader Heydar Aliyev. has been given.<sup>36</sup>

- The activity of the great leader Heydar Aliyev against the threat of occupation of Nakhchivan by Armenia was studied.<sup>37</sup>

- The struggle of the people of Nakhchivan against the Armenian occupation was also included in the study.<sup>38</sup>

**Theoretical and practical significance of research.** The research has a scientific and theoretical importance from the point of view of studying the military history of the autonomous republic and our country. The main provisions and results of the dissertation can be used:

- In writing generalized works dedicated to the military history of Azerbaijan, textbooks and teaching aids for higher schools;
- Lectures and seminar classes in higher schools, including special education institutions (academies, military high schools, etc.);

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<sup>36</sup> Qurbanova, R.U. Heydər Əliyev və Naxçıvandan başlanan ordu quruculuğu (1-ci hissə) // Naxçıvan: “Naxçıvan” Universitetinin Elmi Əsərlər jurnalı, – 2021. № 2, – s. 157-163.

<sup>37</sup> Гурбанова, Р.У. Использование политико-дипломатических средств для предотвращения военной агрессии Армении против Нахичеванской Автономной Республики // – Bakı: Sosial Elmlər jurnalı, – 2024. № 1, – s. 104-114.; Qurbanova, R.U. Heydar Aliyev's role in eliminating threats to the military and national security of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic (1988-1993 years) // – Bakı: Geostrategiya jurnalı, – 2024. № 3, – s. 111-114.; Qurbanova, R.U. Heydər Əliyevin dövlətçilik fəaliyyətində hər b quruculuğu // – “Heydər Əliyev və milli dövlətçilik məsələləri” mövzusunda respublika elmi konfransı, – Naxçıvan: “Naxçıvan” Universiteti, – 25-26 may, – 2023, – s. 366-371.; Qurbanova, R.U. Relations between the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic and Turkey during the blockade (1991-1993) // – Матеріали XLV-ої Міжнародної науково-практичної конференції, – 07 червня, – 2024. – Греція: – pp. 429-432.

<sup>38</sup> Qurbanova, R.U. Heydər Əliyev və Naxçıvandan başlanan ordu quruculuğu (2-ci hissə) // – Bakı: 2nd International congress of Azerbaijan's architect Heydar Aliyev in the 99th anniversary of his birth, – 2022, 10 may. – Bakı: İKSAD, – 2022. – s. 218-222.; Qurbanova, R.U. Impact of Armenia's military aggression on the socio-political process in Nakhchivan // – Naxçıvan: Naxçıvan Dövlət Universiteti. Elmi əsərlər, – 2024. № 3 (128), – s. 51-58.

- Training the specialists who will participate in the formation of the military and security policy of Azerbaijan;
- In predicting the main directions of the future military aggression of Armenia.

**Approbation and application of the research.** Articles of the author have been published in scientific journals of Azerbaijan and foreign countries regarding the scientific propositions put forward in the dissertation work and the obtained results. At the same time, reports were made at international and national level scientific meetings on various aspects of the researched topic.

**Name of the organization where the dissertation work is performed.** The dissertation work was performed at the “History of Azerbaijan” department of Nakhchivan State University.

**The structure and volume of the dissertation.** Dissertation work consist of introduction (25 thousand 058 characters), 3 chapters divided into paragraphs (Chapter I - 78 thousand 719 characters; Chapter II - 119 thousand 075 characters, Chapter III - 40 thousand 570 characters), conclusion (13 thousand 008 characters), used bibliography and appendices. The total volume of the text part of the dissertation is 276 thousand 430 characters.

## **MAIN CONTENT OF THE DISSERTATION**

In the introductory part of the dissertation, the relevance of the researched topic is justified in several ways, the analysis of research works and sources is given, the object, subject, goals and tasks of the research topic are defined, and information about research methods is given. In the introduction, the main propositions defended, scientific innovations, theoretical and practical significance of the research are justified. The first chapter of the dissertation is called “**Political struggle against the Soviet empire and the threat of Armenian occupation in Nakhchivan in the 80s and 90s of the 20th century**” and consists of three paragraphs. The analyzes carried out in the first paragraph entitled “**Factors affecting the military aggression of Armenia to Nakhchivan**

**and the socio-political situation in Nakhchivan”** in the late 1980s and early 1990s of the 20th century, which enabled the emergence of the military aggression of Armenia against the Autonomous Republic of Nakhchivan and generally strained the relations between the parties allows you to identify several factors.

Of course, the main source of the tension was the terrorist-political organizations of the Armenians, as well as the groundless territorial claims of Armenia against the Nakhchivan region of Azerbaijan, which have been ongoing since the 19th century. Another factor that strained relations was the issue of the fate of Azerbaijanis who were deported from Armenia and some of them took refuge in Nakhchivan. In March 1988, when pressures and life threats against Azerbaijanis intensified in Armenia, some of the refugees turned to the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic. Historically, the Azerbaijani population living in the territory of Vedibasar, Zangibasar, Darelayaz regions moved to Nakhchivan, the capital of the autonomous republic, and to Sharur and Ordubad regions.<sup>39</sup>

The intensification of Armenia's aggression against Nakhchivan also resulted from economic and political disturbances and difficulties. In particular, one of the sources of tension between Armenia and Azerbaijan was the transformation of the borders of former union member states into the border of an independent state. Territorial and border issues, frozen for many years, created difficulties. External factors also played an important role in the military aggression of Armenia to the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic. Regarding the socio-political situation in Nakhchivan in the late 80s early 90s of the 20th century, protests against the empire were rising in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, which is an integral part of Azerbaijan, as in all parts of the Soviet empire.

In the second paragraph called **“Heydar Aliyev's role in ensuring political stability in Nakhchivan”**, it is mentioned that the struggle of the participants of the national liberation movement in Nakhchivan against the empire and the creation of self-defense forces against the

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<sup>39</sup> Mustafayev, A.N. Ermənistanın soyqırım və deportasiya siyasətində Naxçıvan / A.N. Mustafayev. – Bakı: ADPU-nin nəşriyatı, – s. 143.

military aggression of Armenia was admirable, but it also encouraged political instability inside. Unsystematic struggle against systematic military aggression of the enemy could not give full effect. As in all of Azerbaijan, mutual accusations remained between the current communist government and the participants of the national liberation movement. In such a situation, a unifying leader was needed to ensure political stability. That leader had to know the characteristics, positive and negative aspects of the collapsing system, and he had to be able to direct the people's struggle against the occupier. Heydar Aliyev was such a personality. In this paragraph, Heydar Aliyev's activity as the Chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, uniting various political forces for national goals, is analyzed.

The third paragraph of the chapter is called **“Struggle with foreign political means against the aggressive policy of Armenia”**. In 1988-1993, the process of fighting against the military aggression of Armenia with foreign political means was studied in four main directions:

- Using the mediation of other republics of the union and military-political representatives of the center in the period before the declaration of independence;
- Direct negotiations with the military and political leadership of Armenia;
- Using the power and influence of geographically neighboring states in the process of preventing Armenia's military aggression;
- Directing the attention of larger political power centers and international organizations to Armenia's military aggression against Nakhchivan.

In general, it is clear from the research carried out in the chapter that Armenia's military aggression against the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic of Azerbaijan is not a manifestation of the Karabakh war, but a separate military-political process and stems from the groundless territorial claims that Armenians have made against Nakhchivan since the 19th century. First of all, the geostrategic position of the autonomous republic had a significant impact on Armenia's efforts to implement

active military expansion in this direction. The purpose of successive and sharp attacks in the direction of Nakhchivan, especially on the Sadarak-Sharur line, was to completely cut off the land connection between Azerbaijan and the Republic of Turkiye. Armenia's military aggression against the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic was supported in some cases by the representatives of the empire and the military command who wanted to preserve the Soviet Empire. The purpose of this was to suppress the people's movement in Nakhchivan, one of the main centers of the national liberation movement in Azerbaijan, and to force the population to withdraw from the national independence movement. One of the factors that aggravated the situation was the expulsion of the Azerbaijani population from the historical territories of Western Azerbaijan, where the Armenian SSR existed, and the settlement of some of them in Nakhchivan. Armenia's military aggression, transport and communication blockade imposed by it aggravated the situation in the autonomous republic and had a negative impact on the internal political stability of the autonomous republic. In such conditions, Heydar Aliyev, who came to the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, was first elected as a deputy to the parliaments of the Azerbaijan SSR and Nakhchivan ASSR, and then as the Chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the autonomous republic, played a major role in ensuring political stability. He took purposeful steps to ensure political stability. He managed to disarm the forces that tried to break the rules of the political struggle with armed coups, both politically and militarily.

In 1988-1993, several methods were used in the struggle with foreign political means to prevent the military aggression of Armenia against the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic. The leadership and population of the autonomous republic tried to use the mediation of the military-political representatives sent from the imperial center to prevent the military aggression of Armenia in the conditions of the existence of the USSR. In parallel with this, the leaders of the autonomous republic also held direct talks with the Armenian leadership. In particular, the negotiations conducted during Heydar Aliyev's time were quite effective and saved Nakhchivan from greater military aggression and threats. In his work dedicated to Heydar Aliyev, the Russian author Nikolay Zenkovich,

touching on this point, writes that Heydar Aliyev's influence, international experience, and strong will protected the autonomous republic in those years and prevented the repetition of what happened in Karabakh.<sup>40</sup> For this, he used his connections and personal influence that existed during his leadership of the Soviet Union, and with his sharp intelligence and fact-based speech, he often left the Armenian leadership in a desperate situation. The geopolitical position of Nakhchivan made it interesting for nearby foreign countries - the Republic of Turkiye and the Islamic Republic of Iran. During the period when Heydar Aliyev led the autonomous republic, the influence of these states on Armenia was used to prevent military aggression. In this matter, the role of the Republic of Turkiye was particularly high. In order to prevent the occupation of Nakhchivan, Heydar Aliyev used the power and influence of the power centers (USA, Russia, France, etc.) and international organizations (UN, CSTO, ICRC, etc.).

The second chapter of the dissertation work called **“Armed struggle to stop the attacks of Armenia against Nakhchivan. Military and security measures”** consists of three paragraphs too. In the first paragraph called **“Military aggression activities of Armenians against Nakhchivan and their prevention”**, it is mentioned that the provocative and aggressive activities of the Armenian SSR and the armed groups operating in the territory of this country against the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic of Azerbaijan started as early as 1983. Armenian diaspora and lobby organizations abroad gave very serious support to such subversive, armed bandits. In many cases, in fact, Armenian organizations abroad acted as a liaison between Armenia and the special services of foreign countries that wanted to destroy the Soviet Union. In the late 80s of the 20th century, the first military provocations of the Armenians took place in the border zone in the direction of Arazdayan. In the summer of 1988, Armenians tried to seize the fields located in the direction of “Ganlı gol (Bloody Lake)” in Shahbuz region, but they were prevented due to the vigilance

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<sup>40</sup> Zenkoviç, N. Heydər Əliyev. Tale yolları / N.Zenkoviç. – Bakı: Azərbaycan nəşriyyatı, – 2007. – s. 403.

of militia forces in Nakhchivan.<sup>41</sup> Armenian provocations in the Sadarak-Arazdayan direction intensified towards the end of the year. The position of Soviet army units had a serious impact on the expansion of Armenian provocations and the occupation of the territory of the autonomous republic. It was as a result of this that the village of Karki of Sharur region (currently included in the administrative unit of Sadarak region) was occupied.<sup>42</sup> A systematic analysis of the military clashes that took place during that period allows dividing the territories of the autonomous republic bordering Armenia into 3 combat zones. It is possible to conditionally characterize the first combat zone as the Sadarak-Sharur defense line, the second as the Shahbuz defense line, and the third as the Julfa-Ordubad defense line.

The number of attacks from Armenia on various residential areas of Nakhchivan began to increase from January 1991. As it was emphasized in the previous chapter, the election of national leader Heydar Aliyev as the chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic in September of that year worried not only the communist leadership of the USSR and Azerbaijan, but also the occupying Armenia. Back in 1990, after returning to Nakhchivan, Chairman of the State Security Committee of the USSR Vladimir Kryuchkov repeatedly called Nakhchivan and tried to persuade him to return to Moscow. The leadership of State Security Committee (DTK-SSC) told Heydar Aliyev that there was a threat to his life in Nakhchivan.<sup>43</sup>

Armenians did not forget the measures taken to prevent groundless territorial claims during the time when Heydar Aliyev led the Azerbaijan SSR. They understood that Heydar Aliyev's management of Nakhchivan would definitely prevent Armenia's intentions

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<sup>41</sup> Əliyeva, H. Naxçıvan necə döyüşdü, müdafiə olundu / H.Əliyeva. – Bakı: Şirvanneşr, – 2009. – s.75.

<sup>42</sup> Naxçıvan Muxtar Respublikası Dövlət Milli Müdafiə Komitəsinin yaradılması haqqında Naxçıvan MR Ali Məclisinin qərarı // Naxçıvan MR Dövlət Arxivi, Fond № 2, siyahı № 6, iş № 1039, – v. 17.

<sup>43</sup> Axundova, E. Şəxsiyyət və zaman [6 hissə] / E.Axundova. – Bakı: CBS, V hissə. – 2013. – s. 46.

regarding the occupation of this region. Thanks to the wisdom of Heydar Aliyev, all armed units and units in Nakhchivan, including the forces of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, volunteer defense units, were united for a single purpose under the leadership of the State Defense Committee of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic (DMK-SDC). Armenia was not allowed to carry out large-scale military expansion in the territory of the autonomous republic. However, it should be noted that during that period, 1 of the 221 settlements of the autonomous republic with an area of 5,368 km<sup>2</sup> - the village of Karki, which is 0.5% of the territory of the Sadarak region, was occupied.<sup>44</sup>

The paragraph of the second chapter called **“Threats to military and national security and measures to eliminate them”** was written mostly on the basis of archival documents and memories of witnesses and participants of the process. This paragraph also mentions the operations of special structures operating in Nakhchivan. From the analyzes carried out in the paragraph, it is clear that one of the main reasons why the autonomous republic was able to seriously resist the military aggression of Armenia at that time was the work done in the field of military and security. After the national leader came to power in Azerbaijan for the second time, the status of units and formations of the Azerbaijan Armed Forces in Nakhchivan was raised, on June 21, 1995, motorized rifle brigade No. 705 became motorized rifle division No. 705. On December 8, 1998, an army corps was established at the base of that division.<sup>45</sup> This made it possible to ensure more reliable protection of the autonomous republic.

The third paragraph of the second chapter is called **“Withdrawal of former Soviet army units from Nakhchivan and the formation of the national army”**. Here, the withdrawal of the 75th motorized rifle division of the 4th United Armed Army of the Transcaucasian Military Region of the Soviet Army Ground Forces, the 41st Border Detachment of the Transcaucasian Border Region of the USSR SPC from Nakhchivan, the prevention of provocations in this process, and

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<sup>44</sup> Əhmədov, E. İ. Ermənistanın Azərbaycanca təcavüzü: təhlili xronika (1987-2011) Ensiklopedik nəşr / E.İ.Əhmədov. – Bakı: Letterpres, – 2012. – s. 122.

<sup>45</sup> Naxçıvan ensiklopediyası [2 cildə] / – Naxçıvan, c. 2. – 2005. – s. 85.

the storage of weapons and ammunition in Nakhchivan and the process of handing over to the national army units is discussed.

Thus, in 1988-1993, along with political means, military-security and defense measures played an important role in preventing Armenia's military aggression against the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic of Azerbaijan. Despite the enemy's attacks on Nakhchivan from three directions (Sadarak-Sharur, Babek-Shahbuz and Julfa-Ordubad), the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic was steadfastly defended. The need to implement defensive measures against Armenia has led to significant achievements in the military history of the independent republic. For the first time, a step was taken in the direction of Azerbaijani conscripts serving in Azerbaijan, not in other countries of the union, and the formation of the regular National Army was started in Nakhchivan under the leadership of Heydar Aliyev.

DMK (SDC) assumed the main responsibility in preventing the military aggression of Armenia, fighting units were formed in a system different from the Soviet army system. The counter-intelligence department of DMK (SDC) carried out the work of ensuring not only military security, but also the security of the autonomous republic in general. The withdrawal of the units of the Armed Forces of the former Soviet Union, which is already under the control of the Russian Federation, from Nakhchivan has reduced Armenia's support and maneuverability in this direction. The handing over of weapons, ammunition and equipment to the autonomous republic by the troops who left Nakhchivan led to the strengthening of the defense potential and better arming of the national army units. Although the enemy's attacks were prevented by political means and military-security measures, the military aggression had social and economic effects.

The third chapter of the dissertation work is called **“Economic and social problems caused by occupation and blockade policy and actions towards their elimination”** and consists of two paragraphs. The first paragraph mentions **“Threats to economic security and measures to eliminate them”**. Armenia's territorial claims and military aggression against Azerbaijan, which began in 1988, and at the same time keeping the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic in a

state of blockade created serious threats to the economic security of the autonomous republic. There were frequent interruptions in the work of the railway line connecting Nakhchivan ASSR with other parts of the country, passing through the territory of Armenia. The cause of these interruptions was the attacks on the railway by the armed groups that appeared on the territory of Armenia, they stopped the passenger trains and engaged in robbery, and they threatened the lives of the Azerbaijani drivers and passengers. Economic problems caused by military aggression and blockade have been quite serious. There were serious problems in the supply of electricity and natural gas, bread queues became a daily norm. Despite all this, the people of Nakhchivan tried to endure economic difficulties and continue the defense of the autonomous republic. The leadership of the autonomous republic and relevant structures tried to use the most diverse methods to solve economic problems. In the conditions of political instability and anarchy in the country, the economic situation became more tense. In such a situation, the opportunities of neighboring states were used.

The second paragraph of the third chapter is called “**Social problems caused by military aggression and blockade and their solution**”. During the studied period, the conditions of military aggression and blockade had a significant impact on the migration of the population. Due to the military aggression of Armenia to the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, in addition to the emigration of the population to other countries and other regions of the country, certain processes took place within the autonomous republic. For example, the displacement of the population of the village of Karki and the displacement of the population during the active attacks on Sadara had quite serious social consequences.

At the same time, the occupation of regions located in the territory of Karabakh and Eastern Zangezur by Armenia caused a part of the Azerbaijani population who lived in these regions to come to Nakhchivan. For example, after the occupation of Kalbajar in 1993, a group of residents of this region came to the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic. On the instructions of Heydar Aliyev, the social development and defense fund of the autonomous republic provided

aid in the amount of 10 thousand rubles to each of the Kalbajar refugees who came to Nakhchivan.<sup>46</sup> Military aggression also caused problems in the education system. At that time, schools were one of the main targets of the Armenian armed forces that attacked settlements along the border. First of all, school buildings were exposed to rocket attacks because they were taller and more visible than other houses and buildings, and on the other hand, in many cases, military headquarters were placed in the basement of schools during heavy battles due to certain security features.

At the same time, military aggression led to the destruction of cultural infrastructure in residential areas, as well as damage to historical and cultural values. The greatest impact of the Armenian military aggression was related to humanitarian issues.

The wars of 1991-1992 had a serious impact on the living conditions of ordinary citizens in many regions of the autonomous republic. The most damaged region was Sadarak, where the main battles took place. The problems in energy supply caused the trees located in Nakhchivan, Sharur, Sadarak and other regions to be almost completely cut down and used as fuel. The financial and technical condition of the hospitals was quite deplorable.

One of the problems caused by the occupation and blockade was related to information security. After Heydar Aliyev began to lead the autonomous republic, various steps were taken in this direction to ensure that there was no information gap at the country level. In this regard, special tasks were given to the relevant state bodies. The power of various individuals and societies was used to spread the truths of Nakhchivan to the capital and regions of the country. At the same time, the news of Azerbaijan State Television was transferred to videocassettes and brought to Nakhchivan, and a day later it was presented on the air by Nakhchivan television.

Thus, despite all the threats and pressures, Armenia and the global Armenian lobby supporting it could not carry out the occupation of Nakhchivan in 1988-1993. As it is clear from the listed facts, analyzes

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<sup>46</sup> Qayıdış (1990-1993) / – Bakı: Azərbaycan, – 2008. – s. 640.

conducted with reliable sources and documents, in the most difficult and critical periods, the self-defense, security forces, units and formations of the national army in Nakhchivan fought against the enemy with dignity and determination.

The economic and social crisis that arose at the country level as a result of Armenia's occupation of Azerbaijan's territories had serious effects on the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, including the economic situation and social status of the population here. Armenia's policy of military aggression and blockade had a serious impact on the great economic potential of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic in energy, transport and other fields. However, the people of Nakhchivan calmly approached the weight of both economic and social conditions and bravely stood against the military aggression of Armenia.

In the “**Conclusion**” part of the thesis, the scientific conclusions reached by the author during the researches are summarized. 1. The military aggression of Armenia against Nakhchivan in 1988-1993 was not merely a manifestation of the Karabakh war. It was a continuation of historical territorial claims directly aimed at Nakhchivan. 2. The Armenian SSR carried out military aggression against Nakhchivan, and this aggression served the interests of both the forces aiming to dismantle the Soviet Empire and those seeking to preserve it. 3. The strategic position of Nakhchivan made it a point of confrontation between the powers of Turkey, Iran, and Armenia. Iran viewed Nakhchivan as a strategic area to enhance its influence in the region, while Turkey sought to strengthen its influence based on shared historical roots, history, and international agreements. As Turkey's influence in the region grew, it began to concern other power centers. 4. National leader Heydar Aliyev's presence in Nakhchivan and his leadership of the autonomous republic played a decisive role in ensuring political stability, uniting various political forces, and had unparalleled significance in preventing Armenia's military aggression against Nakhchivan. 5. Armenia's military aggression was countered through both political and military means, particularly with diplomatic efforts and the establishment of military defense systems under the leadership of Heydar Aliyev. 6. Although the armed struggle against Armenia's attacks in Nakhchivan during 1988-1991 had a fragmented character, it became more organized with the establishment of

the State Defense Committee. This marked the beginning of the military organization process, and the defense of Nakhchivan was structured more systematically. This process became an important stage in the formation of the independent Azerbaijan's national army. 7. As a result of Armenia's aggression, Nakhchivan's economy, industry, and social life suffered severe blows, and the autonomous republic was placed under blockade. At the same time, agricultural lands were damaged, and the destruction of agriculture worsened the economic situation.

**The content of the dissertation is reflected in the following scientific works of the author:**

1. Heydar Aliyev and the army building that started from Nakhchivan (Part 1) // – Nakhchivan: “Nakhchivan” University. Scientific Works, – 2021. No. 2, – pp. 157-163.
2. Heydar Aliyev and the army building that started from Nakhchivan (part 2) // – 2<sup>nd</sup> International congress of Azerbaijan's architect Heydar Aliyev in the 99th anniversary of his birth, – Baku: İKSAD, – 10 May, – 2022. – pp. 218-222.
3. The activities of the great leader Heydar Aliyev during the Nakhchivan period and the establishment of the National Defense Committee // – Nakhchivan: “Nakhchivan” University. Scientific works, – 2020. No. 4, – pp. 175-181.
4. Nagorno-Karabakh events and Nakhchivan // – III Karabakh Contemporary Research Congress on International Social and Humanitarian Sciences, – Karabakh: İKSAD, – 07-10 June, – 2022, – p. 123-129.
5. Nakhchivan in the invasion plans of Armenians // –”International Silk Road and Nakhchivan” international scientific conference, – Nakhchivan: “Nakhchivan” University, – 22-23 November, – 2022, – p. 429-432.
6. Military building in Heydar Aliyev's statehood //- Republican scientific conference on “Heydar Aliyev and issues of national statehood”, - Nakhchivan: “Nakhchivan” University, – May 25-26, – 2023, – p. 366-371.

7. Crisis situation. Nakhchivan (1991-1993 years) // – Baku: Geostategy magazine, – 2024. No. 2, – pp. 101-104.
8. The effects of Armenia's occupation and blockade policy on the socio-economic development of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic (1991-1993 years) // – Ankara: Akademik tarih ve düşünce dergisi, – 2024. Issue 1, – pp. 745-759.
9. Relations between the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic and Turkiye during the blockade (1991-1993) // – Матеріали XLV-ої Міжнародної науково-практичної конференції, – 07 червня, – 2024. – Греція: – p. 429-432.
10. Heydar Aliyev's role in eliminating threats to the military and national security of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic (1988-1993 years) // – Baku: Geostategy magazine, – 2024. No. 3, – p. 111-114.
11. Использование политико-дипломатических средств для предотвращения военной агрессии Армении против Нахичеванской Автономной Республики // – Baku: Journal of Social Sciences, – 2024. No. 1, – s. 104-114.
12. Impact of Armenia's military aggression on the socio-political process in Nakhchivan // – Nakhchivan: Nakhchivan State University. Journal of Scientific Works, – 2024. No 3 (128), – p. 51-58.

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