

**AZERBAIJAN REPUBLIC**

*In the right of manuscript*

**ABSTRACT**

of the dissertation for the degree of Philosophy Doctor

**"GENOCIDES COMMITTED BY THE ARMENIANS  
AGAINST THE TURKISH-MUSLIM POPULATION IN  
THE IQDIR (SURMELI) DISTRICT OF IRAVAN  
GOVERNANCE (EARLY XX CENTURY)"**

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## I. GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF DISSERTATION

**Scientific relevance of the topic and the degree of its development.** The decree<sup>1</sup> signed by the national leader Heydar Aliyev on March 26, 1998 on the 80th anniversary of genocide of the Azerbaijani people and the order<sup>2</sup> of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev on the 100th anniversary of the genocide of the Azerbaijani people are aimed at illuminating the dark and painful pages of our historical past while also increasing the efforts in the direction of conducting much deeper investigations and research in a much consistent and systematic manner. The study of the facts of genocide in different regions of Azerbaijan has high scientific relevance, as well as a great socio-political and scientific-practical importance. At the beginning of the 20th century, especially after the establishment of the Republic of Armenia, it is one of the main tasks of the ideological struggle to convey the real picture of the massacres committed by the Armenian armed forces against the local Azerbaijani population to the world public, and prevent the falsification of facts by the Armenian historians on this topic.

After the occupation of the northern part of Azerbaijan by the Russian Empire, there began difficult days of the Azerbaijani population living in the Iravan region began by mass transfer of the Armenian population from the Ottoman and Gajar states to this region. Under the patronage of tsarist officials, Armenian families were settled in the best, fertile plot of lands and occupied rather a privileged status. The local muslim population was persecuted in their ancestral lands, where they had lived there for thousands of years, lost their property, and in many cases, they were exhausted from the unbearable living condition and were forced to move to

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<sup>1</sup> Əliyev, H.Ə. “Azərbaycanlıların soyqırımı haqqında” Azərbaycan Respublikası Prezidentinin Sərəncamı, 26 mart 1998-ci il / [https:// az.wikisource.org/wiki/](https://az.wikisource.org/wiki/)

<sup>2</sup> Əliyev, İ.H. 1918-ci il azərbaycanlıların soyqırımının 100 illiyi haqqında Azərbaycan Respublikası Prezidentinin Sərəncamı, 18 yanvar 2018-ci il / <https://azertag.az/xeber/-1129477>

neighboring countries. This policy carried out by the representatives of the authorities for decades created fertile conditions for the realization of intentions of Armenian nationalist forces to acquire foreign lands and create a Great Armenian state "from sea to sea".

At the beginning of the 20th century, the atrocities committed by the Armenian terrorist groups against the peaceful muslim-turkish population - brutally killing women and girls, the elderly and infants, looting the property of muslims, burning their houses and making them unusable, all remained unpunished. The defense organizations and self-defense forces created by the zealous sons of Azerbaijan could only partially prevent these Armenian atrocities from becoming more widespread.

Immediately after the start of the First World War, the Armenian nationalist forces created new armed gang groups and committed mass killings and plunderings against the peaceful muslim-turkish population, first in the regions of military operations on the Caucasian front, and later in the entire South Caucasus. After the February revolution of 1917, the weakening influence of the central authorities in the region and the creation the atmosphere of impunity made it possible to repeatedly expand the scale of Armenian atrocities.

In order to expose the Armenian lies, it is necessary to carry out scientific research and convey the realities of this genocide to the world community. True that, in the recent period Institute of History after A.A. Bakikhanov of ANAS conducted a series of events, international scientific conferences dedicated to the problem of genocide, published monographs and collections of documents. However, it is also necessary, at the same time to consistently continue the work in the field of researching the facts of the genocide of the Azerbaijani population carried out by Armenian armed groups in different regions. From this point of view, the investigation the facts of genocide of the Azerbaijani population in the Surmeli (Igdir) region, which is the historical territory of Azerbaijan, has a high scientific significance.

In modern times, the Armenian machine of propaganda and the Christian media try to justify the cruel mass killings and plunderings committed by Armenians against neighboring nations, peaceful people, especially women, children and the elderly, the "events of 1915" by their own way; and at the same time they try to label their terrorist acts against APR and Turkish public and political figures in 1920s as "the revenging acts of Armenian devotees." The in-depth investigation of mass killings carried out by Armenian armed groups in Eastern Anatolia and Azerbaijan is also of a great scientific importance because the claim of "Armenian genocide" is generally accepted by Western countries. In order to prevent this, to convey the real truth to the world community, the international publicity, it is very important to study all the facts of the genocide carried out by Armenians.

The correct delivery of this information to the world community is first of all a tribute to the memory of the thousands of people who were victims of the genocide. Publicizing these facts is also important because representatives of the Armenian people who describe themselves as poor, oppressed, and victims of the genocide are actually the executioners who carried out the most terrible genocides.

Recently, there have been conducted important studies about the socio-political and ethnic-demographic situation of the Iravan Khanate on the eve of the Russian invasion and during this term "Iravan Khanate. Russian occupation and transfer of Armenians to the lands of Northern Azerbaijan"<sup>3</sup> was published under the supervision of academician Y. Mahmudov which got the state award of the Republic of Azerbaijan. In this regard, the work is of great importance.

The materials of the international scientific conferences of the Institute of History after A.A. Bakikhanov under the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences dedicated to the genocides committed by Armenian armed groups against Azerbaijanis, and as

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<sup>3</sup> İrəvan xanlığı. Rusiya işğalı və ermənilərin Şimali Azərbaycan torpaqlarına köçürülməsi / baş red. Y.Mahmudov. – Bakı: Azərbaycan, – 2010. – 617 s.

a whole against the turkish-muslim population in 2014-2018, play a significant role in reaching the information on Armenian mass killings and plunderings to a wide public, growing generation and the world community. For example, in the research reports by H. Hasanov and E. Maharramov, scientific staff of ANAS Institute of History, dedicated to the study of the demographic situation in the Surmali region during the Russian occupation, it was noted that along with Armenians, yazidi kurds and gypsies were simultaneously moved to the region immediately after the Russian occupation.<sup>4</sup> A. Isgandarov, V. Abishov, I. Niftaliyev, N. Mustafa, I. Mammadov and other historians have also written valuable research works about the murders and plunderings of the extremist Armenian nationalist forces against the people of Azerbaijan.<sup>5</sup> In these works, a number of valuable facts about the genocides by the Armenian armed groups against the peaceful Azerbaijani population in Iravan governorate were brought into scientific circulation. In the works by M.Gasimli and Y.Gaziyevev,<sup>6</sup> the facts of genocide in Iravan governorate, including Surmeli (Igdir) region are reflected. A very important merit of those works is the

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<sup>4</sup> Həsənov, H., Məhərrəmov, E. Çarizmin mürtəce köçürmə siyasəti və Sürməlidə demoqrafik durumunun təkamülü // “Azərbaycanda və Şərqi Anadoluda türk-müsəlman əhaliyə qarşı soyqırımları (1914-1920-ci illər)” mövzusunda həsr olunmuş III beynəlxalq elmi konfransın materialları. – Bakı: Turxan, – 2016, – s.199-204

<sup>5</sup> İsgəndərov, A.C. Azərbaycanca türk-müsəlman soyqırımı probleminin tarixşünaslığı. 1918-1920 / A.İsgəndərov. – Bakı: Adiloğlu, – 2006. – 396 s.; Abışov, V.Ş. Azərbaycanlıların soyqırımı (1917-1918-ci illər). ) / V.Abişov. – Bakı: Nurlan, – 2005. – 176 s.; Нифталиев, И.В. Геноцид Азербайджанцев в Иреванской губернии (1918-1920) / И.Нифтелиев. – Баку: «ЭЛМ», – 2017. – 188 s.; Mustafa, N. İrəvan quberniyasında Azərbaycanlıların soyqırımı (1918-1920) / N.Mustafa. – Bakı: Elm, –2017. – 328 s.; Məmmədov, İ. Tariximiz, torpağımız, taleyimiz / İ.Məmmədov. – Bakı: “Adiloğlu” nəşriyyatı, – 2003. – 700 s. və s.

<sup>6</sup> Qasimov, M.C. Birinci dünya müharibəsi illərində böyük dövlətlərin Azərbaycan siyasəti (1914-1918-ci illər) / M.Qasimov. Üç hissədə. I hissə. 1914-cü il avqust – 1917-ci il oktyabr. – Bakı: Qanun, 2000. – 300 s.; II hissə. 1917-ci il noyabr – 1918-ci il noyabr. – Bakı: Adiloğlu, 2001. – 406 s.; Газыев, Ю.Х. Кто кого подвергал геноциду? / Ю.Газыев. – Баку: изд. «Университет Хазар», – 2011. – 600 с.

publication of archival documents confirming a large number of Armenian atrocities.

Modern Russian historian O. Kuznetsov's monograph on Armenian terrorism also evokes some thought: *"Today, Armenians are the only ethnic group in the world, for the majority of its population, terrorists are not murderers or villains, but "devotees" - heroes, brave men who should be followed as an example. In the Republic of Armenia monuments and memorial complexes are being built in their honor."*<sup>7</sup> The author specially noted that along with the civilian population, high-ranking Chinese officials and military personnel of Russia were also harmed by Armenian terrorism.

Georgian researcher F. Makharadze gave information about the mass murders and plunderings of the Dashnak party against the muslim population and stated that, this organization played a decisive role in the destruction of Armenian people: *"This party is revolutionary in its program documents. Although it made calls, it became a staunch nationalist organization, forcibly collected large financial resources from the Armenian people, created armed groups, and committed a series of terrorist acts."*<sup>8</sup>

In recent decades in the Republic of Armenia and beyond the number of works and articles has significantly increased by the Armenian authors about the alleged mass Armenian massacres in Azerbaijan. In these works, allegations were made that Armenian massacres took place in Azerbaijan three times in 1905, 1918, and at the end of 1980s. Armenian authors also present Hamazasp Srvantsyan, Dastamant Kananyan (Dro), Garegin Njde, and Andranik Ozanyan, as leaders of the Armenian national liberation movement and national heroes, who led mass massacres against the turkish-muslim population in Azerbaijan and Eastern Anatolia at

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<sup>7</sup> Кузнецов, О.Ю. История транснационального армянского терроризма в XX столетии: Историко-криминологическое исследование / О.Кузнецов. – Москва: «Аквариус», – 2015. – с.8

<sup>8</sup> Махарадзе, Ф. Записки о революционном движении на Южном Кавказе / Ф.Махарадзе. – Тбилиси, – 1927. – с.82

the beginning of the 20th century.<sup>9</sup> Another example of such an approach, which is typical for Armenian authors, is the work of E. Ohanesyan. In this work, the bloody deeds of Armenian human executioners and acts of terrorism were lovingly told, and the victims of terrorism were presented in an extremely negative image, as those who deserved to be killed.<sup>10</sup>

Historian K. Shukurov stated that Armenian authors put forward a new concept of massacres in Azerbaijan: "*When talking about the events of 1905, 1918 and the end of the 1980s - the beginning of the 90s, the image of the oppressed Armenian ... is replaced by a new type of victorious Armenian image.*"<sup>11</sup>

In Turkiyy, in recent decades, it has been paid a great attention to the investigation of mass murders committed by Armenian armed groups in Eastern Anatolia, in Caucasus, especially in different regions of Azerbaijan against the turkish-muslim population; as well as it has been published a number of works, and articles, and there been conducted international conferences and symposiums on these topics. In this regard, in 1995 there was held an international scientific conference on "Historical facts and Armenians"<sup>12</sup> in Iğdir.

Along with this, it is still also necessary to consistently continue researches on mass murders committed by Armenian troops in Iravan province on the first decades of the 20th century.

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<sup>9</sup> Мелик-Шахназарян, Л. Военные преступления Азербайджана против мирного населения Нагорно-Карабахской Республики. / Л.Мелик-Шахназарян. – Ереван: изд-во «Наири» – 1997 – 296 с.; Мелик-Шахназарян, Л. Ходжалинское дело: Особая папка. / Л.Мелик-Шахназарян, Г.Демоян. – Ереван: изд-во Кавказского центра Иранистики – 2002. – 248 с.

<sup>10</sup> Оганесян, Э. Век борьбы: очерк 100-летней истории дашнакской партии и национально-освободительной борьбы армянского народа / Э. Оганесян – Москва-Мюнхен: изд. «Феникс», – 1991. – 216 с.

<sup>11</sup> Şükürov, K.K. Azərbaycanca erməni qırğınları və deportasiyaları haqqında baxışların tənqidi təhlili // Azərbaycan və Şərqi Anadoluda türk-müsəlman əhaliyə qarşı soyqırımaları (1914-1920-ci illər). II Beynəlxalq elmi konfransın materialları. – Bakı: Turxan NPB, – 2015. – s.72

<sup>12</sup> Iğdır “Tarihi gerçəkler ve Ermeniler” uluslararası sempoziumu, 24-27 nisan 1995 / Iğdır. – Ankara:Devlet İstatistik Enstitüsü matbaası,–1997.–237s.



Particularly, this task assumes a special significance to thoroughly and systematically investigating the Armenian atrocities that occurred in the Surmeli (Iğdir) region and bringing them to the general public.

Primary sources of the dissertation work include the main founding bases of various nature. Official information about the Armenian terrorist organizations and their terrorist activities become especially valuable among the documents and materials where the references were made in the research process. Part of this type of information is reflected in the documents of the higher state bodies, and another part is reflected in the official materials of law enforcement agencies.<sup>13</sup>

Periodical press pages published in the first decades of the 20th century, as a rule, had separate sections dealing with criminal cases; and by following the articles published at a time, it is possible to get information about the terrorist acts committed by Armenian radical nationalists. A significant part of the official documents related to Armenian terrorism which is kept by Azerbaijan authorities was published in a separate collection by Institute of History of ANAS.<sup>14</sup>

The Institute of History of ANAS has recently brought and published in collections the documents <sup>15</sup> at a high scientific level

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<sup>13</sup> Qafqazda “erməni məsələsi”. Rusiya arxiv sənədləri və nəşrləri üzrə. Üç cildə. II c. / tərtibçi K.Şükürov. –VIII+616 s.; III c. / tərtibçi K.Şükürov. – Bakı: “Elm” nəşriyyatı, – 2010. – VIII+348 s.; Qaraoğlu, F. Ermənilər və həqiqətlər (rəsmi sənədlərlə) / F.Qaraoğlu. – Bakı: «NURLAR» Nəşriyyat-Poliqrafiya Mərkəzi, – 2007. – 400 s.; Qasimov, M.C. Birinci dünya müharibəsi illərində böyük dövlətlərin Azərbaycan siyasəti (1914-1918-ci illər). Üç hissədə. III hissə. Sənədlər, materiallar, xatirələr, şəkillər. – Bakı: Adiloğlu, 2004. – 532 s.; Perinçek, Mehmet. Rus Devlet Arşivlerinden 150 Belgede Ermeni Meselesi / M.Perinçek. – İstanbul: Doğan Kitab Evi, – 2016. – 336 s.

<sup>14</sup> Исторические факты о деяниях армян на азербайджанской земле. Сборник (Historical Facts of Armenia’s Actions in Azerbaijan Land. Collection) / науч. ред. Я. М. Махмудов. – Баку: Тахсил. – 2009. – 304 с..

<sup>15</sup> Azərbaycan xalqına qarşı 1918-ci il mart soyqırımı. Sənədlər toplusu. 3 cildə, II c., 2-ci kitab, İrəvan quberniyasında soyqırımı. 1918-1920-ci illər // tərtibçi İ.Niftəliyev, – Bakı: Çarşıoğlu, – 2011. – 456 s.; Азербайджанская

that are preserved in the archives, libraries, museums of different countries of the world, which allow us to study the history of genocides that took place in the Caucasus region, as well as in individual regions of Azerbaijan. The materials in these collections are very important for observing how the ethno-demographic situation changes in Western Azerbaijan, including the Surmeli (Igdır) region, starting from the 20s of the 19th century, and objectively investigating the murders and plunderings by the Armenian groups committed against the peaceful muslim-turkish population. Official documents, reports and informations about Armenian terrorism, killings and plunderings committed by radical nationalistic forces were also published in the collection of the documents and materials stored in the funds of the Archive of Political Documents under the Department of Presidential Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan.<sup>16</sup>

Among the sources on the topic of the dissertation, the statistical collections published during the rule of the Russian Empire also occupy an important place. The census materials collected without local visits<sup>17</sup>, which were conducted immediately after the occupation of the Iravan Khanate, prove that, despite all the deprivations, the Azerbaijani population continued living in their ancestral lands and constituted a majority part of population at that period.

The materials in the collection, which reflect information on the population and national composition of the population living in the Caucasus, including the Iravan governorate in 1886, make it possible to clarify how the ethnic situation changed in Surmeli

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Демократическая Республика. Архивные документы Великобритании. / науч. ред. Я.Махмудов. – Баку: Типография Шарг-Гарб, – 2011. – 712 с.

<sup>16</sup> Багиров, М.Б., В поисках истины ... Лицо армянства. (Архив Политических Документов Управления Делами Президента Азербайджанской Республики. Документы свидетельствуют ...) / М.Багиров, Х.Вердиева. – Баку: изд. «МВМ», – 2011. – 608 с.

<sup>17</sup> Шопен, И.И. Исторический памятник состояния Армянской области в эпоху её присоединения к Российской империи. / И.Шопен. – СПб., – 1852. – 1232с.

district in 60 years after the occupation.<sup>18</sup> A collection of statistical data on population, national composition, and new immigrants in the Iravan governorate <sup>19</sup> reveals out that the sharp increase in the number of Armenians in Surmeli district during the 10 years since 1886 is the result of the mass migration to the borders of Russia after the uprisings in Eastern Anatolia in 1894-1896.

Collections containing information about the establishment of the Dashnaksutyun party and the other extremist nationalist organizations' terrorist activities<sup>20</sup> are important sources for the dissertation topic. The acknowledgements by Dashnak leaders, their, so-called "heroism" in murdering the peaceful Azerbaijani population, information about the trials by the Armenian terrorists are especially important for the audience of Western countries and Russia, that usually turn a blind eye to the Armenian lies and patronize Armenian terrorists.

In the last 30 years, a large number of collections of documents stored in the Ottoman archives have been published about the emergence and activity of the Armenian nationalist and terrorist organizations and their radical groups in Turkiye, about their mass killings the peaceful muslim turkish and kurdish population, and about the struggles against them<sup>21</sup>. Also,

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<sup>18</sup> Свод статистических данных о населении Закавказского края, извлечённых из посемейных списков. 1886 г., Тифлис: – 1893. – 487 с.

<sup>19</sup> Первая всеобщая перепись населения Российской империи 1897 г., т. LXXI. Эриванская губерния / – СПб.: изд-во ЦСК МИД – 1905. – 186 с.

<sup>20</sup> Дашнаки (Из материалов департамента полиции). – Баку: Изд-во «Коммунист», – 1990. – 40 с.; Сведения об организации и деятельности армянской революционной партии «Дашнаксутюн» // История Азербайджана по документам и публикациям / под ред. акад. З.М.Бунятова. – Баку: Элм, – 1990.–384с.; Лалаян, А. Контрреволюционный «Дашнаксутюн» и империалистическая война 1914-1918 гг. // – Москва, «Революционный Восток», № 2-3 (36-37), – 1936. – с.76-99

<sup>21</sup> Devlet Arşivleri, Ankara, – 1997. – 438 s.; Ermeniler tarafından yapılan katliam belgeleri (1914-1919) / Т.С. Başbakanlık Devlet Arşivleri Genel Müdürlüğü. Osmanlı Arşivi Daire Başkanlığı, Yayın Nu: 49, c.I, – Ankara: Başbakanlık Basımevi, – 2001. – 740 s.; Osmanlı arşiv belgelerinde Nahçı-

the results of the discovery and investigation of mass graves and memorials of genocide witnesses in Eastern Anatolia, including İğdir, were reflected in special publications.<sup>22</sup>

Mass murders and plunderings committed by Armenian armed groups were widely covered in the periodical press on the first decades of the 20th century. Articles and official information published on "Kaspi", "İqbal", "İrşad", "Açıq soz", "Azerbaijan" newspapers, and on other mass media devices were widely used in the dissertation work. On the newspapers published in Tbilisi, Moscow and Petersburg, under the influence of Armenian propaganda it was claimed that Armenians protected themselves. By taking a critical approach to the articles and official chronicles published on these newspapers, it is possible to get information about the scale of Armenian atrocities.

The reports and official correspondence by the representatives of the authorities stored in the funds of the State Central Historical Archive of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the State Archive of the Republic of Azerbaijan are also valuable sources. In particular, the notes addressed to the Armenian government and representatives of Antanta in the Caucasus through the APR Ministry of Foreign Affairs prove that, in 1918-1920 Armenian officials committed genocide against the local Azerbaijani population at the state level.

Thus, the applied sources are of various nature and they reflect all aspects of the subject taken as the object of research

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van / – İstanbul: Baskı secil ofset, – 2011. – 568s.; Osmanlı belgelerinde İğdir / – İğdir: İğdir Üniversitesi Basım Matsis Matbaa, – 2017. –251 s.; Kafkas'yada "ermeni meselesi": 1895-1912 (Osmanlı Arşiv Belgeleri) / – İstanbul: TEAS Press Neşriyyat Evi, – 2018. – 754 s.

<sup>22</sup> Türközü, Halil Kemal. Osmanlı ve Sovyet belgeleriyle Ermeni mezalimi / K.Halil – Ankara: Türk kültürünü araştırma Enstitüsü, – 1982. – 115 s.+ 69 resim; Kırzioğlu, Fahrettin M. Kars ili çerçevesinde ermeni mezalimi (1918-1920) F.Kırzioğlu. – Ankara, – 1999. – 136 s.; Türkdoğan, Berna. Türk-Ermeni İlişkileri (Tehcir-den Günümüze) / Doktora Tezi. –Ankara, T.C. Ankara Üniversitesi Sosyal Bilimler Enstitüsü, –2006. – 339 s. və s.

and complement to each other. The involvement of these materials in the research process as a whole helped to investigate the facts of the genocide committed by the Armenians in a more detailed order and in depth.

**Object and subject of the research.** The mass killings committed by Armenian armed groups in Surmeli (Igdir) region of Irevan province in the first decades of the 20th century and their serious consequences are determined as the object of the dissertation work. The massacres committed in 1905-1906, the murders and plunderings by the Armenian military units during the First World War, the ethnic cleansing policy at the state level after the establishment of the Republic of Armenia constitute the main subject of the research. The chronological framework of the thesis covers the period from 1905, when the mass murders and plunderings by the Armenian began in the region, and ended as a result of Surmeli province's decisive joining to Turkiye in 1920. At the same time, the fact that Surmali district is the ancient homeland of Azerbaijani turks, since the 20s of the 19th century the massive migration of Armenians to this region, and the suppression of the local muslim-turkish population from that time have also been included into the work.

**Goals and objectives of the research.** The main goal of the dissertation is to objectively study the facts of the genocide committed by Armenian military groups against the local Azerbaijani population in Surmeli (Igdir) region in the first decades of the 20th century. To achieve this goal, the following tasks are planned to fulfill:

- to prove that Surmali district of Irevan khanate is historically the homeland of Azerbaijani turks;
- to show that sunni kurds and Armenians due to military and political considerations were moved to the Surmeli region in the last period of the Middle Ages by Ottoman sultans;
- to investigate the heavy impact of mass transfer of Armenians to Surmali district on the lives of local azerbaijanis;

- to clarify the socio-economic situation in Surmeli district on the first decades of the 19th -20th centuries;
- to investigate the massacres committed by the armed gangs formed by Armenian organizations at the beginning of the 20th century in Irevan province, especially in Surmeli district;
- to uncover the murders and lootings committed by the Armenian volunteer groups created during the First World War in the frontline regions, including in Surmeli district;
- to study the policy of ethnic cleansing carried out at the state level during the Republic of Armenia and its tragic consequences.

**Methods of research.** In the research process of the dissertation topic, facts and events were treated objectively and impartially, analysis, synthesis, generalization methods were widely used, while critical evaluation, historical-comparative and systematic analysis methods were preferred. During the research, traditional research methods generally accepted and established in the science of history, such as revealing out the cause-effect relationships of the events, analyzing and summarizing the results, and the expected chronological and logical sequences were applied. At the same time, an attempt was made to reveal the true nature of historical events and processes based on actual materials.

**Provisions brought for defence.** The provisions defended in the submitted dissertation are the following:

- the ethno-demographic changes that took place in the Surmeli (Igdır) region from the 20s of the 19th century to the first decades of the 20th century were related to the transfer of Armenians to this ancient Turkish homeland for military and political reasons;
- the massive relocation of Armenian families to the Surmeli (Igdır) region and the colonial regime had a severe impact on the lives of the local Azerbaijani population, and some of the population had to leave their homeland;
- in 1905-1906, groups armed by the Armenian church, Dashnaksutyun party and other radical nationalist organizations

committed mass murders and lootings against the peaceful muslim-turkish population in the Surmeli (Iğdir) region;

- during the First World War, the bandit attacks and plunderings committed by the Armenian military units in the frontline area and in the areas close to the front became mych massive;

- after the establishment of the Republic of Armenia, the policy of ethnic cleansing was implemented at the state level, and this policy led to the genocide of peaceful people in the Surmali (Iğdir) region;

- the Azerbaijan People's Republic has been very active in protecting the Azerbaijani population living in Iravan governorate, including Surmali district, while providing assistance to refugees.

**Scientific novelties of research.** The scientific novelty of the research is that, for the first time in the historiography of Azerbaijan, the massacres of Armenian armed groups against the peaceful Azerbaijani population in the Surmeli (Iğdir) region on the first decades of the 20th century were taken as a research object and systematically investigated in the dissertation work. For the first time in the submitted dissertation work:

- From the 20s of the 19th century to the first decades of the 20th century, the ethno-demographic changes in the Surmeli (Iğdir) region were systematically investigated, and it was determined that kurds and armenians were relocated to this ancient Turkish land according to the later military-political considerations;

- The consequences of the mass transfer of Armenian families to the Surmeli (Iğdir) region were investigated, and by concrete facts it was explained its heavy impact on the livelihood of the local Azerbaijani population;

- In 1905-1906, based on primary sources, there were highlighted the murders and plunderings against the peaceful muslim-turkish population in the Surmeli (Iğdir) region by the armed groups of the Armenian church and the Dashnaksutyun party;

- The facts of plunderings and lootings committed by the Armenian military units created after the beginning of the First World War in the front area and in the areas close to the front were revealed;

- After the establishment of the Republic of Armenia, the policy of ethnic cleansing was carried out at the state level, and it has been proven by statistical indicators that this policy led to the genocide of peaceful people in the Surmali (Igdir) region.

- The large scale activity of Azerbaijan People's Republic in the direction of protecting the Azerbaijani population living in Iravan governorate, including Surmali district, and providing assistance to refugees was systematically investigated.

**Theoretical and practical significance of research.** The results of the research can be used in writing of general works and textbooks on the history of Azerbaijan, as well as in the preparation of general and special lectures in higher educational institutions related to the political history of Azerbaijan. The factual materials and statistical indicators used in the dissertation can be important during the struggle against those who falsify the history of Azerbaijan, revealing the truths of the genocide, and exposing the Armenian lies.

**Approbation and application of research.** The thesis work was discussed in the Department of New History and History of Genocides against the Azerbaijani People at the Institute of History of ANAS with the participation of experts invited from ANAS Institute of Caucasian Studies, Baku State University and Sumgayit State University and was recommended for open defense. The content and main ideas of the research were reflected in 10 published scientific works. 4 of them are scientific articles, and 6 are scientific reports. One of the articles was published in the Scientific News of Tavria University in Ukraine, and one of the scientific reports was published in the materials of the international scientific conference held in Igdir, Turkiye.

**Name of organization where the disseration is accomplished.** Dissertation work is accomplished in the



Department of New History and History of Genocides against the Azerbaijani People at the Institute of History of ANAS.

**Structure and volume of the dissertation.** The thesis consists of an introduction, 7 subsections, 3 chapters, conclusion and the list of reference literature. Total volume of the research paper is 177 pages, and the total number of signs (without bibliography) is 287108 signs. Introduction consists of – 30279, Chapter I – 64794, Chapter II – 59158, Chapter III – 120182 and Conclusion – 10283 signs.

## II. THE MAIN CONTENT OF THE DISSERTATION

In the "**Introduction**" part of the dissertation, it was explained the state of the problem study, its relevance and scientific importance of the topic, there were indicated the set goals and tasks the characteristics of the researches conducted in this field, and it was carefully analyzed the main referred sources. A large number of archival materials, statistical collections, newspaper and magazine publications, Internet resources, and other primary sources were consulted. In the introductory part, the theoretical and methodological foundations of the research, the main provisions of defence, scientific innovations, the theoretical and practical importance and approval of the research were also provided by the requirements of the HAC.

The first chapter of the dissertation work is called "**Impact of the occupation of Surmeli (Igdir) region by Russia on the condition of the Turkish-Muslim population**" and consists of three subchapters. In the first subchapter entitled "*Ethno-demographic situation in the region on the eve of the Russian occupation*", it was given an information about the territory of the Surmeli (Igdir) region, about the etymology of its name, and it was proved the fact that from the ancient times Igdir was the ancestral home of the turkish tribes, and that the armenian and kurdisch tribes came to these places later, and they always constituted a small minority in the total count of population. Igdir

(Surmeli) region has continuously been a part of Azerbaijan since ancient times. In modern times, Iğdir province - Iğdir region, which is located in the north-east part of the Republic of Türkiye, was formerly part of the Chukhursad Beylarbey of the Safavid state of Azerbaijan under the name of Surmali, and in the second half of the 18th century and the first 30s of the 19th century, in the Iravan khanate, and in the Iravan governorate during the Russian occupation. By the agreement concluded in Gyumri between Türkiye and the Republic of Armenia, Iğdir (Surmeli) region was transferred to Türkiye on December 2, 1920.

From the reliable source it becomes clear that "Details of the Iravan province" compiled in 1590, during the attack of the Ottoman troops, a large part of the Shia population of the Aralig region - Iğdir (Surmeli) region, was forced to leave their ancestral homeland fearing religious persecution and their home was turned into a mezra (abandoned settlement - K.A.).<sup>23</sup> By order of the Ottoman sultan, kurdish tribes from the Sunni sect were moved to the vacant homes of the azerbaijani population: *"Sunni kurds from Diyarbakir and other places, Tigris kurds called "Kur-mach" ... were brought to the regions of Yerevan and Nakhchivan, from the Gizilbash-Turkmen and Oirat people who moved from here and were placed in the vacated villages and towns."*<sup>24</sup> The Sunni kurdish tribes were resettled again in the 20s of the 18th century, when the Ottoman troops recaptured Chukhursad Beylerbeyi - Iravan province. However, the Safavid state liberated those places every time, and the Azerbaijani population from the local Shia sect returned to their ancestral lands. During the 80 years of existence of the Iravan Khanate, especially on the eve of its occupation by Russia, the absolute majority of the population in the city of Iravan and all districts,

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<sup>23</sup> İrəvan əyalətinin müfəssəl dəftəri. / tərtibçi T.H.Nəcəfli. – Bakı: Çarşıoğlu, – 2009, – s.213-218

<sup>24</sup> Kırzioğlu, F. M. Osmanlıların Kafkaz – ellerini fethi (1451-1590) / F. Kırzioğlu. – Ankara: Türk Tarih Kurumu Basımevi, – 1998. – s.437-438

including the Surmeli (Igdır) region, were azerbaijani turks. Armenians constituted only 18.76 percent of the total population.<sup>25</sup>

The second sub-chapter is called "**Mass resettlement of Armenians to Surmeli (Igdır) region**" where there were analyzed the deprivations of the local turkish-muslim population during the occupation of the Iravan Khanate by the Russian Empire, and the mass resettlement of Armenians in Surmeli district in the first years after the occupation. According to Russian researcher I. Chopin, during the Russian occupation, 27,000 muslims who were deep-rooted residents of the Iravan Khanate were killed or forced to move from the regions where military operations took place. As a result, a total of 49,875 muslims remained in the territory of the former khanate.<sup>26</sup>

In the 30s of the 19th century, a total of 709 families or 4832 people <sup>27</sup> lived in Surmali district. During that period, 299 families or 1,459 Armenians from the Gajar state, 261 families or 1,342 Armenians from the Ottoman Empire were relocated to Surmeli district.<sup>28</sup> The Armenian families settled in Surmeli district were mainly those relocated from Bayazid region. <sup>29</sup> As a result, the total number of Armenians in the district reached 935 families or 5892 people. <sup>30</sup> This was equal to 43.5 percent of the total population of Surmali district - 13,525 people.

During the Russian-Osmanli war of 1877-1878, 35,000 alachiks (i.e. family - K.A.) or more than 100,000 Armenians

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<sup>25</sup> Bournoutian, G.A. The khanate of Erevan under Qajar rule 1795-1828. Mazda Publishers in association with Bibliotheca Persica / G.Bournoutian. Costa Mesa. – California fyd New York, – 1992, – p. 35

<sup>26</sup> Шопен, И.И. Исторический памятник состояния Армянской области в эпоху её присоединения к Российской империи / И.Шопен. – СПб., – 1852. – с.635-636

<sup>27</sup> Шопен, И.И. Указ. раб., – с.647-648

<sup>28</sup> Шопен, И.И. Указ. раб., – с.649-650

<sup>29</sup> Rəhimoğlu, H. Silinməz adlar, sağalmaz yaralar / H.Rəhimoğlu. – Bakı: Azərnəşr, – 1997, – s.26

<sup>30</sup> Шопен, И.И. Указ. раб., – с.647-648

were transferred from the Ottoman Empire to Surmeli district.<sup>31</sup> In the following years, only a part of Armenians remained in Surmeli district, and most of them moved to other regions. According to the census materials conducted in 1886, at that time 9748 families or 71066 people lived in Surmeli district, out of which 34451 were tatars (Azerbaijani - K.A.), 14629 were kurds, and 22096 were armenians.<sup>32</sup> That is, in the 80s of the 19th century, armenians living in this region made up less than a third of the total population.

In 1893-1894, after the suppression of Armenian uprisings in the eastern provinces of the Ottoman state, there started a new wave of Armenian emigration to the Caucasus. In a short time, up to 280 thousand Armenians moved to this land.<sup>33</sup> The effect of this new migration in Surmeli district was reflected in the collection of population census in Russia in 1897. According to the information gained from the collection, at that time, 93,958 people lived in Surmeli district, out of which 41,417 were tatars (Azerbaijani - K.A.), 27,075 were Armenians, and 19,099 of them were kurds.<sup>34</sup>

In the first decades of the 20th century, the migration of Armenians to the places where the muslim-turkish population lived, including the Surmeli region, continued. In 1915, 105,741 people lived in Surmeli district, out of which 66,370 were muslims, 32,636 were armenians, and 5,735 were other people<sup>35</sup>. This was the scene resulting from the obvious hostility of the Armenian soldiers serving in the Russian army and the Armenian volunteer units towards the turkish-muslim population close to the front in the Caucasus front in the regions.

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<sup>31</sup> Qafqazda “erməni məsələsi.” III c., – s.132

<sup>32</sup> Свод статистических данных о населении Закавказского края, извлечённых из посемейных списков. 1886 г., – Тифлис, – 1993. –с. IX, 9

<sup>33</sup> Qafqazda “erməni məsələsi.” III c., – s.132-133

<sup>34</sup> Первая всеобщая перепись населения Российской империи 1897 г. т. LXXI. Эриванская губерния – СПб., 1905, – с.18

<sup>35</sup> Azərbaycan xalqına qarşı 1918-ci il mart soyqırımı. Sənədlər toplusu. 3 cildə, II c., 2-ci kitab, İrəvan quberniyasında soyqırımı – s.17-18

In the third sub-chapter entitled "*Socio-economic and socio-political situation of the Surmeli (Igdır) region at the beginning of the 19th-20th centuries*" investigates the socio-economic situation in the region after the creation of the "Armenian province" that established the arbitrariness and bribery of the Armenian officials who infiltrated the provincial administration, and the radical nationalist Armenian organizations' affect on the socio-political situation of the region. In the 1930s and 1950s, prohibitive customs rules had a negative impact on the economic situation, especially on trade relations, in the Irevan province, including the Surmeli region. After 1830,<sup>36</sup> when the general of the Russian army, prince V. Bebutov, who was originally an Armenian, was appointed as the head of the "Armenian Province", the economic situation of the population became more difficult.

In the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century, the influence of the armenian-gregorian church on the cultural and educational affairs of the Armenian population became stronger. The schools opened by the church leadership and Armenian staunch nationalist circles have become centers that propagated hatred towards turks and muslims. As a result, radical nationalists, angry and spiteful towards their turkish-muslim neighbors and ready to commit bloody crimes and terrorist acts for the "Armenian issue" grew up. During this period, attempts to send arms and ammunition to Armenian terrorists via Qajar Iran and the Ottoman state increased. The Russian border service, the gendarmerie department strengthened the measures against it in the direction of the southern border of the Irevan governorate, especially in the direction of Surmeli district. This, in turn, led the Armenian nationalist forces to commit terrorist acts against the representatives of the Russian authorities in the Caucasus. For a short period of time, 47 Russian civil servants and military

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<sup>36</sup> АКТЫ, собранные Кавказскою археографическою комиссиею / Под редакцией А.П. Берже. т. VII. – Тифлис, – 1878, – с.497

personnel,<sup>37</sup> including A. Bogoslovsky, head of the Surmeli district, and Dudnikov,<sup>38</sup> who was appointed in his place, became victims of Armenian terrorism. The reason for the killing of the last two persons was that they took decisive measures to prevent the smuggling of weapons by the Armenian nationalists from the territory of Surmeli district.

The second chapter of the dissertation entitled "**Ethnic relations in the Surmeli (Iqdir) region at the beginning of the 20th century**" consists of two sub-chapters. In the first sub-chapter entitled "*Ethnic crimes of Armenians against Azerbaijani turks in 1905-1906*" they were studied ethnic crimes of Armenians against Azerbaijani turks in 1905-1906. Dashnaksutyun's party formed terrorist groups and started mass killings and lootings against the muslim population, while also causing serious damage to Azerbaijani settlements in the Iqdir-Surmeli region. In 1905-1906, Armenian armed groups destroyed more than 200 settlements inhabited by Azerbaijanis in Surmali district and other regions, tens of thousands of civilians became refugees from their homeland. Armenians carried out ethnic cleansing in those areas by killing more than 200 thousand Azerbaijanis, including children, women and the elderly.

In the report compiled by the Special Department of the Caucasus Viceroyalty in 1909, it was noted that Armenian nationalists carried out a policy of ethnic cleansing with terrorist acts in 1905-1906: they "*by their terrorist acts they partially achieved other goals as well: Transcaucasia (South Caucasus - K. A.) They cleared the lands inhabited by the tatars (Azerbaijani - K.A.) in the territory, so that in the future, Armenians who will be relocated from Turkiye and partially from Iran will be settled there.*"<sup>39</sup>

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<sup>37</sup> Алиева, М.Ф. Армянский террор против Азербайджанского народа в XX в. / М. Алиева. – Баку: «Турхан» ИПО, – 2018, – с.27-28, 33

<sup>38</sup> Багиров, М.Б., Вердиева, Х. Ю. В поисках истины ..., – с.605

<sup>39</sup> Сведения об организации и деятельности армянской революционной партии «Дашнаксутюн» / История Азербайджана по документам и публикациям, – с.108

In spite of being caught unprepared in such a difficult time, the zealous intellectuals and influential people of Surmeli district stood up to protect the civilian population. Armed groups were formed to protect settlements. Armed groups from Nakhchivan also came to help and protect the turkish-muslim population. As a result, the insidious plans of the Armenian bandits were prevented.

In the second sub-chapter entitled "***Violence of Armenian armed groups against the turkish-muslim population in 1914-1916***" have been studied massacres against the peaceful muslim turkish and kurdish population after the start of the First World War, when the tsarism took advantage of the Armenian nationalist forces, and formed Armenian volunteer to fight in the Russian army in the Caucasus front. From the first period of the war the muslim population of Kars, Ardahan and Batum provinces, Surmeli (Igdır) and Iravan regions, which are near the areas where military operations were conducted, were in a very difficult situation. The Armenian military forces, which had to participate in the battles against the Ottoman state, started killing and looting the turkish-muslim population living in these regions. In the sources of that period, it was mentioned that the facts of arbitrariness and looting of the property of the local muslim-turkish population increased in Igdır and Iravan regions. In Surmeli (Igdır), Kars, Ardahan and other frontline regions, these Armenian gangs killed 30 thousand muslim-turkish population.<sup>40</sup> Some of them were civilians, and some were captured by Ottoman soldiers. According to the memoirs of Russian soldiers, Armenian soldiers with rifle butts bit turkish captives to death, who were weakened by hunger and disease.<sup>41</sup> The chief of staff of the Russian army in the Caucasus, General L. Bolkhovitinov, in his report addressed to the Viceroy of the Caucasus in 1915, and gave extensive information about the

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<sup>40</sup> Qəhrəmanov, N. I Dünya müharibəsində Qafqaz cəbhəsində erməni amili. / –N.Qəhrəmanov. – Bakı: "E.L." NPS, – 2008, – s.77

<sup>41</sup> Türkdöğən, Berna. Türk-Ermeni İlişkileri (Tehcirden Günümüze). – s.68

violence of the Armenian armed groups against the civilian population: women, children and the elderly.<sup>42</sup>

After the start of the First World War, violence by the neighboring Armenians against the local Azerbaijani and other muslim population in the Southwest Caucasus, including the Iğdir region, increased. The Armenian population considered Russia's war against the Ottoman state as an opportunity and tried to intimidate and expel the neighboring muslim-turkish population by plundering and committing murders, and strengthening their positions in those places. Worried about these acts of violence against the peaceful muslim-turkish population, the governor-general of Kars province, Zuyev, signed a special declaration on December 22, 1914, threatening the culprits by the death penalty. However, a month later, on January 19, 1915, in his new declaration, the translation of which was published in the 842nd issue of the "İqbal" newspaper, he stated with regret that *"the hostile attacks of the Christian (Armenian - K.A.) population have not decreased since then, on the contrary, they have increased aggravated. ... the Christian (Armenian - K.A.) population does not stop at killing innocent and blameless muslims, ... armed with the intention of revenge, they attempt to loot and plunder muslim villages, and commit all kinds of oppression and violence."*<sup>43</sup>

In general, during the First World War, the Azerbaijani population of the Sürmeli (İğdir) region was subjected to the arbitrariness of the Armenian units who went to fight in the Caucasian front and then returned to rest and increase their ranks, and also suffered from the violence of the angry Armenian masses who fled from Eastern Anatolia, where military operations took place. In this subchapter, it was also studied that there was also the aid provided by charity societies

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<sup>42</sup> Рапорт генерал-майора Болховитинова о деятельности армянских вооруженных отрядов в Турции и Закавказье в Первую мировую войну / Отв. за вып. А.Агаларов. – Баку: Азернешр, – 2012. – 152 с.

<sup>43</sup> Qars vilayətinin general-qubernatoru Zuyevin müraciəti // «İqbal» qəzeti, 19.I.1915, №842



from Baku and other cities to the civilian population who were left into hunger and cold as a result of shelling, burning, and deprivation of all means of living by the Russian and Armenian military in the regions close to the front.

The third chapter is called "**Massacres on ethnic grounds in Surmeli (Iqdir) region in 1917-1920**" and consists of three sub-chapters. The first sub-chapter is entitled "*Mass murders and plunderings committed by Armenians against the Turkish-Muslim population in 1917-1918*", and in this section it was investigated strengthening of anarchy in the Caucasus after the February Revolution and the October Revolution of 1917, and the collapse of the Caucasian Front, when the Armenian armed groups in the South in the Western Caucasus, especially in the Iravan province, in the Surmeli region, committed their brutality and cruelty against the peaceful muslim-turkish population. Along with the withdrawal of Russian army units and Armenian military forces from Eastern Anatolia, which they had previously occupied in the end of 1917 - the first months of 1918, the Armenian population, which had actively participated in the murders and plunderings of the peaceful muslim-turkish population in those places, was afraid of retaliation and flowed to the South Caucasus, first of all to the Iravan governorate. O. Kachaznuni, who was one of the leaders of the Republic of Armenia, later admitted that "*tens of thousands and hundreds of thousands of Armenian refugees crowded into the settlements of Russian Armenians (the settlements of the Armenian population of Irevan and Ganja governorates - K.A.)*." <sup>44</sup> Armenian leaders deliberately directed these angry and desperate people from everywhere to these regions, and through them, they began to forcibly evict the local Azerbaijani population from their ancestral lands.

The radical Armenian nationalist forces with particular efforts implemented the policy of committing the ethnic cleansing in

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<sup>44</sup> Качазнуни, О. Дашнакчутюн больше нечего делать / О.Качазнуни. – Баку: ЭЛМ, –1990. – с.13

Irevan and surrounding regions, first of all in Surmali district, and turning those places into a region where Armenians live compactly.

<sup>45</sup> All vile methods were used for this: the peaceful muslim-turkish population, mostly women, children and the elderly, were killed by brutal methods (they threw them alive into wells and poured stones on them, pierced them with bayonets, etc.), their property were looted, settlements were burned or occupied by Armenians who had fled from the Ottoman state.

As a result, at the end of 1917 and the first months of 1918, 76 Muslim villages were destroyed in Surmali district by Armenian armed groups and Armenians who had fled from Turkiye. In these villages, 5,493 farms were looted, 41,347 people, including 19,458 women and girls, were killed or forced to leave their homes. <sup>46</sup> Only in the spring of 1918, peace was established in the region after the Ottoman army units defeated and expelled the Armenian military units.

In the second sub-chapter called "*Ethnic cleansing policy at the state level of the Republic of Armenia*" basing on various sources there were studied that after the establishment of the Republic of Armenia there were realized the acts of genocide committed by the Armenian military in the territory of the Irevan governorate, cruel punitive measures by the state against the local Azerbaijani population.

According to the terms of the Mudros Treaty, the Ottoman military units had to withdraw to the Russian-Ottoman borders of 1914. Taking advantage of this, Armenian forces occupied Surmeli (Igdir) and Kars regions with the help of British representatives in the Caucasus. The Armenian leadership began to implement the policy of ethnic cleansing and genocide against the Azerbaijani and other muslim populations in these regions. <sup>47</sup>

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<sup>45</sup> Махмудов, Я.М. Геноцид тюрко-мусульманского населения Азербайджана в 1918-1920 гг. / Я.Махмудов. – Баку: Турхан ИПО, – 2015, – с.60

<sup>46</sup> İrəvan quberniyasında 1918-ci ilin mart ayına kimi dağıdılmış və tərk edilmiş müsəlman kəndlərinin siyahısı // ARDA, f.894, siy.10, iş 80, v.50-52

<sup>47</sup> Osmanlı arşiv belgelerinde Nahçıvan, – s.397

In August 1919, Armenian military units created a defense line along the Araz River in the direction of Vedi. Later, the military units headed by Dro, the Deputy Minister of Defense of Armenia, began to destroy muslim villages in Etchmiadzin district and Igdir. Up to 60 villages were burned, the entire male population was destroyed. Dro tried to justify these merciless punitive measures against the civilian population under the pretext of "strategic necessity".<sup>48</sup> In the last two months of 1919, 34 more villages in Surmeli district were attacked by Armenians.<sup>49</sup> Settlements were destroyed, all property of the population was looted. This development of events showed that the Armenian politicians who dream of creating a "Greater Armenia" intend to continue the policy of ethnic cleansing in the lands they claim, including Igdir, and settle Armenian refugees in that area. Muslim refugees from the Iqdir region many times tried to return their homes, but each time they were subjected to murders and rplunderings. Their houses and lands were occupied by Armenians who had moved from the eastern provinces of the Ottoman state.

On February 3, 1920, the commander of the 15th corps, Kazim Garabakir Pasha, sent the information to the Ministry of Military Affairs, stating that Armenians with their animals entered the deserted muslim villages around Igdir.<sup>50</sup> Only in the fall of 1920, the Turkish army defeated the Armenian troops and liberated the Surmeli (Igdir) region along with Kars, Ardahan and other regions and joined these places to Turkiye.

In the third sub-chapter called "*Aid of APR to refugees*", there were mentioned the important steps taken by the government of Azerbaijan to protect the safety of the local muslim-turkish population and displaced refugees from other regions in Iravan province, especially in Surmali district, and to

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<sup>48</sup> Cənub-qərbi Azərbaycan general-qubernatorluğunda vəziyyət haqqında // ARDA, f.894, siy. 10, iş 30, – vər. 43

<sup>49</sup> İrəvan quberniyasında 1919-cu ilin son iki ayında dağıdılmış müsəlman kəndlərinin siyahısı // ARDA, f.894, siy. 10, iş. 80, – v.31-33

<sup>50</sup> Osmanlı belgelerinde İğdır, – s.147

organize assistance to them. The most important of them was the establishment of a diplomatic mission in Irevan at the end of January 1919 and the establishment of the Governor General of South-West Azerbaijan on February 28, 1919, in order to protect the rights of the Azerbaijani population living in this region and regulate the provision of financial aid.

The government of Azerbaijan allocated 1 million on February 1919, 3 million on July, 2 million on October, and another 21 million on January 1920 for the basic needs of the muslim refugees in Iravan governorate, allocated funds, arranged sending them food, clothings and medicine. It established a Central Commission to deal with the issues of refugees and internally displaced persons in Baku, Shamakhi and other regions. At its meeting on October 20, 1919, the government allocated funds in the amount of 68715531 manats for transporting refugees, placing them in residential areas, providing them with arable land and other necessary means.<sup>51</sup>

In this section, various assistances of the Azerbaijani government to refugees from Armenian, Russian, Jewish, Polish and other nations were also discussed.

In "**Conclusion**" part of the dissertation, the research was concluded and the main results were presented

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<sup>51</sup> Azərbaycan hökumətinin Qaçqınlar məsələsi üzrə yaradılmış Mərkəzi Komissiyasının məruzəsi əsasında 20 oktyabr 1919-cu il tarixli qərarı // f.894, siy.1, iş 27, v.12

**Main content of the dissertation is reflected in the following published articles of the author:**

1. XX əsrin başlanğıcında İğdir-Sürməli bölgələrində türk-müsəlman əhaliyə qarşı erməni qüvvələrinin kütləvi qətliaamları // “Azərbaycanda və Şərqi Anadoluda türk-müsəlman əhaliyə qarşı soyqırımları (1914-1918-ci illər)” mövzusunda II beynəlxalq elmi konfransın materialları. – Bakı, Azərbaycan Milli Elmlər Akademiyası Tarix İnstitutunun Elmi Əsərləri. Xüsusi buraxılışı, – 2015. №52, 53, 54, 55,– s.588-591
2. 1914-1920-ci illərdə İğdir-Sürməli bölgələrində türk-müsəlman əhaliyə qarşı soyqırımları haqqında // “Uydurma erməni soyqırımı: yalanlar, iftiralər; türk-müsəlman soyqırımı: faktlar, həqiqətlər” mövzusunda II beynəlxalq elmi konfransın materialları –Bakı, Azərbaycan Universiteti,– 2015.– s.335-340
3. İğdir (Sürməli) bölgəsində erməni silahlı dəstələrinin müsəlman əhaliyə qarşı soyqırımları (1918-1920-ci illər) // – Bakı: «Tarix və onun problemləri»,– 2018. №3, – s.327-333
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6. İrəvan quberniyasının türk-müsəlman qaçqınlarına AXC-nin yardımları // Gənc tədqiqatçıların III respublika elmi-praktik konfransının materialları. – Bakı, Azərbaycan Universiteti, – 2020. – s.84-86
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