AZERBAIJAN REPUBLIC

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ABSTRACT

of the dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Sciences

SOCIO-POLITICAL PROCESSES IN THE REGIONS OF AZERBAIJAN DURING THE REPUBLICAN PERIOD (1918-1920)

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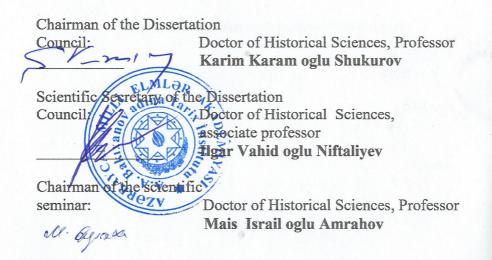
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I. GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DISSERTATION

Relevance and development of the topic. In-depth study of the history of the regions of Azerbaijan is one of the most important problems of domestic historiography. It is impossible to investigate the whole history of Azerbaijan objectively without a comprehensive study of the history of our regions, without thorough analysis of the events and processes that took place in different regions at different times. In this regard, the study of the history of each region is of particular importance.

The establishment of the Republic in 1918 caused serious socio-political changes in all regions of the country, including Baku, and led to an increase in the socio-political and cultural activity of the masses. The population of the uyezds that formed the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan (hereinafter R.A. - K.I.) was closely involved in the building of the national state in the country. Of course, the socio-political processes in each region were different, but at the same time, the general regularities of these processes were manifested in all regions. Depending on the geopolitical conditions, socio-economic, cultural and educational development features, historical traditions, socio-national composition of the population and ther factors, the socio-political, socio-economic, cultural and spiritual life of each region was unique. In particular, the situation was more complicated in our regions - Nakhchivan, Karabakh, Zangazur, where the Armenian chauvinist-national circles not only made claims, but carried out armed aggression and supported ethnic separatism.

Therefore, the consideration of the processes taking place in the regions of Northern Azerbaijan as an integral part of the process of national state building is a very important ideological factor, and the study of the participation of the masses in these processes has great political significance.

The political processes that took place in our regions in 1918-1920 were not limited to the borders of Northern Azerbaijan, but led to serious changes in the subsequent situation in the region as a whole. This was especially evident in the events in Nakhchivan, Karabakh, Zangazur, Zagatala and Lankaran regions. It must be acknowledged that among the turbulent socio-political events that took place in the South Caucasus, Azerbaijan and its various regions in 1918-1920, attract more attention in terms of their impact on the future of Azerbaijan. Taking into account the complex geopolitical position of these regions, the specificity of the events taken place in those regions, their analysis is given more space in the dissertation. It is impossible to analyze the processes taking place in those regions in isolation during the period under study. Throughout history, Armenians have made baseless territorial claims to our regions, committed countless acts of violence and atrocities against their population. At the same time, the Azerbaijani population of these regions also fought together to protect their lands from Armenian aggression. However, it should be taken into account that in accordance with the natural-economic, historical-ethnic, geopolitical conditions, this struggle was carried out in different forms in each region and gave different results.

The study of complex socio-political processes, genocide and violence against the Muslim-Turkish population in different periods of history in the historical territories of Azerbaijan, especially in the territories outside the Republic of Azerbaijan, remains one of the important tasks of historiography. From this viewpoint, the study of the events that took place in Zangazur region in 1918-1920 is of special importance. Armenian nationalist-chauvinist circles, trying to take advantage of the processes taking place in the world at that time, made serious efforts to seize this territory of Azerbaijan. The land of Zangazur became a real issue for Armenian nationalism. The capture of Zangazur, which was of special geopolitical importance through the complete cleansing of the Turkish-Muslim population, was one of the main goals of the Armenian strategy. By capturing Zangazur, the Armenians aimed to undermine the integrity of Azerbaijan, as well as to strike a blow on the natural and geographical unity of the entire Turkic world, to permanently break the land ties between the

Turkic peoples. Despite the difficult military and economic situation, the leadership of the Republic of Ararat mobilized all its resources to change the ethnic and military situation in Zangazur in their favor and to occupy the region, and, unfortunately, succeeded. In fact, one of the main reasons for the problems faced by our people later, including the occupation of our lands, was our lack of determination to protect other territories, including Zangazur, in 1918-1920.

Compared to the mentioned regions, the specific advantages of the Nakhchivan region (the majority of the Azerbaijani population, the presence of the political elite, the military and political support of Turkey, the high level of political organization of the population) prevented the Armenians from achieving serious success here, and resulted in the failure of the Armenian plans for this region. It is true that after the Bolsheviks handed over the land of Zangazur to Armenia in the early 1920s, Nakhchivan was separated from the main territory of Azerbaijan and turned into an enclave, but the attempts of the Armenians to seize Nakhchivan did not succeed.

During the period under investigation, historical events took place in other that formed the territory of the AR, the population of the regions took an active part in the struggle to ensure the territorial integrity of the country and state sovereignty, the establishment of national state structures and socio-political organizations. Some experience has been gained in addressing issues, especially the refugee problem. In fact, since these issues are part of the sociopolitical process and changes in the regions, it was considered important to study them in a comprehensive manner with sociopolitical issues.

A detailed analysis of all these issues based on the analysis and reinterpretation of archival documents and periodicals, as well as historical literature, especially literature published in our country and abroad in recent years, once again confirms the scientific and theoretical importance of research.

The development of the historiography of the studied problem can be approached from two aspects: the historiography of the Republic of Azerbaijan, 1917-1920 as a whole and the history of individual regions.

Certain aspects of the history of the northern regions of Azerbaijan in 1917-1920 are reflected in the works dedicated to the revolutionary movement in Azerbaijan during the Soviet period, the struggle for Soviet power and the establishment of Soviet power. However, since the main attention is focused on the peasant movement, analysis of the socio-political situation in the uyezds is hardly found. Since all other issues in Soviet historiography are approached from the principle of class struggle of the ruling ideology of the current period, it is impossible to take them as an objective basis. On the other hand, Soviet historiography does not stand up to any criticism in the context of today's scientific-methodological and factual approaches. This is primarily due to the limited source base of these works, the facts are taken out of context and selected in accordance with ideological doctrines. In Soviet historiography, the processes that took place in the regions were usually distorted by epithets such as "peasant movement in Azerbaijan", "victory of the socialist revolution", "struggle against counterrevolution and foreign military intervention". The genocides carried out by the Bolshevik-Dashnak forces in the spring of 1918 were described as "a triumphant march of the Soviet power in uyezds". This approach is more typical for Soviet historiography of the 1920s - 1950s. It is no coincidence that during these years no separate work has been published on the history of the regions of Azerbaijan under study. Only in N. Pchelin's book¹ it is possible to find materials on the state of land relations in Azerbaijan. Due to the fact that it serves more ideological and political purposes and the lack of factual material, it is impossible to create a general picture of the socio-political situation in the regions on the basis of the analysis of Soviet historiography of the 1920s - 1950s.

Although the history of 1917-1920 was the most frequently used topic in Azerbaijani Soviet historiography, covering the period

¹ Пчелин, Н.Н. Крестьянский вопрос при Мусавате (1918-1920 гг.). Очерки / Н. Пчелин. - Баку, АзНО, - 1931. - 61 с.

from the 1950s to the late 1980s, the ideological approach to historical processes, the factual limitations, remained typical for this period as well. This is confirmed by the works of Z.Ibrahimov, J.Guliyev, A.Sumbatzadeh, I.Tokarjevsky, A.Kadishev and other authors¹.

At the same time, certain differences in the problem studied in the historiography of this period began to manifest themselves. Starting from the late 1950s, works illuminating the issues of the class struggle, the peasant movement, the activities of the Bolsheviks in separate regions, and others important for Soviet historiography were published in the Soviet historiography of Azerbaijan.² Among the mentioned works, M.Rustambeyli's books on Guba district, N.Alizadeh's and A.Privolni's on Lankaran district, G.Madatov's on the establishment of Soviet power in Nakhchivan have a relatively wide source base, although they were written in accordance with the

¹İbrahimov, Z.İ. Sosialist inqilabı uğrunda Azərbaycan zəhmətkeşlərinin mübarizəsi / Z. İbrahimov. - Bakı: Аzərnəşr, - 1957. - 585 s.; Гулиев, Дж.Б. Борьба Коммунистической Партии за осуществление ленинской национальной политики в Азербайджане / Дж. Гулиев. - Баку: Азернешр, -1970. - 706 с.; Токаржевский, Е.А. Из истории иностранной интервенции и гражданской войны в Азербайджане / Е. Токаржевский. - Баку: Изд. АН, -1957. - 332 с.; Кадишев, А. Интервенция и гражданская война в Закавказье / А. Кадишев. -Москва: Военное изд-во, - 1960. - 510 с.

² Əliyev, P.M. Qarabağ bolşevikləri Sovet hakimiyyətinin qələbəsi uğrunda mübarizədə / P. Əliyev P. - Bakı: Azərnəşr, - 1963. - 105 s.; Əlizadə, N.İ. Sovet hakimiyyətinin qələbəsi və Lənkəran qəzası zəhmətkeşlərinin möhkəmləndirilməsi uğrunda mübarizəsi tarixindən / N. Əlizadə. - Bakı: Azərnəşr, - 1963. - 112 s.; Katibli, M.M. Gədəbəy bolşevik təşkilatı tarixindən / Katibli M. - Bakı: Azərnəşr, - 1962, - 118 s. Miralayev, T.S. Gəncə və Qazax qəzaların kəndlilərinin ingilabi hərəkatına bolseviklərin rəhbərliyi (1917-1920) / Miralayev T.. - Bakı: Azərnəşr, -1963. - 86 s.; Галустян, А.А. Из истории трудящихся Гянджинской (Елизаветпольской) губернии борьбы Азербайджана за Советскую власть (1917-1920 годы) / А. Галустян. - Баку: Аз.Гос.Изд., - 1963. - 63 с.; Rüstəmbəyli, M. Çarpışan qüvvələr / М. Rüstəmbəyli. - Bakı: Maarif, - 1991. - 188 s.; Мадатов, Г.А. Победа Советской власти в Нахичевани и образование Нахичеванской АССР / Г. Мадатов. -Баку: АН. Азерб. ССР, - 1968. - 187 с.

doctrines of Soviet historiography¹. However, in all these publications, the real situation in Azerbaijan's uyezds is falsified, the efforts of the Republic government to restore its sovereignty in the regions are described as counter-revolution, and the anti-Azerbaijani activities of the separatist forces, as a struggle for Soviet power. Among the works published at that time, in H. Azimov's works² there are materials that cover the socio-political processes in the regions of Azerbaijan in 1917-1918, including the formation of new authorities, soviets, peasant committees, the establishment of political parties and organizations.

From the beginning of the 90s of the 20th century, many periods of the country's history full of complicted events, especially the period of 1917-1920, which was subjected to more falsification in Soviet historiography, the history of the Republic, on the basis of newly introduced sources, were studied more deeply and objectively, ideologically and conditions arose for its investigation. During this period, in the collective works, monographic studies and dissertations dedicated to the history of the Republic in Azerbaijan, the main focus was on the socio-political processes that took place in Azerbaijan in 1917-1920, and on the study of the internal and foreign policy of the Republic, but against the background of these processes, the events that took place in individual regions were also touched upon.³

For the first time in modern Azerbaijani historiography,

¹ Rüstəmbəyli M. Çarpışan qüvvələr; Əlizadə N. Lənkəran qəzası zəhmətkeşlərinin sovet hakimiyyətinin qələbəsi və möhkəmləndirilməsi uğrunda mübarizəsi tarixindən; Привольный, А.А. Над Муганью зарево Октября / А. Привольный. - Баку: Азернешр, - 1967. - 197 с.

² Əzimov, H.S. Azərbaycan qəzalarında sovetlər (1917-1918-ci illər) / H. Əzimov. - Bakı: Elm, - 1971. - 126 s.; Əzimov, H.S. İnqilab dövründə Azərbaycanda kəndli təşkilatları və sinfi mübarizə / H. Əzimov. - Bakı: Elm, - 1976. - 37 s.; Азимов, Г.С. Великий Октябрь в Азербайджане / Г. Азимов. - Баку: Азернешр, - 1987. - 324 с.

³ Azərbaycan Cümhuriyyəti. (1918- 1920) / N.Ə. Ağamalıyeva [və b.]. - Bakı: Elm, - 1998. - 336 s.; Azərbaycan tarixi: 7 cilddə, V cild / M.İsmayılov [və b.]. -Bakı: Elm, - 2001. - 672 s. və b.

I.Musayev's work focused on the political situation in two important regions of Azerbaijan - Nakhchivan and Zangazur, the claims and military aggression of Armenians in these regions, the military, political, diplomatic efforts of the AR government to maintain its sovereignty in these areas¹. Its policy in the region was studied on the basis of documents from the Azerbaijani archives, most of which were first introduced into circulation by the author.

The Encyclopedia of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, edited by Y.Mahmudov, contains information on Azerbaijani uyezds².

In A.Adigozalova's monograph the issues related to the formation of local authorities, the organization of Soviets in the uyezds of Azerbaijan, the political activity of the population of the region on the eve of the establishment of the Republic were analyzed³.

A.Nazarli's work contains contains rich information about school construction, organization of educational work, and literacy of the population⁴. I.Bagirov's monograph covers the political situation in Azerbaijan after the February Revolution of 1917, the rise of the national movement in the regions, the establishment of national political organizations⁵.

One of the most important distinguishing features of the modern historiography of the AR is the writing of works in which the

¹ Musayev, İ.M. Azərbaycanın Naxçıvan və Zəngəzur bölgələrində siyasi vəziyyət və xarici dövlətlərin siyasəti (1917-1921-ci illər) / İ. Musayev. - Bakı: BDU, -1998. - 385 s.

² Azərbaycan Xalq Cümhuriyyətinin Ensiklopediyası: 2 cilddə, I cild / Y. Mahmudov [və b.]. - Bakı: Lider, - 2004. - 439 s.; Azərbaycan Xalq Cümhuriyyətinin Ensiklopediyası: 2 cilddə, II cild / Y. Mahmudov [və b.]. - Bakı: Lider, - 2004, - 469 s.

³ Adıgözəlova A.P. Fevral inqilabından sonra Şimali Azərbaycanda idarəçilik sistemi / A. Adıgözəlova. - Bakı: Elm və təhsil, - 2017. - 200 s.

⁴ Назарли, А. Э. Народное образование в Азербайджанской Республике (1918-1920) / А. Назарли. - Баку: Нурлан, - 2008. - 224 с.

⁵ Багирова, И.С. Политические партии и организации Азербайджана в начале XX века. 1900-1917 / И. Багирова. - Баку: Элм, - 1997. - 257 с.

political, economic and cultural situation of individual regions of Azerbaijan is studied. V.Aliyeva's book covers issues related to the history of Lankaran region¹, and R.Bayramova;s book covers issues related to the history of Guba region². In his monograph Sh.Rahmanzadeh touched upon the political situation in the Zagatala region of Azerbaijan, as well as the issues of belonging to the region in the context of Azerbaijani-Georgian relations³. H.Mammadova's book covers the political situation in the Karabakh region during the Republican period, the struggle of the Azerbaijani government against Armenian separatism⁴.

From the viewpoint of studying the military-political situation in the regions, the works devoted to the military history of the AR, especially the researches of M.Suleymanov are of great importance. These works contain interesting materials on the establishment of the Azerbaijani Army and the Caucasus Islamic Army (CIA) and their military operations for the territorial integrity of the country, the participation of the region population in army building, the struggle of the Azerbaijani Army against Armenian aggression⁵.

¹ Əliyeva, V.Ş. Azərbaycan Xalq Cümhuriyyəti hakimiyyətinin Lənkəran bölgəsində bərqərar edilməsi / V Əliyeva. - Bakı: Elm, - 2012. - 170 s.

² Bayramova, R.Q. Azərbaycanın Quba bölgəsi tarixin dönüş mərhələsində (1917-1920-ci illər) / R.Bayramova. - Bakı: Turxan NPB, -2018. - 236 s.

³ Rəhmanzadə, Ş.F. Azərbaycan-Gürcüstan münasibətlərində ərazi məsələləri (Azərbaycanın şimal-qərb bölgəsinin materialları əsasında. 1917-1930-cu illərin əvvəlləri) / Ş. Rəhmanzadə. - Bakı: Aspoliqraf, - 2008. - 376 s.

 ⁴ Məmmədova, H.İ. Azərbaycan Xalq Cümhuriyyəti dövründə Yuxarı Qarabağda siyasi vəziyyət: Erməni terrorizminin güclənməsi (1918-1920) / H. Məmmədova.
- Bakı: Nağıl Evi, - 2006. - 150 s.

⁵ Azərbaycan Xalq Cümhuriyyəti və Qafqaz İslam Ordusu / Mehmet Rıhtım [və b.]. - Bakı: Qafqaz Araşdırmaları İnstitutu, - 2008. - 505 s.; Süleymanov, M.S. Azərbaycan Ordusu (1918-1920) / M. Süleymanov. - Bakı: Hərbi nəşriyyat, - 1998. - 488 s.; Süleymanov, M.S. Qafqaz İslam Ordusu və Azərbaycan / M. Süleymanov. - Bakı: Hərbi nəşriyyat, - 1999. - 440 s.; Süleymanov, M.S. Nuri paşa / M. Süleymanov. - Bakı: Hərbi nəşriyyat, - 1999. - 143 s.; Yücəər, N. Birinci Dünya Müharibəsində Osmanlı Ordusunun Azərbaycan və Dağıstan əməliyyatı: Azərbaycan və Dağıstanın öz müstəqilliklərini qazanmaları. 1918 / N. Yücəər. - Bakı: Qafqaz Universiteti, -1999. - 196 s.

J.Hasanli's works cover the foreign policy of the AR government, the diplomatic struggle to ensure the country's territorial integrity, territorial disputes with Armenia, etc. In the context of the study of issues, a number of issues related to the Karabakh, Zangazur and Nakhchivan regions of Azerbaijan were reflected¹.

The works of Turkish authors touch upon the Caucasus policy of the Ottoman and M.Kamal governments, the activities of the CIA and the Turkish National Liberation Army in the regions of Azerbaijan, especially the role of Turkey in the processes around Nakhchivan and Zangazur².

While working on the work, the author referred to the works of a number of Soviet and modern Armenian authors and critically analyzed them³. The attitude of Armenian authors to the processes

¹ Həsənli, C. Azərbaycan Xalq Cümhuriyyətinin xarici siyasəti (1918-1920) / С. Həsənli. – Bakı: GARİSMA MMC, - 2009, - 576 s.; Гасанлы, Дж.П. Русская революция и Азербайджан: трудный путь к независимости. 1917-1920 / Дж. Гасанли. - Москва: ФЛИНТА, - 2011. - 672 с.

² İbrahim, Ethem Atnur. Muxtariyyət ərəfəsində Naxçıvan / İ.E. Atnur. –Naxçıvan: NDU, Qeyrət, - 1999. - 523 s.; Allen, W.E.D. Kafkas Harekatı. 1828-1921 Türk-Kafkas sınırındakı harplerin tarihi / W.E. Allen, P. Muratof. -Ankara: Genelkurmay Basım evi, - 1966, - 525 s.; 1. Dünya Harbinde Türk Harbi Kafkas Cephesi 3. Ordu Harekâtı, C. I-II / - Ankara: Genelkurmay Basımevi, - 1993. - 803 s.; Erdaş, N. Milli müsadile döneminde Kafkas cümhuriyetleri ile ilişkiler (1917-19201)/ Erdaş N. - Ankara: Genelkurmay, - 1994. - 153 s.; Erşan, M. Birinci Dünya Harbinde Osmanlı Devleti'nin Kuzey Kafkasya Siyaseti (1914-1918) / M. Erşan. - Erzurum: Atatürk Üniversitesi, Atatürk İlkeleri ve İnkılap Tarihi Enstitüsü, - 1995.; Kamalyeri, M. Çanakkale ruhu nasıl doğdu ve Azerbaycan savaşı (1917-1918) / M. Kamalyeri. - İstanbul: Baha Matbaası, - 1972. - 178 s.; Kazım Karabekirin kaleminden Doğunun kurtuluşu / Erzurum: Erzurum ticaret ve sanaye odası, - 1990. - 527 s. Kazim Karabekir. İstiklal Herbimiz / K. Karabekir. -İstanbul: Yeni Türkiye Yayın Evi, - 1960. - 660 s.; Rüştü, E.K. Büyük harpte Bakü yollarında 5. Kafkas piyada firkası / E. Rüştü. 93 saylı Askeri mecmuanın tarih kısmı. – 1934, №34.

³ Агаян, Ц.П. Победа советской власти и возрождение армянского народа / Ц. Агаян. - Москва: Мысль, - 1981. - 223 с.; Асоян, Т.М. Территориальные проблемы Республики Армении и британская политика (1918-1920 гг.) / Т. Асоян. - Москва: РИЦ «Альфа», - 2005. - 245 с.; Галоян, Г.А. Великий

that took place in Azerbaijan in 1917-1920 is generally known: in their works, they claimed that until 1918, the geographical area called Azerbaijan did not exist in the South Caucasus region, that the AR did not have historical, legal, ethnic-national foundations, that it was artificially created, and that most of the territories covered by it belonged to Armenia. By doing this, they justify the aggressive attacks of the Republic of Ararat on the Azerbaijani regions in 1918-1920, the rebellious separatist actions of the Armenian population living in these regions, and they try to prove that AR committed genocide against Armenians. At the same time, Armenian historians deny the mass genocide committed against the peaceful Muslim population in Baku and the uvezds of Azerbaijan, describing it as an attempt by Azerbaijani historians to falsify history. In order to achieve their goals, Armenian historians usually prefer to refer to either Armenian sources or historians who defend the position of Armenians. Nevertheless, many of the sources they used were inaccessible to us, and in some cases there were facts confirming the truth in the information of Armenian authors, as well as the need for scientific and critical analysis of these works.

A number of works published in Russia analyze the situation in Azerbaijan in $1918-1920^1$. However, in these works, the events in the

¹Масловский, Е.В. Мировая война на Кавказском фронте. 1914-1917 г:

Октябрь и борьба трудящихся Армении за победу Советской власти / Г. Галоян. - Ереван: Изд. АН, - 1962.; Зограбян, Э.А. Шарур-Нахичеван в 1918-1919 гг.: История геноцида нахичеванских армян / Э. Зограбян. - Ереван: Изд. ЕГУ, - 2012. - 376 с.; Петросян, Г.А. Отношения Республики Армения с Россией (1918-1920 гг.) / Г. Петросян. - Ереван: Изд. ЕГУ, - 2012. - 424 с.; Симонян, Г.С. Из истории «политического оправдания» полководца Андраника / Г. Симонян. - Ереван: ЕГУ, - 2016. - 96 с.; Hovannisian, R.G. The Armenian People from Ancient to Modern Times / R. Hovannisian, - Palgrave Macmillan: 1997. -Vol.I. p. 372; Hovannisian R.G. The Republic of Armenia. Volum I, The First Year, 1918-1919 / R. Hovannisian. - Los Angeles, London: University of California Press, - 1971. - 592 p.; Hovannisian R.G. The Republic of Armenia, Vol. II: From Versailles to London. 1919-1920 / R. Hovannisian. -Berkeley, Los Angeles, London: University of California Press, - 1982. - 603 p.; Гарегин. Нжле. Короткая биография И летопись жизни. http://nashasreda.ru/garegin-nzhde/

region are usually presented in a distorted way or the facts are taken out of context. In fact, the approach to the history of the AR in modern Russian historiography, with some exceptions, is rooted from Soviet historiography and Russian emigrant memoirs and historiography in the 1920s as a whole, denying the national statehood and national movement of Azerbaijan. It could not go far from the concept that the republic was an artificial state and that it was created with the help of the "Turkish bayonet" and then operated under the dictates of the British, discriminated against non-Muslims and took an anti-Russian position. The most obvious example of this concept we see in the works written during the Soviet period and in recent years, as well as in the memoirs of emigrant authors such as A.Denikin, B.Baykov, B.Stankevich¹. In the book of M.Volkhonski and V.Mukhanov, published in 2004, the traditional approach to the history of the Republic of modern Russian historiography is clearly manifested².

Thus, the overview of the existing scientific literature on the problem gives reason to say the following: in the examined chronological framework, the historiography of the history of the North Azerbaijan regions has undergone great development during

стратегический очерк / Е. Масловский. - Москва: Вече, - 2015. - 544с.; Морозова, О.М. Муганский регион в 1918-1920 гг.. // - Москва: Русская Старина, - 2015. №. 13, - с.46-58.; Муханов, В.М. Кавказ в революционную пору...: К истории Закавказья в 1917 - первой половине 1918 г. / В. Муханов. -Москва: REGNUM, -2017. - 80 с.; Волхонский, М. По следам Азербайджанской Демократической Республики / М. Волхонский, В. Муханов. - Москва: Европа, - 2007. - 256 с.; Ермоленко, Т. Ф. Погоны и будёновки: Гражданская война глазами белых офицеров и красноармейцев / Т. Ермоленко, О. Морозова. - Москва: Российский гуманитарный научный фонд, - 2013. - 356 с.

¹ Деникин А. Очерки русской смуты. Париж: 1921, http://militera.lib.ru/ memo/russian/deniki_ai2/index.html; Байков Б. Воспоминания о революции в Закавказье// Архив русской революции, Т.9. Берлин, 1923; Станкевич, В.Б. Судьба народов России / В. Станкевич. - Берлин: Изд. П.Ладыжникова, -1921. - 374 с.

² Волхонский Москва, Муханов В. По следам Азербайджанской Демократической Республики. Москва: Европа, 2007, 256 с.

the years of independence, the object of research has diversified from the study of the general history of the Republic to the study of specific problems, including the history of individual regions. During the past period, a number of studies investigating the condition of different regions of Azerbaijan in 1918-1920 have been revealed, among which there are studies by the author of this dissertation. At the same time, the AR's internal and external policy, economic and cultural life, regional geopolitical processes, genocides of the Turkish-Muslim population, etc., political and economic situation of regions, development of cultural and educational work, national relations and other issues related to various aspects are also covered.

An extensive source database was used to investigate the problem. Among these sources, first of all, it is necessary to mention archival materials. In the process of studying the history of the regions of Azerbaijan, the documents kept in various funds of SARA were studied and put into circulation. Interesting materials on the problem have also been identified and used in SAPDPARA funds.

An important group of sources on the problem is a collection of documents and materials published in different years. In investigating the problem, reference was made to collections published both during the Soviet era and during independence¹.

¹ Azərbaycan Xalq Cümhuriyyəti (1918-1920). Parlament (Stenorqafik hesabatlar). I cild / - Bakı: Azərbaycan, - 1998. - 976 s.; Azərbaycan Xalq Cümhuriyyəti (1918-1920). Parlament (Stenorgafik hesabatlar). II cild / - Bakı: Azərbaycan, 1998, 992 s.; Azərbaycan xalqına qarşı 1918-ci il soyqırımları / Y. Mahmudov [və b.]. - Bakı: ATİB, - 2016. - 407 s.; Azərbaycan xalqına qarşı 1918-ci il mart soyqırımı: Sənədlər toplusu. 3 cliddə, II cild, 1-ci kitab, Gəncə quberniyasında soyqırımı. 1918-1920-ci illər / - Bakı: Çaşıoğlu, - 2011. - 460 s.; Azərbaycan xalqına qarşı 1918-ci il mart soyqırımı: Sənədlər toplusu (üç cilddə), II cild, 2-ci kitab. İrəvan quberniyasında soyqırımı. 1917-1920-ci illər / - Bakı: Çaşıoğlu, - 2011. - 256 s.; Azərbaycanda sosialist inqilabının qələbəsi uğrunda bolşeviklərin mübarizəsi: Sənədlər və materiallar. 1917-1920-ci illər / - Bakı: Elm, - 1960. - s.363.; Демократическая Республика Азербайджанская (1918-1920): Армия. Документы и материалы / - Баку: Азербайджан, - 1998. - 440 с.; Азербайджанская Демократическая Республика: Архивные документы Великобритании / Составитель Н.Максвелл. - Баку: Şərq-Qərb, - 2011. - 711 с.; Азербайджанская Демократическая Республика: Внешняя политика

While working on the dissertation, the author also referred to the collections published by Armenian authors¹.

The materials of periodicals are also a very detailed source of information about the socio-political, military events, economic and cultural life of uyezds in the regions of Azerbaijan.

The object and the subject of the research. The object of research is the socio-political life of the regions in the context of the general development processes in Northern Azerbaijan in 1918-1920. The subject of the study includes the peculiarities of political, socioeconomic and cultural processes that took place in different regions during the period, the features of the involvement of the regions in national state building, ensuring territorial integrity in the face of Armenian aggression.

Objectives and tasks of the research. Although important steps have been taken in recent years to study the socio-political processes

(Документы и материалы) / - Баку: Азербайджан, - 1998. - 632 с.; Азербайджанская Республика: Документы и материалы. 1918-1920 гг. / -Баку: Элм, -1998. - 616 с.; Азербайджанская Демократическая Республика (1918-1920 гг.): Законодательные акты (Сборник документов) / - Баку: Азербайджан, - 1998. - 560 с.; Азербайджанская Демократическая Республика (1918-1920): Парламент. (Стенографические отчеты) / - Баку: Азербайджан, -1998. - 992 с.; Большевики в борьбе за победу Советской власти в Азербайджане: Документы и материалы. (1917-1918) / - Баку: Аз.Гос.Изд., -1957. - 700 с.; Борьба за победу советской власти в Азербайджане. 1918-1920: Документы и материалы / - Баку: Изд. АН, - 1967. - 569 с.; История Азербайджана по документам и публикациям / - Баку: Элм, - 1990. - 384 с. ¹Вестник архивов Армении, 1993, №1-2; Геноцид армян. Ответственность Турции и обязательства мирового сообщества, том 2, часть 1. / Составитель, ответственный редактор, автор предисловия и комментария Ю.Г.Барсегов. -Москва: - 2005; Нагорный Карабах в 1918-1923 гг.: Сборник документов и материалов // Под ред. В.А.Микаеляна. - Ереван: Академия наук Армении, -1992. - 756 с.; Нагорный Карабах в международном праве и мировой политике: Документы и комментария. Т.1 / Составитель Ю.Барсегов. -Москва: КРУГЬ, - 2008. - 944 с.; Погромы армян в Бакинской и Елизаветпольской губерниях в 1918-1920 гг. Сборник документов и материалов / - Ереван: - 2003 ; Республика Армения в 1918-1920 гг. (политическая история): Сборник документов и материалов / - Ереван: Гитутюн, - 2000. – 425 c.

that took place in the regions of Azerbaijan in 1918-1920, the existing historical materials do not allow to create a full picture of the socio-political, economic and cultural life of the regions. Taking this into account, the main purpose of the study is to analyze the socio-political, economic and cultural processes taking place in the regions of Azerbaijan (the term "Azerbaijani regions" means not all regions of historical Azerbaijan, but parts of the territory of Northern Azerbaijan included in the Republic of Azerbaijan – K.I.) identified. For this purpose, the following tasks are planned to be solved:

- Assessment of political and administrative changes in the uyezds of Azerbaijan after the February Revolution of 1917;

- Analysis of the political situation in the regions of Azerbaijan during the South Caucasus statehood;

- Monitoring the process of national state building in the uyezds of Azerbaijan after the establishment of the Republic;

- Consideration of the participation of the regions' population in the struggle of the CIO for the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan;

- Analysis of the socio-political situation in the regions in the context of reforms and changes implemented by the Government of the Republic;

- To study the military-political situation in the regions that were invaded by Armenia in 1919 - early 1920 and where Armenian separatism was expanding;

- to study the socio-economic situation, agrarian relations, the issue of "refugees" in other districts of Azerbaijan during the mentioned period;

- consideration of such problems as development of education and culture in the regions;

- to reveal the regularities and main features, differences and common features of the processes that took place in the regions of Azerbaijan during the period under study;

- to determine the impact of the processes in the regions on the general situation and the future of Azerbaijan.

Research methods. In the research process the methods of comparative and historical analysis, structural-functional,

complexity, system, objectivity, historicality, reference to facts and their comparative analysis, taking into account specific historical conditions, local and general features in the study of events were used.

An extensive database of documents was used in the study; using analysis and synthesis methods, and characterized in the context of the facts and information in the documents. When analyzing archival documents, the method of comparative-historical analysis was used, the facts and information were analyzed comparatively, and the materials of different sources were compared.

The main provisions of the defense. 1. Although the sociopolitical processes in the regions of Azerbaijan in 1918-1920 were different, the general regularities of these processes were also manifested. Differences and diversity between regions due to ethnic and historical traditions, diversity of economic life, education and cultural level of the population affected the course of these processes in each region;

2. The political processes that took place in the regions were not limited to Northern Azerbaijan, but led to serious changes in the subsequent situation in the region as a whole. This was especially evident in the events in Nakhchivan, Karabakh, Zangazur, Zagatala, and Lankaran;

3. In the period from the February Revolution to the establishment of the Republic, the increase in the socio-political activity and organization of the Azerbaijani population in the regions, the expansion of social movements showed that a completely new political environment had been formed;

4. At that time, the main factor influencing the situation in the regions was the genocide of the Turkish-Muslim population by the Bolshevik-Dashnak forces in the Baku province, the Armenian chauvinist-nationalist circles in the territories of Irevan and Ganja provinces. In such circumstances, ensuring the security of Azerbaijanis became the main task of national political forces;

5. After the establishment of the republic, the socio-political situation in the regions of Azerbaijan developed in different

conditions, there were no common criteria in governance;

6. The population of the regions played an important role in the struggle to ensure territorial integrity; in this struggle, the units of the Azerbaijani Army, which became part of the CIO, and volunteer groups from the population of different regions were closely involved;

7. The new geopolitical situation created as a result of the end of the First World War did not pass unnoticed to Azerbaijan and its regions. Due to the uncertain attitude of the Entente military command in the region, the attempts of the Azerbaijani government to resolve the complicated political situation in Karabakh, Zangazur and Nakhchivan regions unsuccessfully were unsuccessful;

8. The military-political situation in the mentioned regions was the most serious factor negatively affecting the political situation in Azerbaijan as a whole, the process of national state building, as well as the emerging interstate relations in the South Caucasus;

9. Unfortunately, the military and diplomatic measures taken by the Azerbaijani government during this period did not prevent the attempts of the Armenians to occupy Zangazur. This eventually led to a renewed escalation of the situation in Karabakh, the occupation of Western Zangazur, the massacre and deportation of the Muslim population of the region, the separation of Nakhchivan from the main territory of Azerbaijan, and the creation of favorable geographical conditions for future Armenian occupation of Karabakh;

10. The development of processes in this direction was also influenced by the policy pursued by various international powers in the region at that time;

11. The years 1919 and the beginning of 1920 can be characterized as the main stage of the process of national state building in Azerbaijan. During this period, important steps were taken to ensure political stability in the regions, as well as in central Baku, and to strengthen government structures;

12. Although some positive changes took place in the sociopolitical life of the regions during the study period, the socioeconomic situation remained complicated. In particular, the situation of the villagers, who made up the vast majority of the population, is deteriorating, which had increased their dissatisfaction with the government. Uncertainty in the agrarian policy of the Azerbaijani government, slowness in the implementation of land reform, and local unrest greatly aggravated socio-political relations in the regions;

13. One of the other serious issues facing Azerbaijan during the years of the republic's existence was the issue of refugees. As the majority of refugees were located in the districts of Azerbaijan, the refugee problem was also one of the most acute social problems of the regions and their population;

14. Steps taken by the state of Azerbaijan in the field of culture and education - nationalization of education, establishment of cultural and educational institutions, holding cultural events, involvement of girls and women in education, cultural and social life, establishment of national education and culture system in the regions, raising the cultural level of the population conditions were created;

15. In general, the measures taken in the regions during the Republican period were important in terms of establishing the foundations of independent statehood and determining the future path of development.

Scientific novelty of the research. The presented dissertation comprehensively studies the socio-political processes in the regions of Azerbaijan in 1918-1920;

- common and differences in the situation of each region were revealed during the research;

- The impact of the events in the South Caucasus region and Azerbaijan on the political situation in the regions was studied;

- At the same time, the interaction of regional processes with the geopolitical situation in the country and the region was identified;

- Many issues not studied in historiography during the study, including the general situation in the regions during the Republican period, increasing political and social activity of the masses in different regions, participation in national state building, territorial integrity, social relations in , development of culture and education investigated;

- In the presented dissertation, the allegations about the alleged genocide and deportation of the Armenian population in the regions of Azerbaijan, where Armenian historiography is constantly trying to exaggerate, and the issue of "Armenian refugees" were scientifically exposed with objective facts. In this case, reference was made not only to the documents kept in the archives of Azerbaijan, but also to Armenian sources and memoirs and works of Armenian authors, as well as the arguments of foreign authors.

Theoretical and practical significance of the research. The provisions and results of the study provide a basis for further indepth study of the problem. The dissertation is of some importance in terms of defining specific areas of research on the history of AC. The results of the work, the proposals and considerations put forward confirm that the study of different regions of Azerbaijan is one of the main tasks of national historiography. In this regard, the dissertation will contribute to a deeper study of the history of our regions.OOO

The results of the study may play an important role in exposing the ongoing lies and fabrications of the official historiography and ideological centers of Armenia and a number of other countries about the political and ethnic, statehood, political geography of Azerbaijan, as well as the domestic and foreign policy of the RA. The research can be used as a tool to convey the truth about Azerbaijan to the world community, to teach the younger generation the history of our people, to inculcate the experience of national statehood and democracy. The dissertation work may also be useful in the preparation of scientific articles, textbooks and teaching aids, dissertations and dissertations.

Approbation and application of the research work. The main content and scientific results of the research are reflected in the author's five monographs, more than sixty articles published in prestigious scientific journals and more than a dozen collective works on the general history and different regions of Azerbaijan. According to the provisions of the dissertation, the author has spoken

at a number of international and national conferences and the media.

Name of the organization where the dissertation work was carried out: "History of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic" department of A.A.Bakikhanov Institute of History of ANAS.

The total volume of the dissertation consists of 464678 characters, including the "Introduction" section 35386, Chapter I 74829, Chapter II 81884, Chapter III 174836, Chapter IV 87337, the "Conclusion" section 19406 characters.

II. MAIN CONTENT OF THE DISSERTATION

Chapter I of the dissertation, entitled "Socio-political situation in the regions of Azerbaijan on the eve of the establishment of the Republic", consists of two paragraphs and covers the processes that took place in the regions from February 1917 to May 1918. Paragraph 1, entitled "Political and Administrative Changes in the Regions after the February **Revolution**" examines the impact of events and processes in Russia and the South Caucasus on Azerbaijan and its regions during February-October 1917. The February Revolution of 1917 led to radical socio-political changes in Azerbaijan, as in the whole territory of the empire. After the revolution, the process of abolishing the old power structures in the regions and establishing new executive and self-governing bodies is highlighted in the example of individual regions. It is noted that the Baku Muslim National Council and its Interim Executive Committee have played an important role in increasing the organization of the Muslim population in the regions. Immediately after the February Revolution, Muslim national councils were established in most emergency centers in northern Azerbaijan, including Sheki, Lankaran, Guba, Shusha and Nakhchivan, and they quickly became the main driving force of the Azerbaijani population in the face of weak national-political organizations.

One of the most important manifestations of revolutionary change in the regions of Azerbaijan was the establishment and wideranging activities of political parties and organizations. The city of Ganja was especially distinguished in terms of the political activity of the Muslim population. One of the important changes that took place in the regions of Azerbaijan after the February Revolution was the establishment of various socio-cultural organizations of Azerbaijanis in the . The Congress of Caucasian Muslims had a significant impact on the growth of socio-political activity of the Azerbaijani population. During this period, branches of political parties, as well as various public organizations began to operate in many . However, in some, the process of organizing Azerbaijanis was very slow. This was especially evident in the Zangazur, Javanshir and Shusha uyezds, where Armenian organizations were active. The lack of a Muslim National Committee in Shusha was even more disappointing. Only on August 13, a Muslim National Committee was established in Shusha on the initiative of local intellectuals, and L.Behbudov was elected its chairman.

One of the distinguishing features of the political process in Azerbaijan after the revolution was the establishment of youth organizations in the districts, which differed in social and national composition, political goals and objectives. The Union of Teachers, established in March 1917, played an important role in the establishment of youth organizations in Azerbaijan¹.

One of the most important events in the public life of the regions of Azerbaijan was the involvement of Azerbaijani women in public life for the first time. The first women's charity society in the uyezd was the women's charity society in Yelizavetpol.

The second paragraph of Chapter I, entitled "Socio-political situation in the regions of Azerbaijan in late 1917 - early 1918" analyzes the processes that took place in the regions from the October 1917 coup of the Bolsheviks to the establishment of the Republic. After the October events, Azerbaijan was in fact a dual power. Although power passed to the Soviets in Baku and some parts

¹ İsmayılov K. Azərbaycan Xalq Cümhuriyyətinin ictimai-siyasi, mədəni həyatında gənclərin iştirakı // AMEA Tarix İnstitutunun elmi əsərləri, 2008, 25-ci cild, s. 78-87

of the district, the Transcaucasian Commissariat was formally represented in other parts of the province of the same name and in most parts of Azerbaijan, but in practice national councils and committees functioned as authorities. The October coup did not lead to serious administrative changes in the regions of Azerbaijan. The main reason for this was that the local government was in the hands of national political forces that refused to recognize the de facto Bolshevik coup. After the Bolshevik coup, the idea of nationalterritorial autonomy of Azerbaijan, put forward by the political forces of Azerbaijan, began to find more and more supporters in the regions. This was proved by the results of the elections to the Constituent Assembly of Russia on November 26, 1917. According to these results, the Musavat party and the independent democratic group in the entire South Caucasus received 25.1% of the vote¹, which was the majority of votes (66.5%) of the Azerbaijani political forces as a whole. This is evidenced by the results of voting in specific provinces and districts².

The processes that took place in the South Caucasus after the October events led to the escalation of national relations in the in Azerbaijan. The rapid armament of the non-Muslim population and the emergence of organized armed groups were a legitimate concern of the Azerbaijani people. In the areas where garrisons and troops were stationed, the sale and even distribution of weapons by officers and soldiers to the Russians and Armenians became widespread. In a number of , military units were also involved in provocative actions against Muslims. In particular, the establishment of armed groups in the Russian villages of Lankaran and Javad districts caused serious concern among the Muslim population of these districts. However, the main real threat in the region was the rapid armament of the Armenian population and the establishment of regular Armenian armed groups in the Iravan province, Baku and most of the

¹ Закавказский Сейм. Стенографический отчёт. Сессия первая. Заседание восемнадцатое. Тифлис: 19 февраля 1918 года, с.5

² Беленкий С., Манвелов А. Революция 1917 года в Азербайджане (хроника событий). Баку: АзГиз, 1927, 256 с., с.237

Yelizavetpol provinces. The Soviet government of Russia, in turn, took a number of steps to establish the Armenian armed forces¹. All kinds of weapons, financial assistance, etc. were given to the Armenian troops. assistance was provided. The Armenians, who had gained a military advantage, had already started ethnic cleansing in the Iravan province in late 1917. At the end of 1917 and the beginning of 1918, genocide of the peaceful Muslim population was committed in Baku and other parts of Azerbaijan, and a number of punitive operations were carried out against the Azerbaijanis in order to clear the territory of the Iravan province. Beginning in late 1917, the Armenians, who had considerable military superiority over the local Azerbaijanis, took active steps to forcibly change the ethnic landscape of the South Caucasus to their advantage. Armenians did not live peacefully even in the minority areas - Yelizavetpol, Arash, Nukha, and tried to intimidate Muslims by creating armed groups. Even in the Arash and Nukha uyezds, many organized Armenian military units were formed². However, compared to Baku and even areas of Yelizavetpol province (Zangazur, Javanshir, other Yelizavetpol and Gazakh uyezds) in the northern and north-eastern part of the province - Nukha and Arash uyezds, Zagatala district, the Armenian population was few, the center of the Armenian movement in the region. Its remote location (from Baku and Tiflis) did not allow the formation of an organized anti-Turkish movement. Unlike Baku, which became an outpost of Bolshevism and Soviet power, power in the Elizavetpol province was in the hands of national forces. Seeing the impending danger, national forces began to form self-defense groups in various parts of the province. However, the self-defense groups created by the Azerbaijanis repeatedly lagged behind the Armenians in many respects, including in terms of

¹ Микаелян В.А., Закарян А.А. Поручик Колмаков о деятельности Андраника в 1918 г. // Журнал Вестник общественных наук Академии Наук Армении. Ереван: № 8, 1988, с.62; Нифталиев И.В. Геноцид азербайджанцев в Иреванской губернии, с.14-16

² İsmayılov, K.N. Azərbaycanın Şəki bölgəsi 1917-1920-ci illərdə / K. İsmayılov. -Bakı: Turxan, - 2019. - 152 s., s.23

organization, military experience, and supply of weapons. Not only official state structures, but also chauvinist national parties, as well as the Bolsheviks were jealous of the creation of national military units by Azerbaijanis to protect their security. However, at that time, the process of arming the Armenian population was taking place before their eyes. As early as October 1917, the command of the Caucasus Front ordered the establishment of the Armenian and Georgian corps, but in the order delayed the establishment of the Muslim military unit under various pretexts. Only after the insistence of the Azerbaijani leaders was it agreed in principle to establish a Muslim corps. However, attempts by Azerbaijanis to acquire weapons and ammunition, including the nationalization of the 219th Regiment in Ganja, met with serious opposition from the Armenians. The peaceful Muslim population of the region also suffered the most from the illegal actions of the rebellious Russian soldiers and officers who left the front and returned to Russia. Stankevich admits that the angry and disbanded Russian army looted mainly Muslims when they returned from the front. In his work, V. Stankevich showed that 200 Muslim villages were destroyed at that time ¹. Attempts by the South Caucasus authorities to disarm Russian troops leaving the region in echelons in January 1918 led to armed clashes. Attempts by the Ganja National Committee to resolve the disarmament issue peacefully also failed. As a result, there were deaths and injuries on both sides in the clashes at Shamkhor station on January 9-12. Later, manipulations about the events in Shamkhor and the loss of life in these events began, and this continues to this day. Various figures on the number of people killed in the Shamkhor events have been published in the historical literature so far². The first step towards falsifying the essence of the January events was taken by the leader of the Baku Soviet S.Shaumyan³. At the same time, he shamelessly

¹. Станкевич В.Б. Судьба народов России, с.245

² Гасанлы Дж.П. Русская революция и Азербайджан: трудный путь к независимости,70-71; Муханов В.М. Кавказ в революционную пору, с.47

³ Şaumyan S.G. Seçilmiş əsərləri: 2 cilddə. II cild. Bakı: "Azərnəşr," 1978, 487 s., s.203, 211-212

tried to portray the January events as "preparation of the Azerbaijani national forces for the Armenian-Muslim massacre", preparing a kind of ideological basis for the genocides committed under his leadership in Baku and other areas. Later, Shaumyan's assessment became the main ideological reference point for official Soviet historiography. Modern Russian and Armenian authors, without exception, try to blame only Azerbaijanis for the January events. These authors try to describe the events that took place along the Tbilisi-Baku railway that month in the context of the events that took place in the region at that time, and describe them as atrocities committed by Azerbaijanis against Russian revolutionary soldiers.¹

Taking advantage of the complicated political and military situation in Yelizavetpol province, Armenian political circles resorted to a number of provocative actions under the pretext of ensuring the security of the Armenian population living in the province. Among these provocations, the atrocities of the Armenian "Sheki battalion" in the territory of Sheki and Arash districts attract special attention.²

Beginning in late 1917, the political situation in Zangazur and Shusha uyezds also became tense. By the order of the Armenian Military Council, along with the Armenian corps, military units were formed in various parts of the South Caucasus, including Yelizavetpol, Shusha and Zangazur uyezds. At the beginning of 1918, the Shusha regiment was formed in Tiflis under the leadership of Lieutenant Colonel Melik-Shahnazarov and sent to Zangazur. Having gained military, political and material advantage in the accident, the Armenians began to realize their aggressive intentions by expanding the violence against Azerbaijanis in Karabakh, as in other parts of the South Caucasus. In 1917 alone, Armenian troops using terror and violence destroyed 109 villages in the Zangazur uyezd and 157 in Karabakh.³ The genocide of the Muslim population

¹ Муханов, В.М. Кавказ в революционную пору..., с.32

² İsmayılov, K.N. Azərbaycanın Şəki bölgəsi 1917-1920-ci illərdə, s.24-34

³Musayev, İ.M. Azərbaycanın Naxçıvan və Zəngəzur bölgələrində siyasi vəziyyət və xarici dövlətlərin siyasəti (1917-1921-ci illər), s.54

by the Bolshevik-Dashnak forces that seized power in Baku, and the subsequent offensive in the direction of Ganja, greatly encouraged the Armenian gangs operating in Karabakh and Zangazur. Muslims in the region subjected to Armenian terror were constantly under threat and death.

Armenians also expanded their provocative activities in Nakhchivan. Beginning in late 1917, armed groups were formed in the Armenian-populated villages of the region, and active movements were launched with their participation to forcibly change the ethnic landscape of the region. In February-March 1918 alone, about 30 villages were destroyed in Nakhchivan¹. Seeing that the Armenians were already preparing for war, the Nakhchivan Muslim Committee tried to arm and mobilize the Azerbaijanis as much as possible². On February 3, 1918, Nakhchivan's 3,000-strong volunteer detachment managed to disarm the 25th echelon of Armenian soldiers between Norashen and Shahtakhti stations³. The atrocities of the Armenian armed forces in Nakhchivan continued in the following months, as a result of which national relations in the region became significantly tense. Although peace was restored after Turkish troops took control of Nakhchivan, the situation worsened again with Andranik's attack on Nakhchivan.

The October coup also led to a new political situation in Lankaran. At the end of 1917 and the beginning of 1918, there were armed groups under the control of various political forces. The escalation of relations between the groups formed in the Russian villages of the region and the former border detachment here and the local population led to clashes on national grounds in the uyezd. The same situation existed in the neighboring Javad uyezd. The Bolsheviks did not give up their plans to take control of Guba, which they considered an important strategic region. However, the

¹ Галоян Г.А. Великий Октябрь и борьба трудящихся Армении за победу Советской власти, с.150

² Əliyev M.B. Qanlı günlərimiz: 1918-1920. Naxçıvan. Bakı: "Azərnəşr", 1993, 142 s., s.10

³ На участке Эривань-Джульфа // Возрождение. - 1918, 7 февраля. - с.2.

differences in the ethno-social composition of the accident, the small Russian and Armenian population, and the lack of sufficient strength and influence of the anti-Azerbaijani forces did not allow the Bolsheviks to succeed in this accident.

At the beginning of 1918, de facto dual power continued in Azerbaijan. In the Yelizavetpol province, the Ganja Muslim National Council was, in fact, the central government, with the exception of the Zangazur uyezd, while in Baku the power of the Baku Soviet was established. In such circumstances, the main task of the Azerbaijani national movement was to take control of Baku and the Baku province as a whole. However, the first step to liberate the political center of Azerbaijan, Baku, from foreign forces failed, and Soviet armed forces prevented the advance of South Caucasus troops and national forces in the battles around Shamakhy and Goychay. Nevertheless, most of Northern Azerbaijan remained under the control of national forces, with the exception of Baku and its districts, as well as the Zangazur and Irevan regions. This posed a serious threat to the plans of the Bolshevik government of Russia, which sought to seize the entire South Caucasus, and the Baku Soviet, which claimed the role of its representative in Baku. Under such conditions, the Baku Bolsheviks mobilized all anti-Azerbaijani forces, especially the Armenian-Dashnak forces, and committed massacres in late March-early April 1918 to destroy the national movement of Azerbaijan and its leading force, the Musavat party. The Bolshevik-Dashnak forces, which committed the genocide of Azerbaijanis in Baku, became active with the intention of spreading their power to the regions of Azerbaijan. The actions of the Dashnak-Bolshevik forces in the Shamakhy, Guba, Lankaran, Javad, Goychay uvezds were a real genocide aimed at the destruction of the entire nation. Taking advantage of the crisis in the power system of the South Caucasus, the Bolshevik-Dashnak Baku Soviet achieved its goals in the Baku province. At that time, they pinned their main hopes on the revolt of the Armenians living in the territory of Ganja province, along with Soviet Russia. This is confirmed by the letters of the leaders of the Baku Soviet (S.Shaumyan, G.Korganov) to

Moscow¹. The Seym's inability to prevent Bolshevik Dashnak attacks forced the leaders of the Azerbaijani national movement to turn to Turkey as the only way out.

The second chapter of the dissertation is entitled "The regions of Azerbaijan in the period of national state building" and covers the events of May-December 1918. The first paragraph of the three-paragraph chapter - "The struggle of the Government of Azerbaijan to ensure the territorial integrity of the country" is devoted to the analysis of the measures taken by the Government of the Republic to ensure the territorial integrity of the state and establish its sovereignty throughout the country. . The paragraph analyzes the activities of the CIA and Azerbaijani volunteers to ensure the territorial integrity of the country, noting that the main source in the formation of the CIA personnel was the Azerbaijani population, as the deteriorating military situation on other fronts made it difficult to bring additional forces to Azerbaijan. The organization of military units from the local population was carried out on a voluntary and military-mobilization basis. Despite objective and subjective difficulties, many young Azerbaijanis were mobilized in a short period of time. A number of Turkish historians show that about 10-12 thousand Azerbaijani volunteers joined the CIO in a short period of time². M.Suleymanov noted that the number of the 5th Caucasus faction was 7,733, noting that the Azerbaijani national forces were about $4,000^3$. In order to form a conscription system in the country, the Azerbaijan Armed Forces Department organized its emergency departments⁴. National regiments were also set up in the

¹ Исмаилов К.Н. Военный организатор геноцида азербайджанцев – Григорий Николаевич Корганов (Корганян) // Геноцид азербайджанского народа 1918 года: организаторы и палачи. Баку: ИПО Турхан, 2013, 272 с., с.93-125, с.110-111

² Kurat A. Türkiye ve Rusya, s.531; Allen W.E.D., Muratof P. Kafkas Harekatı. 1828-1921 Türk-Kafkas sınırındakı harplerin tarihi, s.445

³ Süleymanov M.S. Azərbaycan Xalq Cümhuriyyətinin hərb tarixi: I cild, s.351-352

⁴ Азербайджанская Демократическая Республика (1918-1920 гг.): Законодательные акты (Сборник документов), с.209-210

field, and the provision of food, clothing and other necessary means to the CIOs fell on the population of the districts.

The Bolshevik-Dashnak gangs advancing towards Ganja were committing genocidal acts, looting and robbery in the occupied Azerbaijani villages. Nearby, armed Armenian villagers also joined them. This was confirmed by the Bolshevik leaders themselves¹.

In order to prevent the attack of the Soviet troops, the Azerbaijani government and the CIA command carried out serious military-organizational work, and the Armenian armed forces were disarmed in Ganja, Nukha, Arash, Goychay districts. This measure played an important role in ensuring the security of the rear

One of the main factors that changed the situation on the frontline in favor of the Azerbaijani-Turkish troops was the provision of all kinds of military, economic and moral support to the CIA by the Azerbaijani population living in the areas where the hostilities took place. Along with the regular units of the CIA, volunteer groups from different regions of Azerbaijan also played an active role in the operations against the CIA, including the liberation of Baku. This was noted in their memoirs by Turkish officers who took part in those operations, including Nuri Pasha and Rushti².

During the struggle against the military forces of the Baku Soviet, the situation in the Karabakh region remained complicated. Taking advantage of the Azerbaijani government's and CIA's focus on the liberation of Baku, Armenian nationalist circles sought to seize Karabakh from Azerbaijan through ethnic cleansing by creating armed groups in the Shusha, Zangazur, and Javanshir uyezds. By capturing the Askeran Pass, the Armenians managed to cut off all ties between the people living in the mountainous part of Karabakh and plain Karabakh. Karabakh Azerbaijanis living in very difficult conditions took certain measures to protect themselves from

¹ Шаумян С.С. Бакинская Коммуна. Баку: Аз.Гиз. 1927, 118 с., с.29-30; Из истории гражданской войны в СССР. 1918-1922 гг. т.1, Москва: Наука, 1957, с.554

² Süleymanov M.S. Nuri paşa, s.128; Rüştü E.K. Büyük harpte Bakü yollarında 5. Kafkas piyada firkası, s.113

Armenian aggression and formed volunteer defense groups in Shusha and other settlements¹. However, these irregular groups were unable to prevent the escalating Armenian aggression. Therefore, after the end of the Baku operation, military units were sent to Karabakh, the rights of the Azerbaijani government in the region were established, and temporary stability was ensured. Nevertheless, the fact that armed groups maintained their presence in Armenian villages and carried out terror and violence against the local Turkish population led to tensions in the region. In fact, at that time it was not possible to disarm the Armenian groups in Karabakh, on the contrary, thanks to foreign aid, they fully recovered their forces. In the current historical situation, there were no additional forces in Azerbaijan that could be sent to Karabakh. The Armenians received additional forces and assistance from Armenia. The defeat of the Ottoman state in World War I further complicated the military-political situation in Karabakh, preventing the Azerbaijani government from securing its sovereignty in the region. The created geopolitical conditions also did not allow to ensure the sovereignty of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the Lankaran region during 1918. As a result, until August 1919, the Lankaran accident remained under the control of foreign forces.

The second half of the second chapter, entitled "The beginning of the process of national state building in the regions" is devoted to the analysis of the socio-political situation in the regions in the second half of 1918. It is noted that after the establishment of the Republic, the socio-political situation in Azerbaijan was directly influenced by the military-political processes in the region, so the political processes in the regions were different. If the political situation in Ganja province was directly affected by the policy pursued by the AR government and the actions of the CIA command, the political processes in the uyezds of Baku province (except for Goychay) were due to the activities of the Baku Soviet PC. Undoubtedly, the main factor influencing the political situation

¹ Положение Карабаха в смутные дни (продолжение) // Азербайджан. - 1918, 23 октября. - с.2.

in the Nakhchivan, Zangazur and Karabakh regions was the military aggression of Armenia in these regions and the expansion of Armenian separatism there. The analysis of political processes in Ganja province, Baku province, Nakhchivan and Zangazur uyezds shows that there are no common criteria in governance. The political situation and governance that emerged after the June crisis can be classically described as "dual power". Dual power also manifested itself in the management of uyezds and villages. In his appeal to Nuru Pasha, F.Kh.Khoyski also noted that there was a dual power in the in Azerbaijan, and that "recently the Ottoman military interfered in the internal affairs of Azerbaijan and did not take full account of the Azerbaijani authorities"¹. Recognizing the need to ensure Azerbaijan's territorial integrity and liberate Baku from its enemies, the Azerbaijani government initially turned a blind eye to the Turkish military command's attempts to usurp its powers, but the government was forced to take a hard line against continuing its policy of intervention after Baku's liberation. Under such circumstances, while still in Ganja, the Azerbaijani government had to make certain decisions in order to exercise its powers. A number of measures have been taken to nationalize government. However, although the government announced reforms to the administrative division and the abolition of the old rules of governance, neither in 1918 nor in the following years any changes were made in the system of system administrative management; on the contrary, the of bureaucratic hierarchy from tsarism (governorate - head of uyezd police-officer) was restored. In some cases, the rules and forms existing in Turkey were applied in local administration. However, taking into account the revolutionary spirit, the government was forced to adhere to certain democratic principles in governance. While still in Ganja, the government decided to restore the functioning of local self-government bodies in a number of cities. On July 30, the government instructed the Minister of Internal Affairs to

¹ Azərbaycan tarixi: 7 cilddə. V cild, s.276

restore the existing city self-government in Azerbaijan¹.

The government had begun to take some steps to alleviate the plight of the majority of the villagers. One of the main tasks of the government and local authorities was to prevent crime, robbery and other negative developments in the regions, to maintain law and order, and thus to restore confidence in the authorities of the newly created state. The Azerbaijani government has taken steps to strengthen the fight against crime. The stabilization of the political and social situation, the resumption of the activities of government agencies have created conditions for taking certain steps to address the socio-economic problems accumulated in the . During his visit to Ganja, the Azerbaijani government also took a number of steps to reestablish educational work in this province and in the liberated territories of Baku province. The Muslim branch of the Transcaucasian Teachers' Seminary was moved from Tiflis to Gazakh, and other decisions were made regarding the organization and nationalization of educational work and staff training.

Among the steps taken by the government of the republic to form a new administrative-political reality in the regions, the issue of Zagatala district has a special place. The will of the local population and the Muslim National Council was also an important factor in establishing the region's belonging to Azerbaijan².

Although the Azerbaijani government took steps to secure its sovereignty in the Lankaran uyezd and in the southern part of the Javad uyezd, the deterioration of the geopolitical situation in late 1918 forced the postponement of control in Lankaran uyezd for some

¹ Постановления правительства // Азербайджан. - 1918, 25 сентября. - с.1.

²Доклад комиссии по изучению положения в Закатальском округе (Баку: август 1918 г. // ARDA, Fond № 100, siyahı № 2, iş № 233, v. 93-98; Протокол заседания Закатальского Мусульманского Национального Совета. Приговор о присоединении округа к Азербайджанской Республике. (Закаталы: 26 июня 1918 г.) // ARDA, Fond № 970, siyahı № 1, iş № 18, v.28-29; İsmayılov, K.N. Zaqatala-Balakən bölgəsi Azərbaycan Xalq Cümhuriyyəti dövründə // Bakı: AMEA A.A. Bakıxanov adına Tarix İnstitutunun elmi əsərləri, - 2007. №30, - s.43-49.

time.

After the liberation of Baku, the reorganization of power structures in the province and districts began. However, in some cases this led to the emergence of dual power. Because, on the one hand, the Turkish command appointed commandants for and cities, and at the same time, the Minister of Internal Affairs of Azerbaijan appointed chiefs for and bailiffs on behalf of the government. This led to some contradictions. In the cities of Shamakhy, Salyan and Guba, which are part of the Baku province, the activity of selfgovernment bodies - municipalities (dumas) was restored.

The results of the First World War and the entry of British troops created new conditions in the regions of Azerbaijan. In such circumstances, the formation of democratic state institutions in the country was one of the main tasks of the Republic Government. Along with party representation and national representation, the principle of administrative-territorial representation was taken into account when establishing the parliament. The law stated that the Baku province, Ganja province, Zagatala district as a whole, and part of the Irevan and Tiflis provinces formed the territory of Azerbaijan, and determined the proportion of representation of the provinces in parliament. The law reflected the issue of representation of individual cities and districts of Azerbaijan in the parliament¹. Relevant organizational work was carried out and elections were held in a short period of time for their representation in the supreme legislative body. However, due to the complexity of the situation, elections were not held in some places, including Nakhchivan, and they were not represented in parliament. After the liberation of Baku, certain steps were taken to stabilize the political and social situation in the regions, to form new government structures, to solve socioeconomic problems, cultural and educational issues. However, the results of the First World War created new conditions both in the whole country and in the regions.

Paragraph 3 of the chapter, entitled "Deterioration of the

¹ Азербайджанская Республика: Документы и материалы. 1918-1920 гг., с.75

military-political situation in the Nakhchivan, Karabakh and Zangazur regions of Azerbaijan" highlights the situation in the Nakhchivan, Karabakh and Zangazur regions. The activities of the Azerbaijani government, the Turkish military leadership and regional leaders are being analyzed to prevent the occupation of the Nakhchivan region by Armenia. The Muslim National Council, which operated here, became a de facto political center and authority of the Azerbaijani population of the region. Under the leadership of the Council, volunteer groups were formed in various parts of Nakhchivan. During the summer of 1918, Andranik's massacres in Nakhchivan were reported, and facts about the resistance of the local population were given. During Andranik's stay in Nakhchivan, massacres were committed in all villages from Nakhchivan to Ordubad under the pretext of disarming the population. Encouraged by Andranik's arrival, the Armenian armed groups in the region became more active and, together with Andranik's troops, took an active part in capturing the Muslim population. Yayci village, which refused to submit, was completely destroyed and burned by Armenians¹. After the liberation of Nakhchivan by the 11th Caucasian Division of Turkey, a system of administrative management in accordance with the Ottoman system began to be established here. The Turkish command declared martial law in Nakhchivan and organized self-defense groups from the local population. Ordubad district was also taken under control in early August. With the capture of Nakhchivan by the Turkish military, the population of the region was freed from Armenian oppression, albeit temporarily, and the Azerbaijani government took certain steps to establish its sovereign rights over the Nakhchivan region. Following the withdrawal of Turkish troops from the South Caucasus, including Nakhchivan, as a result of World War I, Armenia began to take a number of steps to seize the region. At the same time, the local

¹ Микаелян В.А., Закарян А.А. Поручик Колмаков о деятельности Андраника в 1918 г. // Журнал Вестник общественных наук Академии Наук Армении. Ереван: № 8, 1988, с.78

leaders of Nakhchivan took certain military, political and diplomatic measures to save the country from the real threat of occupation¹. The most important of these measures was the establishment on November 18, 1918 of a local state body - the Araz-Turkish Government (Republic). Immediately after the withdrawal of Turkish troops, the Armenian government took certain administrative-legal, military and diplomatic steps to capture Nakhchivan². But they all remained on paper. Armenia's plans to seize Nakhchivan by war did not materialize due to the bravery of the people of Nakhchivan.

In the second half of 1918, the Armenians pursued a genocidal policy in order to seize the Zangazur region of Azerbaijan and rid the region of Muslims. The genocide against the Turkish-Muslim population in Zangazur reached its peak with the arrival of the bandit Andranik in the region³. Andranik visited the Zangazur region from August 3, 1918 to April 1, 1919⁴. With Andranik's arrival in Zangazur, the western and south-western territories of Zangazur (Gorus, Sisian, Gafan and Mehri) fell out of the control of the Azerbaijani government, in fact, Zangazur was divided into two parts - Muslim and Armenian. It should be noted that along with Andranik's group, there were other Armenian military groups in Zangazur. There are many facts and evidences about the atrocities of Andranik and other Armenian gangs against Muslims in Zangazur in the documents of the EIC (Emergency Investigation Commission) created by the AR government, telegrams and letters of local authorities, public figures, and periodicals. Atrocities against Azerbaijanis continued in the following months. All Muslim villages of the first police station of Zangazur district, most of the villages of the second police station, and important parts of the third, fourth, and fifth police stations were completely destroyed. Out of 50,000 Muslims, left their homes and settled in the 4th area, Nakhchivan,

¹ Əliyev M.B. Qanlı günlərimiz: 1918-1920, s. 83-84

² Вестник архивов Армении, 1993, №1-2, с.58

³ Hovannisian R.G. The Republic of Armenia, volum I, The First Year, 1918-1919

⁴ Асоян Т.М. Территориальные проблемы Республики Армении и британская политика (1918-1920 гг.), с.117

Ordubad and Jabrayil districts. The EIC documents listed 115 villages that had been destroyed¹. In N.Mikhailov's report and in the materials of the EIC, the Armenian vandalism was confirmed by witness statements and concrete facts². The facts reflected in the documents of the EIC, as a rule, reflect only a part of the tragedies that took place in the accident in the summer and autumn of 1918.

With the withdrawal of Turkish troops from Azerbaijan, a new, more tragic phase of Armenian atrocities against Azerbaijanis began in Zangazur and Karabakh. After the Turkish troops left Shusha, Andranik planned to attack and unite with the Karabakh Armenians and thus capture the entire Zangazur-Karabakh region. For this purpose, Andranik captured 12 Muslim villages in the Zabukh gorge, which attacked in the direction of Shusha on November 16, 1918. Andranik's attacks threatened to occupy all of Karabakh. The Azerbaijani government, which does not have a real military force, could resolve the situation in Karabakh only through political and diplomatic means. To this end, the government appealed to Thomson, the commander of the British troops, to influence Andranik³. However, the violence of Armenian gangs against local Muslims in Zangazur continued in the following months. The measures taken by the Azerbaijani government to combat Armenian separatism in Zangazur and Karabakh have in some cases been ineffective. The Armenian government used this to increase its military presence in Zangazur.

Chapter III of the dissertation "Socio-political life of the regions of Azerbaijan" covers the period from the beginning of 1919 to the collapse of the Republic - April 1920. The first

¹ Доклад члена ЧСК Михайлова по обследованию им мусульманских селений Джаванширского, Джабраилского, Зангезурского и Шушинского уездов Гянджинской губернии, пострадавших от погромов и других насильственных действий со стороны армян (Баку: 9 мая 1919 г.) // ARDA, Fond № 100, siyahi № 2, iş 791, v. 1-12

² İsmayılov K.N. Zəngəzurda Azərbaycan xalqına qarşı soyqırımı (1918-1920), c.18-28

³ К событиям в Зангезуре // Азербайджан. - 1919, 16 декабря. - с.3.

paragraph of the chapter analyzes the socio-political situation in the regions. During this period, the activities of government structures were fully restored in the regions, as well as in the center, and stability and peace were ensured in the, except for Karabakh, Zangazur, Nakhchivan and Lankaran regions. Ensuring political stability, order, and strengthening the power structures in the regions had a positive impact on the effectiveness of the fight against crime. The most important result of this struggle was the neutralization of gangs operating in various. From this point of view, the situation was more complicated in Ganja, Gazakh and Nukha uyezds of Ganja province. Taking advantage of the villagers' struggle for land, some people gathered around them, engaged in looting and robbery, disobeyed local authorities, and did not even hesitate to attack government offices. Various political forces, especially the Bolsheviks, tried to use these anti-government groups for their own political purposes. At the instigation of the leaders of the armed groups, in a number of , there were even protests against the authorities, which led to armed clashes. Authorities had to use army units to fight these groups.

The population of the Azerbaijani districts was closely involved in army building. Despite a number of shortcomings, significant progress has been made in conscription and mobilization in the regions. Measures were taken to prevent escapes in .

The Azerbaijani government and parliament have identified specific measures for administrative and political reform on the ground. Among these measures, it was important to expand the activities of local self-government bodies in emergency centers and cities. As early as the end of 1918, the activity of self-governments municipalities - was restored in some cities. The Azerbaijani government has made a number of decisions to provide financial assistance to local municipalities. However, it was not possible to carry out administrative and political reforms throughout the country, and only in some cities the composition of municipalities was renewed. The Ministry of Internal Affairs drafted a law on the full restoration of the powers of the suspended village self-government bodies¹.

With the withdrawal of British troops from Azerbaijan in August 1919, democratic reforms in the country began to be carried out more vigorously. At the end of 1919 and the beginning of 1920s elections were held in a number of cities of Azerbaijan (Ganja, Nukha, Guba, etc.) for self-government bodies - municipalities. The most important aspect of the municipal elections was that, for the first time in the history of Azerbaijan, these elections were held without multiparty system and electoral censorship. As a result, representatives of various social strata of the population were represented in the city municipalities.

One of the important factors in increasing the political activity of the population in the regions was the work of political parties and public organizations among the population in the regions. Musavat, the leading party in Azerbaijan, had branches in all regions. Other parties, especially the left-wing parties, which took advantage of the democratic political environment in Azerbaijan, also sought to penetrate the regions.

The restoration of Azerbaijan's sovereignty in the Lankaran uyezd in the mid of 1919 was one of the most important events in the socio-political life of the country. In August of the same year, as a result of the "Lankaran Operation" carried out by the Azerbaijani Army, the southern territories of the Lankaran district and the Javad district came under the complete control of the Azerbaijani government. Thus, Azerbaijan's access to the southern border with Iran was ensured. Along with regular troops, local patriots and groups that fought against foreigners played an important role in the restoration of sovereign rights in the Lankaran-Mugan region of Azerbaijan². After the control was restored in the southern region, the activity of local authorities was restored here.

In general, although radical reforms were planned in the

¹ Адрес-календарь Азербайджанской Республики на 1920 год, с.199

² İsmayılov K.N. 1917-1920-ci illərdə Lənkəran-Muğan bölgəsində ictimai-siyasi proseslər // Tarix və gerçəklik, 2013, s.64-82, s.77

administrative management of , it was not possible to make any changes in this area during the Republican period.

The second paragraph of Chapter III, entitled "Expansion of Armenian aggression and Armenian separatism in the regions" analyzes the political and military situation in Nakhchivan, Zangazur, Karabakh, Gazakh regions of Azerbaijan in connection with the expansion of Armenian aggression in these regions.

From the first day of 1919, the Armenian government, taking into account the current geopolitical situation, took a number of military and administrative-political steps towards the annexation of Nakhchivan. At that time, the Armenians had high hopes for the protection of the British, who wanted to strengthen their position in the South Caucasus. However, the resolute position of the local leaders of Nakhchivan and the Azerbaijani government dashed these hopes of the Armenians. Meetings of Nakhchivan representatives with the heads of the Azerbaijani government, the British command in Baku, and close contacts with the British mission operating in Nakhchivan reaffirmed the will of the people of Nakhchivan to be with Azerbaijan. At the same time, in spite of all obstacles, the AR took a number of military-political and diplomatic measures to ensure its sovereignty over the Nakhchivan region, where a special system of military-administrative management - the Governor-General of South-West Azerbaijan was established. Although the Nakhchivan Governor-General's Office was not fully operational for certain objective and subjective reasons, the establishment of this structure showed that the Azerbaijani government took a principled position on the region.

At the same time, the Armenian government has made several decisions on the organization of administrative management in the Nakhchivan and Sharur districts, where 50,000 Armenian refugees will be accommodated. In May 1919, using the support of the British, the Armenians sent troops to the region to seize Nakhchivan by force and established a governor-generalship there. From the first days of the Armenian rule, arbitrariness and lawlessness were committed against the Muslim population. Armenian armed groups

attacked villages under the pretext of collecting weapons from the population, arrested influential people in the region, and conducted mass searches. The Azerbaijani government described the demands for an end to the violence as interference in the internal affairs of the Armenian government. However, the attempts of the Armenians to occupy Nakhchivan completely failed due to the determination of the people of Nakhchivan. The people of Nakhchivan began the struggle for freedom against the Armenian aggressors, which gradually turned into a real war. The number of volunteers fighting against the Armenians reached $10,000^1$. The main military events that resulted in the end of Armenian domination in the region took place in the last decade of July 1919². Crushing blows were inflicted on the Armenian troops in the whole territory of Nakhchivan from Ordubad to Sharur, as well as in the Muslim areas of Iravan province, in Igdir. The Armenian government even had to appeal to the Paris Conference to stop the attacks on Muslims³. As a result, the Armenian rule in the Nakhchivan region, which was established by force of arms under the auspices of the British, collapsed.

In the following months, the attempts of the Armenians to recapture Nakhchivan at the hands of V.Haskel, who was appointed the High Commissioner of the Entente in the South Caucasus, also failed. His plans to separate the region from Azerbaijan by establishing a neutral zone and a governor-general's office in Nakhchivan were resolutely rejected by the people of Nakhchivan⁴. The threat of losing the region again forced the Nakhchivan

¹ Hacıyev A.N. Qars və Araz-Türk respublikaları tarixindən. Bakı: "Azərnəşr", 1994, 124 s., s.71-75

² Musayev İ.M. Azərbaycanın Naxçıvan və Zəngəzur bölgələrində siyasi vəziyyət və xarici dövlətlərin siyasəti (1917-1921-ci illər), s.180

³ Зограбян Э.А. Шарур-Нахичевань в 1918-1919 гг., с.300-301

⁴ Меморандум мусульман Сурмалинского, Миллистанского, Ведибасарского, Шарурского, Нахичеванского, Ордубадского районов, представленный Верховному Комиссару Гаскелю (9 сентября 1919 г.) // ARPİİSSA, Fond № 277, siyahı № 2, iş 58, v. 1-5; Доклад члена землячества мусульман Эриванской губернии Султанова МИД АР (Баку: Сентябрь 1919 г.) // ARPİİSSA, Fond № 277, siyahı № 2, iş 58, v. 128-129

leadership to take a number of additional defensive measures. Armenian Prime Minister A. Khatisyan had to admit that his plans to seize the region by establishing the American Governor-General in Nakhchivan were in vain. He cited the activities of the Azerbaijani government, which organized the secret resistance of the Turkish population of Nakhchivan, as the main reason for the failure of Haskel's plan. Thus, as a result of the persistent struggle of the people of Nakhchivan and the serious efforts of the Azerbaijani government¹, the attempts of the Armenians to separate Nakhchivan from Azerbaijan by turning the region into a neutral zone and establishing the American Governor-General there were in vain.

The chapter provides a detailed analysis of the military-political situation in Nakhchivan and Ordubad regions in late 1919-early 1920s, noting that the events in Zangazur had a negative impact on the situation there². In the spring of 1920, the attempts of the Armenians to seize Nakhchivan and the military-political support of the government of M.Kamal in preventing the Armenian aggression were covered.

The paragraph analyzes the military-political steps taken by the Armenian government to strengthen its military presence in Zangazur, including the decision of 21 January 1919 on the interim administration of Zangazur and Karabakh, the prevention of growing Armenian claims to Karabakh and Zangazur, The measures taken by the Government of Azerbaijan to ensure security are highlighted. Among these measures, the significance of the decision of January 15 (January 29) 1919 on the establishment of a separate governorgeneral in the Zangazur, Shusha, Javanshir, Jabrayil uyezds and the appointment of an influential statesman Khosrov bey Sultanov as governor-general is announced. By the decision of the government, all administrative structures and officials in the region were subordinated to the governor-general. Although Andranik was

¹. Вестник архивов Армении, 1993, №1-2, с.187-188

² İsmayılov, K.N. Azərbaycanın Naxçıvan bölgəsi regional hərbi-siyasi proseslərdə (1917-1920) / K. İsmayılov. - Bakı: Turxan NPB, - 2019. - 200 s., s.94-109.

expelled from Zangazur at the urging of the Azerbaijani government, the Armenian government did not give up its plans to annex the region. As a result of operations carried out by Armenian troops, the accident was accompanied by the mass killing and deportation of the civilian Turkish-Muslim population. After September 1919, 110 Azerbaijani villages in Zangazur were destroyed¹. In total, after the withdrawal of Turkish troops from the region, 120 Muslim villages in Zangazur uyezd were destroyed, the population of about 70 of these villages was completely destroyed, and the rest were doomed.² Unfortunately, the military-political steps taken by the Azerbaijani government to prevent the aggression of the Armenians in Zangazur did not yield any results. It is shown that the interim agreement signed between Azerbaijan and Armenia in Tiflis (Georgia) on November 23, 1919 had serious consequences for the national interests of Azerbaijan. Speaking of Njde's "heroism", Armenian authors write that on November 15, 1919, Njde's troops captured the Turkish villages of the Okhchu gorge, and later, on December 1-8, destroyed 33 villages in the Gigi gorge, resulting in the Gorus-Gafan road was under the control of the Armenians³.

The paragraph describes the complicated situation in Zangazur and Shusha districts in the early 1920s, highlights the large-scale military operations of Armenians on various fronts in March of that year - the Great Vedi, Nakhchivan, Ordubad, Karabakh and Zangazur and their consequences. Although the main military processes took place in the territory of Karabakh in late March, decisive events took place in Zangazur uyezd as well. On March 23, Armenians also attacked Jabrayil, one of the Muslim villages in the occupied Zangazur uyezd, and seized and burned several villages. Although it

¹ İsmayılov, K.N. Azərbaycanın Naxçıvan bölgəsi regional hərbi-siyasi proseslərdə (1917-1920) / K. İsmayılov. - Bakı: Turxan NPB, - 2019. - 200 s., s.94-109.

² В Зангезуре // Азербайджан. - 1919, 17 октября. – s.3.

³ Azərbaycan xalqına qarşı 1918-ci il mart soyqırımı: Sənədlər toplusu. 3 cliddə, II cild, 1-ci kitab, Gəncə quberniyasında soyqırımı. 1918-1920-ci illər, s.124; İsmayılov K.N. Zəngəzurda Azərbaycan xalqına qarşı soyqırımı (1918-1920), s.217-218

was possible to partially change the situation on the front in early April due to the mobilization of the country's human, military, material and financial resources by the Azerbaijani government, the situation remained difficult before the Soviet occupation. The activity of the Armenian separatist groups was not limited to Nakhchivan, Zangazur and Shusha districts, but also covered Jabravil, Javanshir, Gazakh and Ganja districts of Ganja province. Thus, in the period from early 1919 to May 1920 in the Nakhchivan, Zangazur and Karabakh uyezds, the main factor characterizing the current political situation was Armenia's military intervention to seize these regions and support the aggressive separatist actions of local Armenians. Although the Armenian government tried to establish its rule in Nakhchivan with the active support of the allies, the stubborn military resistance of the local population, the tough politicaldiplomatic position of the Azerbaijani government and the military support of the new Turkish government prevented the Armenians from realizing their Nakhchivan intentions. Although the steps taken by the Azerbaijani military-political leadership in Karabakh (Shusha uvezd), including the establishment of the institution of governorgeneral, contributed to the partial stabilization of the situation here, it was not possible to disarm the Armenian separatist forces. Unfortunately, the military and diplomatic measures taken by the Azerbaijani government during this period did not prevent the attempts of the Armenians to occupy Zangazur. This eventually led to a renewed escalation of the situation in Karabakh, the occupation of Western Zangazur, the massacre and deportation of the Muslim population of the region, and the separation of Nakhchivan from the main territory of Azerbaijan.

Chapter IV of the dissertation is entitled "Socio-economic and cultural life of the regions" and consists of three paragraphs. Paragraph 1, entitled "Economic and social situation in the regions", examines economic processes in the regions, the social situation of the population and other issues. The paragraph analyzes the statistical indicators of the state of agriculture, which is the second backbone of the Azerbaijani economy after oil during the Republican period, and notes that this sector of the economy was experiencing a serious crisis. The unresolved agrarian issue was the main reason for the development of the social struggle and the peasant movement in the village. One of the main reasons for the escalation of the struggle for land was the government's ambiguous and conservative position on land issues. Although there were various options in the government and parliament to resolve the agrarian issue, sharp differences between political parties and other factors did not allow the Republic to take practical steps to resolve the land issue until the end. Although the crisis in the agrarian sector was not a direct cause of the collapse of the Republic, the unresolved land issue continued to be the catalyst for other defamation cases in the socio-economic and political life of the country.

Recognizing the important role of transport in the development of the regions, the Government of Azerbaijan considered the expansion of the railway and highway network as a strategic issue. The location of a number of , especially in Zangazur and Jabrayil, far from Baku, the lack of infrastructure (railway, highway, post and telegraph, etc.) were the main reasons for the economic backwardness of these regions. The construction of the Baku-Julfa railway was important for the economic development of these regions. The government of Azerbaijan prepared a special bill for the construction of the railway and submitted it to parliament, and the relevant law was adopted on May 6, 1919¹. The construction of the railway would serve to strengthen ties between the regions of Azerbaijan and the center, as well as to establish direct transport links with the regions of Nakhchivan and Ordubad, improve the governance of the regions, and strengthen the country's political integrity. Along with its local significance, the construction of the Baku-Julfa railway was of great geopolitical importance. Armenians also understood the importance of this road for Azerbaijan. Therefore, both diplomatic and military means were used to prevent

¹ Азербайджанская Демократическая Республика (1918-1920 гг.): Законодательные акты (Сборник документов), с.248

the construction of the road. Due to its economic importance, the government has allocated funds for the repair of a number of highways. Restoration of the financial-banking system and posttelegraph enterprises in the regions was also an important issue. The section provides detailed information on the work done in this area, analyzes the steps taken to improve the social situation of the population in the regions.

In general, the situation in the socio-economic sphere remained complicated, although some positive changes took place in the sociopolitical life of the regions during this period. In particular, the situation of the villagers, who make up the absolute majority of the population, is deteriorating, which has increased their dissatisfaction with the government.

The second paragraph of the chapter is entitled "The issue of refugees in the regions of Azerbaijan". It is noted that one of the most important issues that the RA government sought to address was the resettlement of refugees and IDPs, meeting their basic living needs. From the very first day of its establishment, the Republican government had to deal closely with the refugee problem, took political and diplomatic steps to solve the problem, and spent a lot of money. As the vast majority of refugees live in the districts of Azerbaijan, the refugee problem was also one of the most acute social problems of the regions and their population. During this period, refugees were mainly divided into three categories: 1) Muslim refugees who took refuge in the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan as a result of the policy of genocide and deportation pursued by the Armenians in the territory of Iravan province and Zangazur uyezd; 2) refugees and IDPs who left their homes and settled in other districts in 1918 to escape the ethnic genocide committed by the Bolshevik-Dashnak regime of the Baku Soviet; 3) Refugees of Armenian, Russian and other nationalities who left their places before the establishment of the AR and returned to their previous places of residence after the establishment of the Republic. The paragraph provides statistical information on all three categories of refugees, highlights the activities of the authorities related to their

accommodation and needs. In particular, issues related to the resettlement of refugees from the Iravan province and Zangazur as a result of the Armenian genocide and deportation policy, who took refuge under the protection of the Azerbaijani government, are widely covered here. In order to solve the problems of refugees, on June 23, 1919, the Central Commission for the Study of the Situation of Refugees and Displaced Persons and their Return to Their Places of Residence was established, and local commissions were established in the provinces and district centers. Along with the refugees on its territory, the Azerbaijani government also took care of Muslim refugees remaining in Armenia. The government mobilized all material, moral, political and diplomatic resources to improve their situation¹. For this purpose, the post of special commissioner of the Ministry of Guardianship of the Republic of Azerbaijan was established in Irevan. According to T.Makinski, only 200,000 out of 500,000 Muslims remained in the territory of the Republic of Armenia². According to Avdeyev, during the Dashnak rule, a total of 300 Muslim villages with a population of 250,000 were evacuated in the Iravan province³.

The republican government was also engaged in solving the problems of the Armenian, Russian and other ethnic groups returning to their former settlements in Azerbaijan. Despite the lies of various Armenian centers about the alleged persecution of Armenians in Azerbaijan, there was a mass return of Armenians who once left the territory of Azerbaijan to their former places of residence. In this regard, the dissertation provides specific figures. Another group of refugees consisted of Russians and various Christian denominations

Исмаилов К.Н. Обустройство беженцев-азербайджанцев из Кавказской Армении в Азербайджанской Демократической Республике: 1918-1920 годы // Ирс-Наследие, 2011, №6 (54), с. 44-50, с.44-48

² Доклад Уполномоченного Министра Призрения АР в Армении Т.Макинского о положении мусульман в Армении (Эривань: 11 февраля 1929 г.) // ARDA, Fond № 84, siyahi № 1, iş № 9, v.60-62

³ Авдеев М.Н. Миграция населения Закавказья за время революции //. Жизнь национальностей, Москва: 1922, 22 марта

living in Azerbaijan, who left their homes in late 1917 and early 1918 under the influence of complex processes in the region. After Azerbaijan's sovereign rights were guaranteed in the southern region, the government began to address the problems of this group of refugees (about 30,000).

Paragraph 3 of the chapter deals with issues related to the development of education and culture in the regions. It is noted that in the context of the political and economic crisis, despite living under serious external threats, the Government of the Republic has always focused on cultural and educational issues in the regions. In this area, RA has inherited a heavy legacy from the past. The state of education and culture, especially in the regions, was deplorable. Despite the existing difficulties, the government, local authorities, municipalities and intellectuals used every opportunity to revive the educational work. The Congress of Public School Inspectors held in Baku on December 13-28, 1918 played an important role in the reconstruction of the local school system. The congress discussed important issues of education and school life in the country, problems in the field of education and training, and made a number of proposals to the government on the establishment of a national education system¹. Most of these proposals were aimed at developing school work in the regions, especially in rural areas.

Given that most of the existing educational institutions are located in Baku, the government has decided to open primary and secondary schools, teachers' seminaries, and pedagogical courses in various districts. With the exception of Baku, all secondary schools in the regions were nationalized. Intellectuals and teachers living in the regions took an active part in the Congress of Azerbaijani Turkish Teachers held in August 1919. The congress initiated the opening of new schools in the regions and called on teachers to be closely involved in the education and enlightenment of the people. On the ground, teachers and intellectuals were closely involved in

¹ Назарли, А. Э. Народное образование в Азербайджанской Республике (1918-1920), с.54-55.

eradicating the illiteracy of the elderly population¹. Thanks to the steps taken, it was possible to restore the activities of a number of schools in the regions starting from the middle of 1919, and new higher primary schools were opened.

Among the progressive steps taken in the field of culture and education during the republican period, the steps towards the development of women's education and the increase of women's social activity played an important role. One of the most important manifestations of the revival of socio-political suffering, cultural and educational work in the regions was the increase in women's social activity, the growing involvement of women in education, culture and charity in the regions where they live. Women began to take an active part in cultural events in the regions. The Muslim Actors Society and the Hajibeyov Brothers troupe played an important role in the development of art and theater in the regions. These societies often went on and staged plays. A branch of the Hajibeyov Brothers troupe was opened in Ganja and Shusha. Amateur drama groups were formed in Shusha, Shamakhi, Lankaran and Salyan.

Nationalization of education, organization of cultural and educational institutions, schools, pedagogical courses, literacy courses, holding cultural events, involvement of girls and women in education, cultural and social life, opening of media outlets, etc. Steps were taken not only in Baku, but also in the regions, and all these steps yielded positive results in a short period of time.

The "**Conclusion**" section concludes the dissertation and notes that the historical events and processes of the period were not limited to Baku, the political center of the country, and had an impact on all regions of Azerbaijan to one degree or another. At the same time, the events that took place in the regions resonated throughout Azerbaijan and to some extent affected the course of the process. During the period under study, the regions of Azerbaijan fell into the vortex of socio-political events in the region and the country and became a place of rich political, military, economic and cultural changes. The

¹ К реформе средней школы // Азербайджан. - 1919, 9 сентября. - с.3

measures taken in the regions during the short existence of the republic were important in terms of establishing the foundations of an independent statehood and determining the future path of development.

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

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