

REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

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ABSTRACT

of the dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

**THE STRUGGLE BETWEEN THE KHANATE OF GANJA
AND THE RUSSIA-GEORGIA BLOC FOR THE BORCHALI
AND GAZAKH-SHAMSHADIL REGIONS OF AZERBAIJAN**

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Applicant: **Murvat Javid oglu Aliyev**

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Scientific supervisor: Doctor of Sciences in history, professor
Jamal Mehdi oglu Mustafayev

Official opponents: Doctor of Sciences in history, professor
Adil Bakhshali oglu Bakhshaliyev

Doctor of Sciences in history, associate professor
Ibrahim Feyzulla oglu Kazimbeyli

Doctor of Philosophy in history
Gadir Ismail oglu Akbarov

Dissertation council ED 1.13 of Supreme Attestation Commission under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan operating at Nakhchivan Branch of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences

Chairman of the Dissertation council: Full member of the ANAS
doctor of Sciences in history, professor
Ismail Mukhtar oglu Hajiyev

Scientific secretary of the
Dissertation council

Doctor of Sciences in history,
associate professor
Emin Arif oglu Shikhaliyev

Chairman of the
scientific seminar:

Doctor of Sciences in history,
associate professor
Fakhreddin Adil oglu Jafarov



GENERAL CHARACTERIZATION OF THE WORK

Relevance and degree of development of the topic. The late 18th and early 19th centuries were marked by profound and contradictory changes in the socio-political and socio-economic life of the western regions of Northern Azerbaijan, including Borchali, Gazakh, and Shamshadil. The study of issues related to the occupied territories of Northern Azerbaijan during this period holds significant scientific and political importance. Currently, the fact that the Borchali region is a part of the Republic of Georgia, like the territories of Iravan, Goycha, Derbent, and Karabakh (including Zangezur), underscores the necessity of studying the historical past of this region.

Thus, this dissertation aims to explore the struggle of the Ganja Khanate against the union of Russia and Kartli-Kakheti and the annexation of Northern Azerbaijan's regions of Borchali, Gazakh, and Shamshadil by Tsarist Russia. This research focuses on three main narrative threads: 1) Georgia's use of Tsarist Russia's support and patronage to maintain control over Borchali, Gazakh, and Shamshadil; 2) The harsh consequences of the policies of violence implemented against the population of these regions following their annexation by Russia.

The objective study of these issues based on reliable sources remains a pressing scientific task. The results of this research have the potential to shed light on many historical realities. Although no specific scholarly work has been dedicated to the history of the Ganja Khanate's struggle against the union of Russia and Georgia in Azerbaijani and Russian historiography, numerous works have been produced on the socio-political and socio-economic life of Borchali, Gazakh, and Shamshadil.

These works have provided valuable information related to the subject of this study. The literature on the issue can be divided into two periods: those belonging to Soviet era historiography,¹ and those

¹Axundov, N.F. Qarabağ salnamələri / N.F.Axundov. – Bakı: Yazıçı, – 1989. – 232

from modern historiography.² The dissertation has also utilized a

s.; Nəmidova, Ş.P. XVIII əsrin ikinci yarısında Azərbaycan-Gürcüstan münasibətləri tarixindən / Ş.P.Nəmidova. – Bakı: Elm, – 1985. – 100 s.; Абдуллаев, Г.Б. Из истории Северо-Восточного Азербайджана в 60-80 гг. XVIII в. / Г.Б.Абдуллаев. – Баку: АН Азерб. ССР, – 1958. – 210 с.; Абдурахманов, А.А. Азербайджан во взаимоотношениях России, Турции и Ирана / А.А.Абдурахманов. – Баку: АН Азерб. ССР, – 1964. – 136 с.; Ибрагимбейли, Х.М. Россия и Азербайджан в первой трети XIX в. / Х.М.Ибрагимбейли. – Москва: Наука, – 1969. – 287 с.; Левиатов, В.Н. Очерки из истории Азербайджана в XVIII веке / В.Н.Левиатов. – Баку: Издательство АН Азербайджанской ССР, – 1948. – 228 с.; Маркова, О.П. Восстание в Кахетии 1812 г. / О.П.Маркова. – Москва: Издательство Академии Наук СССР, – 1951. – 336 с.; Маркова, О.П. Россия, Закавказье и международные отношения в XVIII веке / О.П.Маркова. – Москва: Наука, – 1966. – 324 с.; Меликишвили, Г.А. К истории древней Грузии / Г.А.Меликишвили. – Тбилиси: Издательство Академии Наук Грузинской ССР, – 1959. – 507 с.; Мильман, А.Ш. Политический строй Азербайджана в XIX – начале XX веков / А.Ш.Мильман. – Баку: Азербайджанское Государственное Издательство, – 1966. – 320 с.; Минасазов, Г.Б. Сто лет одной революции (Азербайджанское восстание 1826 года) / Г.Б.Минасазов. – Баку: АзГНИИ, – 1930. – 26 с.; Мустафаев, Дж.М. Северные ханства Азербайджана и Россия (конец XVIII – начало XIX в. / Дж.М.Мустафаев. – Баку: Элм, – 1989. – 128 с.; Петрушевский, И.П. Очерки по истории феодальных отношений в Азербайджане и Армении в XVI – начале XIX вв. / И.П.Петрушевский. – Ленинград: Издательство Ленинградского Государственного Ордена Ленина Университета имени А.А.Жданова, – 1949. – 384 с.; Рюмин, В.А. Краткие исторический и этнографический очерки Азербайджана / В.А.Рюмин. – Баку: – 1924; Сумбатзаде, А.С. Сельское хозяйство Азербайджана в XIX веке / А.С.Сумбатзаде. – Баку: Издательство Академии Наук Азербайджанской ССР, – 1958. – 364 с.

²Abdullayev, M.Q. Xanlıqlar və rus müstəmləkəçiliyi dövründə Şimali Azərbaycanda aqrar münasibətlər (XIX əsrin 40-cı illərinə qədər) / M.Q.Abdullayev. – Bakı: Adiloğlu, – 2005. – 232 s.; Azərbaycan-Gürcüstan münasibətləri tarixi (XVIII əsr – XXI əsrin əvvəlləri). – Bakı: “Şərq-Qərb” Nəşriyyat Evi, – 2013. – 392 s.; Бабаев, Э.Т. Из истории Гянджинского ханства / Э.Т.Бабаев. – Баку: Nurlan, – 2003. – 234 с.; Babazadə, E.T. Gəncə xanlığının tarixindən (rus dilindən tərcümə, 2-ci nəşr) / E.T.Babazadə. – Bakı: “Şərq-Qərb” Nəşriyyat Evi, – 2012. – 428 s.; İrəvan xanlığı. Rusiya işğalı və ermənilərin Şimali Azərbaycan torpaqlarına köçürülməsi. – Bakı: Azərbaycan, – 2009. – 576 s.; İsayev, Ə. Azərbaycanda inzibati idarəçilik (XIX-XX əsrin əvvəlləri) / Ə.İsayev. – Bakı: Mütərcim, – 2015. – 128 s.; Məmmədli, M. Borçalı mahalı və Qaçğan kəndi / M.Məmmədli. – Bakı: Təfəkkür, – 2001. – 292

series of articles ³ published by various experts in scientific journals,

s.; Məmmədov, N.R. Azərbaycan Respublikasının Şuşa şəhərinin tarixi / N.R.Məmmədov. – Bakı: “Avropa” nəşriyyatı, – 2016. – 960 s.; Mustafazadə, T.T. XVIII yüzillik – XIX yüzilliyin əvvəllərində Osmanlı-Azərbaycan münasibətləri / T.T.Mustafazadə. – Bakı: Elm, – 2002. – 372 s.; Mustafazadə, T.T. Quba xanlığı / T.T.Mustafazadə. – Bakı: Elm, – 2005. – 480 s. + 1 xəritə; Mustafazadə, T.T. Qarabağ xanlığı / T.T.Mustafazadə. – Bakı: Sabah, – 2009. – 333 s.; Nəcəfli, G.C. XVIII əsrdə Azərbaycan ərazisində erməni dövləti yaradılması cəhdləri / G.C.Nəcəfli. – Bakı: Nurlan, – 2007. – 248 s.; Ömərli, V. Qarayazı. Gürcüstanda türklər / V.Ömərli. – Bakı: Çayıoğlu, – I hissə – 2001. – 760 s.; Piriyeu, V.Z. Azərbaycanın tarixi-siyasi coğrafiyası / V.Z.Piriyeu. – Bakı: “Müəllim” nəşriyyatı, – 2006. – 148 s.; V.U. Şimali Azərbaycanın çar Rusiyası tərəfindən işğalı və müstəm-ləkəçilik əleyhinə mübarizə / V.U.Umudlu. – Bakı: Elm, – 2004. – 184 s.; Абасов, Ф.М. Гарабагское ханство / Ф.М.Абасов. – Баку: Тахсил, – 2007. – 280 s.; Аббасова, М.А. История Борчалинского махала (XIX – начало XX вв.) / М.А.Аббасова. – Баку: Сабах, – 2006. – 460 s.; Алиева, И.Х. Политическое и социально-экономическое положение азербайджанцев Тифлисской губернии (1846-1017) / И.Х.Алиева. – Баку: Тахсил, – 2009. – 224 с.; Гарабаг: Кюрекчайский договор – 200. – Баку: Тахсил, – 2005. – 176 с.; Мамедова, Г.Н. О походе В.Зубова в Азербайджан в 1796 г. / Г.Н.Мамедова. – Баку: Елм, – 2003. – 48 с.

³Abdullayev, M.Q. Qazax, Şəmşəddil və Borçalı sultanlıqları rus işğalınadək olan dövrdə (XVIII əsrin ortaları – XIX əsrin 40-cı illəri // – Tbilisi: Qarapapaqlar, 2014, may, №5, s. 23-29; Nəsbli, L.İ. Borçalıda azərbaycanlı əhalisinin demografik vəziyyəti // – Bakı: Bakı Universitetinin Xəbərləri. Humanitar elmlər seriyası, – 2011. №1, s. 158-163; Байрамова, Н.Ш. Наша независимость и наша история: о Борчалинском султанстве // – Баку: Труды Института Истории НАН Азербайджана, – 2010. Том 34-35, – с. 21-26; Сафаров, Р.Ф. Гянджа в период русского завоевания Кавказа // Qafqaz tarixinin aktual məsələləri. Beynəlxalq konfrans. 15-16 oktyabr 2015. – Gəncə: II hissə, – 2015, – s. 243-247; Mustafayev, C.M. Gəncə xanlığının rus-gürcü bloku ilə mübarizəsi tarixindən // – Bakı: “XIX əsrin əvvəllərində Qafqaz müharibələri və onların nəticələri” mövzusunda beynəlxalq elmi konfransın xüsusi buraxılışı. Azərbaycan Milli Elmlər Akademiyası Tarix İnstitutunun “Elmi Əsərləri”, – 2013. 44, 45, 46, 47-ci cild, – s. 62-69; Məcnunov, R. Tiflis şəhərinin tarixi keçmişinə dair // – Bakı: Tarix və onun problemləri, – 2016. №3, – s. 75-83; Kərimli, İ.K. XIX əsrin əvvəllərində Cavad xanın Şəmşəddil sultanlığı uğrunda mübarizəsi tarixindən // “Qafqaz tarixinin aktual məsələləri” mövzusunda beynəlxalq konfransın materialları. Gəncə Dövlət Universiteti, – 15-16 oktyabr. – Gəncə: – 2015. II hissə, – s. 15-20; Кобиашвили, Э. Первое антироссийское выступление в Грузии. Заговор Кельменчури //

which shed light on various aspects of the investigated issue. These articles discuss the tax obligations imposed in Borchali, Gazakh, and Shamshadil, Georgia's subjugation to Russian influence, the Ganja Khanate's struggle against the alliance of Russia and Kartli-Kakheti for control over Shamshadil, the military qualities of Gazakh and Shamshadil cavalrymen and the Borchali Karapapaks during the Russo-Qajar wars, and other related topics.

The main source base of the work consists of the Acts of the Caucasus Archaeographical Commission (hereafter referred to as ACAC)⁴ edited by the renowned Orientalist A.P. Berzhe. These acts

“Qafqaz tarixinin aktual məsələləri” mövzusunda beynəlxalq konfransın materialları. II hissə. Gəncə Dövlət Universiteti, 15-16 oktyabr. Gəncə: – 2015, – s. 376-380; Məmmədov, K. Borçalı Çar Rusiyasının işğalı dövründə // – Tbilisi: Qarapapaqlar, – 2009, fevral, №02, – s. 9-11; Амирбекова, Н. Структура воюющих сторон в период первой Русско-Иранской (Каджарской) войны // – Баку: Труды Института Истории НАН Азербайджана, – 2013. Том 44, 45, 46, 47, – с. 408-415; Hacıyev, F.V. Borçalılar İkinci Rus-Qacar müharibəsində // – Bakı: Bakı Universitetinin Xəbərləri. Humanitar elmlər seriyası, – 2013, №4, – s. 143-149; Hacıyev, F.V. Qacarlar ordusunun Borçalı əsilli sərkərdələri: Nağı xan və İsmayıl xan // – Bakı: “XIX əsrin əvvəllərində Qafqaz müharibələri və onların nəticələri” mövzusunda beynəlxalq elmi konfransın xüsusi buraxılışı. Azərbaycan Milli Elmlər Akademiyası Tarix İnstitutunun Elmi Əsərləri, – 2013. – 44, 45, 46, 47-ci cild, – s. 416-423; Гаджиев, Ф.В. Карапахи в русско-иранской войне 1826-1828 гг. // – Тбилиси: «Кавказ и Мир», Международный научный журнал, – 2013, №16, – с. 71-75.

⁴Акты, собранные Кавказской археографической комиссией: [в 12 томах]. – Тифлис: Типография Главного управления Наместника Кавказского, – Т. 1. – 1866. – 816 с.; Акты, собранные Кавказской археографической комиссией: [в 12 томах]. – Тифлис: Типография Главного управления Наместника Кавказского, – Т.2. – 1868. – 1238 с.; Акты, собранные Кавказской археографической комиссией: [в 12 томах]. – Тифлис: Типография Главного управления Наместника Кавказского, – Т.3. – 1869. – 766 с.; Акты, собранные Кавказской археографической комиссией: [в 12 томах]. –Тифлис: Типография Главного управления Наместника Кавказского, – Т. 4. – 1870. – 1019 с.; Акты, собранные Кавказской археографической комиссией: [в 12 томах]. – Тифлис: Типография Главного управления Наместника Кавказского, – Т. 5. – 1873. – 1186 с.; Акты, собранные Кавказской археографической комиссией: [в 12 томах]. – Тифлис: Типография Главного управления Наместника Кавказского,

contain a wealth of information on the socio-economic and socio-political life of Borchali, Gazakh, and Shamshadil during the period of Russian occupation. Reports, official letters, and other documents submitted by Russian military figures during this period are of great scientific significance for studying social relations in the regions, the military qualities of Azerbaijanis during the Russo-Qajar wars, rebellions, migration processes, and other events in the regions under investigation. Although none of the documents in these sources explicitly highlight Russia's colonial policies, their objective scientific analysis after the independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan has played a significant role in rewriting the previously distorted history of the Soviet era.

In writing the present dissertation, materials from the State History Archive of the Republic of Azerbaijan (SHARA) were used, including the 24th fund of the State Expedition of the Georgian Supreme Government (covering 1806–1839), the 63rd fund of the Yelizavetpol Commandant's Office (covering 1805–1837), and the 77th fund⁵ of the Shusha District Police Administration. These materials include information about the relocation of part of the population of Borchali, Gazakh, and Shamshadil to Karabakh by Panah Ali Khan of Karabakh in 1758, the return of peasants who fled the Gazakh district, grain taxes imposed on the population of the Gazakh district in the first quarter of the 19th century, and popular unrest in Muslim districts against the Russians during 1818–1820. These records are crucial for understanding the nature of Tsarist

– Т. 6, Ч. 1. – 1874. – 957 с.; Акты, собранные Кавказской археографической комиссией: [в 12 томах]. – Тифлис: Типография Главного управления Наместника Кавказского, – Т. 6, Ч. 2. – 1875. – 954 с.; Акты, собранные Кавказской археографической комиссией: [в 12 томах]. – Тифлис: Типография Главного управления Наместника Кавказского, – Т. 7. – 1878. – 1010 с.

⁵Azərbaycan Respublikası Dövlət Tarix Arxivi (ARDTA), f. 24, s. 1, iş 65; ARDTA, f. 24, s. 1, iş 68; ARDTA, f. 24, s. 1, iş 78; ARDTA, f. 24, s. 1, iş 100; ARDTA, f. 24, s. 1, iş 125; ARDTA, f. 24, s. 1, iş 137; ARDTA, f. 24, s. 1, iş 159; ARDTA, f. 24, s. 1, iş 216; ARDTA, f. 63, s. 1, iş 14; ARDTA, f. 77, s. 1, iş 562.

Russia's colonial policies in Northern Azerbaijan.

Another group of sources used is the "Karabakh Chronicles," which has been published in three volumes in modern times. These chronicles, primarily annalistic in nature, feature works by 19th-century chronicle historians⁶. Although these authors mainly focus on the history of the Karabakh region in the 18th and the first half of the 19th centuries, they also provide substantial information related to the issues investigated in this study. Based on the information provided by the authors of the "Karabakh Chronicles," it is possible to study the mutual relations between the Ganja Khanate and other khanates, Javad Khan's struggle against the Russians and Georgians to reclaim Shamshadil, the Russian occupation of the regions in the early 19th century, and other related issues.

Object and subject of the research. The object of this research is the significant military-political processes that occurred in the Borchali, Gazakh, and Shamshadil regions of Northern Azerbaijan during the late 18th century and the first three decades of the 19th century. The subject of the study is the historical struggle of the Ganja Khanate against the Russia-Georgia alliance over these regions.

Goals and objectives of the research. As seen from the historiographical summary above, the problem selected for this dissertation has not been the subject of specific research in the historiography of Azerbaijan or neighbouring countries yet. Therefore, the main scientific goal of this study is to present an accurate historical portrayal of the Ganja Khanate's struggle against the Russian and Kartli-Kakheti alliance over Borchali, Gazakh, and Shamshadil. This work aims to fill the existing gap in the field partially. The primary goal dictates the resolution of the following objectives:

- to provide a scientifically substantiated explanation of Nader

⁶Mirzə Adıgözəl bəy. Qarabağnamə // Qarabağnamələr. – Birinci kitab. – Bakı, Yazıcı, – 1989, – s. 5-102; Əlizadə, Həsən İxfə. Şuşa şəhərinin tarixi // Qarabağnamələr. İkinci kitab. – Bakı: Yazıcı, – 1991, – s. 309-348; Mirzə Yusif Qarabaği. Tarixi-Safi // Qarabağnamələr. – İkinci kitab. – Bakı: Yazıcı, – 1991, – s. 5-92.

Shah Afshar's policy regarding the subjugation of Borchali and Gazakh to Georgia and to reveal the essence of this event.

- to demonstrate the historical ties of the Shamshadil territory issue to the broader history of relations between the Ganja Khanate and the Kartli-Kakheti kingdom.

- to study the Russian-Kartli-Kakheti alliance's claims to Borchali, Gazakh, and Shamshadil in conjunction with the Ganja Khanate's relations with other khanates, explaining their mutual influences.

- to uncover the causes of population migrations in Borchali, Gazakh, and Shamshadil during the Russo-Qajar wars and explain the stances of Russian officials and the aristocracy regarding these migrations with scientific objectivity.

- to assess the colonial policies of the Russian-Kartli-Kakheti alliance towards Borchali, Gazakh, and Shamshadil and their detrimental effects on the destiny of Azerbaijan.

Methods of the research. The author employed various methods to achieve the primary scientific goal and address the set objectives. Alongside general logical methods such as comparative matching, detailed analysis, dialectical comparison, effective synthesis, and broad generalization, historical descriptive methods, historical-comparative approaches, and systematic analysis techniques were extensively utilized.

Key propositions for thesis defense. The main scientific propositions of this research, which are presented for defence, include:

- The Borchali, Gazakh, and Shamshadil regions in the northwestern borders of Azerbaijan have historically held significant importance in the country's history.

- The Ganja Khanate's struggle over these territories reached an especially intense phase in the latter half of the 18th century.

- Towards the late 18th century, particularly after the signing of the Treaty of Georgievsk in 1783 between Russia and Kartli-Kakheti, foreign interventions in these Azerbaijani regions intensified.

- The Ganja Khanate's struggle against the Russian-Georgia

bloc for these territories was conducted under conditions of unequal power.

- In addition to the disparity of forces, the internal political fragmentation in Northern Azerbaijan and the shortsighted policies of rulers focusing solely on retaining their authority played significant roles in enabling foreign aggression.

- Although Javad Khan of Ganja's struggle for Borchali, Gazakh, and Shamshadil ultimately failed, it delayed the onset of Russian conquests in Northern Azerbaijan and became a shining chapter in the history of the fight for Azerbaijan's sovereignty and independence.

Scientific novelty of the research. This dissertation represents one of the first systematic and comprehensive steps in Azerbaijani historiography on the chosen topic. For the first time, the study:

- analyzes the stances of other Azerbaijani khanates on Javad Khan's struggle against the Russian-Kartli-Kakheti alliance for Borchali and Gazakh-Shamshadil.

- presents evidence on the historical roots of the Shamshadil territory issue in the relations between the Ganja Khanate and the Kartli-Kakheti kingdom and its central role in Javad Khan's foreign policy.

- examines the Russian-Georgian relations during the occupation of Northern Azerbaijan and reveals new facts through scientific analysis.

- provides a detailed account of the liberation struggle in Borchali and Gazakh-Shamshadil between the periods of Javad Khan's resistance and the eventual conquest of the Ganja Khanate.

- characterizes the forms and dynamics of the anti-colonial resistance in Gazakh-Shamshadil during the period between the First and Second Russo-Qajar Wars, emphasizing its role in Azerbaijan's freedom struggle.

- analyzes the socio-political and economic conditions in Borchali, Gazakh, and Shamshadil, highlighting regional variations in agrarian relations based on these conditions.

- compares and contrasts the administrative-territorial aspects of Borchali, Gazakh, and Shamshadil regions across different periods.
- investigates the relationships between colonists belonging to various layers and the native population of Borchali, Gazakh, and Shamshadil during the Russo-Qajar wars, showing how these interactions primarily served Russia's colonial ambitions.

Theoretical and practical significance of the research. The main provisions and results of the research could be used for:

- the study of the socio-political and socio-economic history of Northern Azerbaijan in the 18th-19th centuries;
- a comprehensive study of the history of the khanates of Northern Azerbaijan, the period of Russian occupation, the national movement, and agrarian relations;
- investigating the relationship between the khanates of Northern Azerbaijan and Georgia in the 18th century to the early 19th century, and the writing of general works on Azerbaijani military history during the Russo-Qajar wars;
- the preparation of textbooks on the socio-economic and socio-political development of Northern Azerbaijan;
- teaching of specialized courses at higher education institutions.

Approval and application of the research. The main provisions and scientific results of the dissertation are reflected in the author's article published in reputable scientific journals in the Republic of Azerbaijan and abroad, as well as in theses presented at various scientific conferences. The results and materials of the research have been used in the preparation of lecture notes and teaching programs on Azerbaijani as well as World History at the Quba branch of the Azerbaijan State Pedagogical University.

The name of the organization where the dissertation was carried out. The dissertation was carried out in the Department of "New History of Azerbaijan and the History of Genocides against the Azerbaijani People (now named History of Northern Azerbaijan in the 19th and Early 20th Centuries)" at the Institute of History, Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences, was discussed and submitted to the

defense at the meeting of the department on June 30, 2021 (protocol No. 10).

The structure and volume of the dissertation. The total volume of the dissertation (excluding the reference list) is 288000 symbols. The structure is as follows: Introduction (17 pages – 37156 symbols), Chapter I (2 sub-chapters – 20 pages – 43442 symbols), Chapter II (2 sub-chapters – 29 pages – 66633 symbols), Chapter III (5 sub-chapters – 58 pages – 126814 symbols), Conclusion (7 pages – 14421 symbols), and the list of references (13 pages – 22003 symbols), making the total number of pages 143.

MAIN CONTENT OF THE DISSERTATION

In the **“Introduction”** section of this research paper, the relevance of the chosen topic is convincingly and thoroughly substantiated based on credible evidence, with a comprehensive review of the degree of development of the issue. Moreover, the research object and subject are noted, and the aim and objectives are clearly defined. The research methods are indicated, and the propositions to be defended are highlighted. The scientific novelty, theoretical and practical significance of the research are discussed in detail, along with information on the approval of the dissertation, the institution where it was conducted, and the volume of the entire work and each section.

The first chapter of the dissertation, titled **“The History of the Political and Socio-Economic Life of Azerbaijan's Borchali and Qazakh-Shamshiddil Regions”** consists of two subchapters. In the first subchapter, titled **“On the Political Life of the Borchali, Qazakh, and Shamshiddil Sultanates”**, the author, based on reliable sources, including publications from the 19th and 20th centuries and extensive literature materials, provides a general overview of the political history of the mentioned regions in Western Azerbaijan from the late 18th to the early 19th centuries. This section also examines the causes, course, and outcomes of the most significant political and social processes that occurred in these regions.

In this subsection, relying on various sources, the political history of the three regions from the 16th to the 18th centuries is reviewed. It is emphasized that during the 16th and 17th centuries, and at the beginning of the 18th century, Eastern Georgia and these three historical regions were part of Azerbaijan ruled by the Safavids and Afshars. It is also highlighted that there were frequent changes in the political situation and forms of governance in the Borchali, Qazakh, and Shamshiddil regions during the 18th century. One of the most striking aspects of this subsection is the author's response to the unproven claim that Nadir Afshar supposedly donated the lands of

Borchali and Shamshiddil to Georgia. After cross-referencing the information from famous authors like A. Bakikhanov, N. Dubrovin, I. Petrushevski, and others with reliable sources, the author argues that Nadir Shah did not give these regions away to foreign powers. Instead, after his election as Shah following the 1736 Mugan assembly, he merely transferred the administration of these regions from the Ziyadoghlu family to punish them for their defiance to the neighbouring Kingdom of Kartli-Kakheti which was completely dependent on Nadir Shah. The claim that Nadir Shah donated Azerbaijani lands to foreign powers is, according to the author, an injustice.

In this subsection it is also emphasised that the entire preceding period, especially the 18th century, was a difficult time in the political life of these regions, and the frequent changes in governance had severe socio-economic consequences for the sultanates.

In the second subsection of the first chapter, titled **“The Socio-Economic Situation of the Borchali and Qazakh-Shamshiddil Regions in the Second Half of the 18th Century – Early 19th Century”**, it is noted that in the early 18th century, the first signs of commodity-money relations began to emerge in the Borchali region. The local rich raw material base and natural resources influenced the development of market relations.⁷

Many research studies based on numerous sources indicate that the majority of the population in the Qazakh and Borchali regions consisted of Azerbaijani Turkic Terekeme Qarapapaq tribes.⁸ Research also shows that immediately after the Russian occupation in 1801, the occupiers established a harsh colonial regime in these regions, imposing heavy natural and monetary taxes on the

⁷Аббасова, М.А. История Борчалинского махала (XIX – начало XX вв.) / М.А.Аббасова. – Баку: Сабак, – 2006, с. 11.

⁸Бах: Abdullayev, M.Q. Qazax, Şəmşəddil və Borçalı sultanlıqları rus işğalınadək olan dövrdə (XVIII əsrin ortaları – XIX əsrin 40-cı illəri // – Tbilisi: Qarapapaqlar, 2014, may, №5, s. 24.

population.⁹ This oppressive colonial rule led many people to leave their homeland and emigrate to foreign lands.¹⁰ Studies indicate that during the examined period, agriculture, handicrafts, trade, and even industry-based enterprises (especially in Borchali) existed, but the intense military-political events had a significant negative impact on the socio-economic condition of the regions. As a result, part of the population had to emigrate, and the Russian occupation established a very harsh colonial regime in these areas.

The second chapter of the dissertation (**“The Struggle of the Ganja Khanate against the Russia-Georgia Bloc for the Borchali and Qazakh-Shamshiddil Regions in the Second Half of the 18th Century”**) is also composed of two subsections. The first subchapter is titled **“The Relations of the Ganja Khanate with the Kartli-Kakheti Kingdom”**. This subsection notes that in the second half of the 18th century, political relations were marked by tension, with conflicts occurring between the two sides from time to time. The Georgian kings, who had long sought to expand their territories at the expense of Azerbaijani lands, tried to use Russian support for this purpose, attempting to entice Russia into supporting their expansion. Following Nadir Shah Afshar’s death, the Georgian kings’ activities in this direction intensified, but the Russian court in St. Petersburg, fearing irritation from the Ottoman side, decided not to take advantage of such offers from the Georgians.¹¹

In this part of the dissertation, based on various sources and literary materials, the issue of the administration of Shamshiddil coming under the control of Irakli II during the reign of Ganja ruler

⁹Вах: Акты, собранные Кавказской археографической комиссией: [в 12 томах]. – Тифлис: Типография Главного управления Наместника Кавказского, – Т. 6, Ч. 1. – 1874, с. 3 вә б.

¹⁰Акты, собранные Кавказской археографической комиссией: [в 12 томах]. – Тифлис: Типография Главного управления Наместника Кавказского, – Т. 4. – 1870, с. 482.

¹¹Цинцадзе, И. Посольство в Россию Афанасия Тбилели и Симона Макашвили // – Тбилиси: Исторический вестник, – № 26, 1952, – с. 158-159.

Shahverdi Khan II is also discussed.¹² This subsection details the struggle of the Ganja Khanate against the attempts of Kartli-Kakheti to invade Ganja in the early 1750s, alongside forces from Sheki, Shirvan, and Borchaly. It provides a thorough account of the decisive victory of Haji Chelebi over the Kartli-Kakheti forces near Ganja on April 23, 1752.¹³ Based on the information of the prominent researcher late Sh.P. Hamidova, it is suggested that at the request of the ruler of Sheki, the Sultanates of Gazakh, Borchali, and Shamshiddil, as well as the Khanates of Erivan and Ganja, joined Haji Chelebi's army and rebelled against the Kingdom of Kartli-Kakheti. As a result, these khans and sultans distanced themselves from Irakli II and united under Haji Chelebi.

This subsection also touches on the complex relations between Ganja and Karabakh in the mid-18th century. Based on various sources, the causes, course, and consequences of the event known as the "Golden Mountain Treason" in our history are discussed. It evaluates the attempts of the next Ganja ruler, Muhammad Hasan Khan, to break free from the dependence on Irakli II, and the policy of the St. Petersburg government during the 1768-1774 Russo-Ottoman war, using the Christian factor in the South Caucasus to implement its expansionist plans. It is noted that due to Muhammad Khan's misguided policies, the Khanate of Ganja was occupied by the united Karabakh-Georgian forces in 1780, and a dual system of governance was established by the victors.¹⁴

The subsection also provides information on Ganja-Karabakh relations, Agha Mohammad Khan Qajar's 1795 visit to Tbilisi, Cavad Khan's participation in these events, and his policies aimed at using the Qajar factor to end Georgian influence. It discusses the military

¹² Бабаев, Э.Т. Из истории Гянджинского ханства / Э.Т.Бабаев. – Баку: Nurlan, – 2003, с. 22.

¹³Molla Məhəmməd Əl-Cari. Car salnaməsi / M.M.Əl-Cari. – Bakı: “Səda” nəşriyyatı, – 1997, s. 52-53.

¹⁴Həmidova, Ş.P. XVIII əsrin ikinci yarısında Azərbaycan-Gürcüstan münasibətləri tarixindən / Ş.P.Həmidova. – Bakı: Elm, – 1985, s. 65-66.

campaigns against Ganja Khanate by the Georgians, Avars, and Karabakh Khanate between 1795 and 1797, and how Cavad Khan managed to preserve his rule only by paying significant compensation and ransom.¹⁵

In general, during this period, the competing claims over the Borchali, Qazakh, and Shamshiddil regions led to tense relations between the Ganja Khanate and its rivals. In some cases, even neighbouring Azerbaijani khanates formed alliances with the Georgians against Ganja. The territorial disputes over Ganja's lands between St. Petersburg, Tbilisi, and other political centres kept the Ganja Khanate in a complex military-political situation throughout its existence, often isolating it and subjecting it to severe trials.

The final subsection of the second chapter is titled **“The 1783 Treaty of Georgievsk, the strengthening of Russia and Kartli-Kakheti alliance's claims over Borchali and Qazakh-Shamshiddil lands”**. It states that in the 1780s, the complex military-political situation in the South Caucasus, especially the Ottoman pressures, prompted some Georgian states to seek protection under Russian patronage. Irakli II, on the other hand, was trying to take advantage of Russia's protection to seize Azerbaijani territories. Additionally, various Georgian principalities within Georgia were intent on utilizing foreign patrons, including Russia, in their internal struggles. These factors, combined with the 1774 Treaty of Kuchuk Kaynarca, which had significantly weakened the Ottomans, and Russia's annexation of the Crimean Khanate on April 8, 1783, laid a favourable groundwork for Russia's expansionist ambitions in the South Caucasus. The position of both sides ultimately led to the signing of a special treaty between Russia and the Kingdom of Kartli-Kakheti on July 24, 1783, in the Russian fortress of Georgievsk in the Northern Caucasus, with

¹⁵Qarabağnamələr: [3 kitabda]. – Bakı: Yazıçı, – II kitab, – 1991, s. 457; Дубровин, Н.Ф. История войны и владычества русских на Кавказе: [в 6-и томах] / Н.Ф.Дубровин. – Санкт-Петербург: Типография П.Н.Скорородова, – Том III. – 1886, с. 149.

Kartli-Kakheti officially accepting Russian protection.¹⁶ The treaty, signed by P.S. Potemkin, the commander of the Russian forces in the Caucasus, and I.K. Bagration-Mukhransky and G.R. Chavchavadze on behalf of Kartli-Kakheti, established a ¹⁷ 17-point "friendship treaty." This treaty diplomatically supported Russia's claims to many Azerbaijani territories under its new protectorate, recognized Irakli II as the ruler of "Gazakh, Borchali, Gakh, Shamakhi, Shirvan, Ganja, and Erivan," and symbolically allowed limited Russian military forces to be stationed in Tbilisi. This was particularly dangerous for the regions of Borchali, Gazakh, Shamshiddil, and Ganja, as it added Russia's support to the baseless Georgian claims against them.

After the death of Fatali Khan of Guba, Irakli II became more confident and resumed his claims over Borchaly, Gazakh, and Shamshiddil. However, the famous victorious campaign of Agha Mohammad Khan Gajar in 1795 temporarily shattered all of the Georgian king's plans. During the period from 1795 to 1797, the expeditions of the Gajars and Zubov led to frequent shifts in the control of the region. Despite all of the attempts George IX, who was II Irakli's son replaced him, Javad Khan managed to maintain Ganja Khanate's authority over Borchali and Shamshiddil until 1803. At the end of this subsection, it is noted that although the Georgian kings issued various decrees and orders regarding these disputed regions, it does not conclusively prove that these territories were under Kartli-Kakheti's control at the time. In fact, the majority of these documents, often carrying a propagandistic nature, remained on paper, while the rulers of Ganja continued to defend their legal rights over these lands until the very end.

The last, third chapter of the dissertation, consisting of four subsections, is titled **"The Struggle of the Ganja Khanate for Borchali and Gazakh-Shamshiddil Lands during the Russian**

¹⁶Маркова, О.П. Россия, Закавказье и международные отношения в XVIII веке / О.П.Маркова. – Москва: Наука, – 1966, – с. 168.

¹⁷Məcnunov, R. Tiflis şəhərinin tarixi keçmişinə dair // – Bakı: Tarix və onun problemləri, – 2016. №3, – s. 75-83.

Invasion of the South Caucasus”. The first subsection discusses the occupation of Borchali and Gazakh-Shamshiddil regions by Russia. It notes that the Russian Empire began its extensive conquests in the South Caucasus by annexing Eastern Georgia to the Romanov Empire. A manifesto issued in January 1801 declared that, in addition to the territories of Eastern Georgia, the Azerbaijani regions of Pambak, Shorayel, Borchali, Gazakh, and Shamshiddil had also been incorporated into Russia.¹⁸ Although such a manifesto was issued again in the autumn of that year, during the period from 1801 to 1803, despite the occupation of these regions by the Russo-Georgian bloc and the establishment of a colonial regime, various official documents declared the "union" of these regions under Russian-Georgian control. In reality, this union existed only on paper in the official documents of the Christian bloc, while Javad Khan continued his unequal struggle for these lands, refusing to accept their conquest by the enemy.

The second subsection of the chapter is dedicated to the struggle of Javad Khan Ziyadoglu in 1801-1803 against the occupation of these lands and his efforts to keep them within the Ganja Khanate. In the subsection it is noted that the documents belonging to Russian rule in the Caucasus prove that despite Russia's pompous and intimidating manifestos and other documents, in the early spring of 1801, the Ganja Khanate's troops operated freely in Shamshiddil, collecting taxes from the population.¹⁹ Javad Khan, in his extensive correspondence with Russian military and political figures like Knorring, Sisianov, and others, boldly asserted that these regions had always belonged to his ancestors and him, so he firmly demanded the

¹⁸Алиева, И.Х. Политическое и социально-экономическое положение азербайджанцев Тифлиской губернии (1846-1017) / И.Х.Алиева. – Баку: Тахсил, – 2009, с. 25-26.

¹⁹Акты, собранные Кавказской археографической комиссией: [в 12 томах]. – Тифлис: Типография Главного управления Наместника Кавказского, – Т. 1. – 1866, с. 606-607.

withdrawal of Russian occupying forces from these areas.²⁰ The local population, in turn, resisted the Russian-Georgian invaders, either seeking refuge in the Ganja Khanate or retreating to the mountains under the pretext of going to the summer pastures.²¹ Cavad Khan was even willing to relocate almost the entire population of Shamshiddil to Ganja in their resistance against the invaders.²²

However, in certain instances, during the unstoppable marches of the superior Russian military forces, some landlords and village leaders were forced to submit to the invaders, swear oaths of "loyalty," and some local rulers (e.g., the Sultan of Shamshiddil, Nasib) found it more advantageous and acceptable to seek refuge with the Russian invaders in hopes of preserving their power.²³ Throughout 1802, there was a struggle for dominance over these regions, which also involved the Georgian prince Alexander (also known as Levend Mirza).²⁴ Panah Agha of Gazakh also made attempts from time to time to support the Ganja Khanate in this struggle.²⁵ In mid-1802, the recall of the Russian commander-in-chief Knorring and the main Russian official in Tbilisi, Kovalevsky, from their posts further demonstrated that the Russian leadership was dissatisfied with their activities aimed

²⁰Акты, собранные Кавказской археографической комиссией: [в 12 томах]. – Тифлис: Типография Главного управления Наместника Кавказского, – Т. 1. – 1866, – с. 608.

²¹Акты, собранные Кавказской археографической комиссией: [в 12 томах]. – Тифлис: Типография Главного управления Наместника Кавказского, – Т. 1. – 1866, – с. 592, 595 və b.

²²Babazadə, E.T. Gəncə xanlığının tarixindən (rus dilindən tərcümə, 2-ci nəşr) / E.T.Babazadə. – Bakı: "Şərq-Qərb" Nəşriyyat Evi, – 2012, – s. 79.

²³Документы по истории Грузии (1862-1972). Грузия в период буржуазных реформ (1862-1866): [в 2-х томах] / под редакцией Ш.К.Чхетия. – Тбилиси: б.и., – том I. Часть 2, – 1954, – с. 397.

²⁴Həmidova, Ş.P. XVIII əsrin ikinci yarısında Azərbaycan-Gürcüstan münasibətləri tarixindən / Ş.P.Həmidova. – Bakı: Elm, – 1985, s. 75.

²⁵Бах: Кəримли, İ.К. XIX əsrin əvvəllərində Cavad xanın Şəmşəddil sultanlığı uğrunda mübarizəsi tarixindən // "Qafqaz tarixinin aktual məsələləri" mövzusunda beynəlxalq konfransın materialları. Gəncə Dövlət Universiteti, – 15-16 oktyabr. – Gəncə: – 2015. II hissə, – s. 17.

at taking control of Azerbaijani lands and with the resistance of the Ganja Khanate not being decisively broken. Knorring's replacement, the ruthless, cunning, and ambitious P.D. Sisianov, upon taking office in February 1803, resorted to harsh measures. He began by occupying the regions of Car-Balakani, manipulating the discord among the Khans, driving them apart, and severely threatening his rivals and allies. By the end of 1803, this Georgian-born, glory-seeking general had completely taken control of Borchali, Gazakh, and Shamshiddil, and on January 3, 1804, he managed to occupy Ganja and slaughtered its inhabitants.²⁶

The third subsection of the final chapter of the dissertation is dedicated to reviewing the history of the first Russo-Persian War (1804-1813) and the famous Gazakh-Shamshiddil uprisings. It is noted that after the occupation of Ganja, Russia established its colonial rule over the Borchali-Gazakh-Shamshiddil regions, attempting to limit the rights of local privileged classes and make serious attempts to involve local armed forces in military operations against the Ottomans and Gajars. Many of the local population, unwilling to accept these measures, resorted to various forms of resistance, while others sought refuge by emigrating from their homeland.

Indeed, some influential local landlords had occasionally signed documents of submission to Russia. However, whenever the opportunity arose, they switched to the anti-Russian side, leading uprisings and revolts against Russia in 1808, 1818, and other years. These revolts, along with their subsequent imprisonment, exile, and other such punishments by Russia, prove that their oaths of "loyalty" to Russia were taken and signed under the muzzles of Russian soldiers' guns. This is evidenced by the 1805 Shamshiddil uprising, the anti-Russian revolt of Amirqulu Bey in 1806, and even the case of Nasib Bey, who at one point refused to serve Russia and switched to

²⁶Babazadə, E.T. Gəncə xanlığının tarixindən (rus dilindən tərcümə, 2-ci nəşr) / E.T.Babazadə. – Bakı: “Şərq-Qərb” Nəşriyyat Evi, – 2012, – s. 122.

the Gajars' side. During the 1807 military operations, the people of Borchali fought alongside the Gajar troops. A significant portion of the population from these regions frequently fled their homeland and moved to the mountains or the Ottoman and Gajar states. These processes clearly demonstrate the resistance of the local population to Russian rule.

In 1810, a large part of the local population in these regions rebelled against Russia and sought refuge in the Erivan Khanate,²⁷ During the 1812 Kakheti uprising, the landlords of Gazakh and Borchali refused to create military units composed of Muslim cavalry for the Russian command and to take part in military operations alongside the Kakheti rebels and the Dagestani fighters.²⁸ Marquis Paulichi admitted that the 1812 Kakheti uprising had caused strong disturbances in Borchali, Gazakh, and Shamshiddil.²⁹

To pacify the local population, Russian colonizers had to resort to various measures. One such step was the decree signed on March 31, 1818 by the Commander-in-Chief of Russian forces in the Caucasus, A.P. Yermolov, titled "The Rights and Duties of the Landlords of Borchaly and Neighboring Regions." This decree, which sought to appease the local privileged classes, recognized landlords not as property owners but as administrators or leaseholders, which also gave the impression of a gesture toward the peasant class.³⁰ However, as often happens, Tsarism faced the opposite result this time as well the decree caused strong discontent in these regions, resulting in widespread unrest. Mustafa Agha led the unrest in Gazakh, while

²⁷Акты, собранные Кавказской археографической комиссией: [в 12 томах]. – Тифлис: Типография Главного управления Наместника Кавказского, – Т. 4. – 1870. – 1019 с. т. IV, с. 485.

²⁸Маркова, О.П. Восстание в Кахетии 1812 г. / О.П.Маркова. – Москва: Издательство Академии Наук СССР, – 1951, с. 120.

²⁹Акты, собранные Кавказской археографической комиссией: [в 12 томах]. – Тифлис: Типография Главного управления Наместника Кавказского, – Т. 5. – 1873. – с. 60.

³⁰Məmmədov, Borçalı Çar Rusiyasının işğalı dövründə // – Tbilisi: Qarapapaqlar, – 2009, fevral, №02, – s. 9.

Nasib Sultan led the resistance in Shamshiddil.³¹

The fourth subsection of the third chapter addresses the situation of the Borchali and Gazakh-Shamshiddil regions during and immediately after the 1826-1828 Russo-Persian War. It is noted that during this war, these regions became battlegrounds, and the population was subjected to mass looting by the colonizers. Over time, many were displaced from their homelands. Even in the first few months of the war, Russian colonizers confiscated 5,500 oxen from the population of these three regions.³²

In the summer of 1826, the famous Ganja rebellion, as well as the general Muslim uprisings in the South Caucasus, the liberation of Pambak and Shorayel from Russian occupation by the Erivan Khanate, and other related events had a strong resonance in Borchali, Gazakh and Shamshiddil as well. In Shamshiddil, the population rose up, destroyed the Russian military unit and captured the local Russian administrator. Ughurlu Khan, who came to power in Ganja, also sent troops to Shamshiddil.³³ The rebellion soon spread to Gazax, and these regions were freed from Russian rule.³⁴

Thus, during the 1826-1828 Russo-Persian War and the subsequent period, despite the continued multi-sided struggle against the colonizers, due to political fragmentation and unequal forces, the Borchali, Gazakh and Shamshiddil regions fell into Russia`s hands for a long time, and a foreign colonial regime was established there.

The final section of Chapter III of the dissertation examines the tax policy of the Russian Empire in the Gazakh and Shamshiddil regions during the first third of the 19th century. It is noted that one of

³¹Umudlu, V.U. Şimali Azərbaycanın çar Rusiyası tərəfindən işğalı və müstəmləkəçilik əleyhinə mübarizə / V.U.Umudlu. – Bakı: Elm, – 2004, – s. 113.

³²Ибрагимбейли, Х.М. Россия и Азербайджан в первой трети XIX в. / Х.М.Ибрагимбейли. – Москва: Наука, – 1969, – с. 164.

³³Umudlu, V.U. Şimali Azərbaycanın çar Rusiyası tərəfindən işğalı və müstəmləkəçilik əleyhinə mübarizə / V.U.Umudlu. – Bakı: Elm, – 2004, s. 150-152.

³⁴Минасзав, Г.Б. Сто лет одной революции (Азербайджанское восстание 1826 года) / Г.Б.Минасзав. – Баку: АзГНИИ, – 1930, – с. 9.

the main interests of Tsarism in North Azerbaijan in the first thirty years of the 19th century was fiscal, i.e., to find new sources of revenue for the tsarist treasury by any means. In this regard, the colonial structures were ready to use all possible means and methods. The invaders, who tried to “punish” the Ganja Khanate (even after its occupation), had already “severed” 16 villages (14 Muslim and 2 Christian) in early 1804 and added them to the Shamshiddil Sultanate.

In the “**Conclusion**” section of the work, the scientific and theoretical findings obtained during the research are summarized, and the following conclusions are reached:

- The ancient lands of Azerbaijan, Borchali, Gazakh, and Shamshadil regions, have held strategic importance throughout history and, for this reason, have been at the centre of military-political conflicts among various states.
- Although the Borchali and Gazakh regions were temporarily placed under the control of the Kartli-Kakheti kings by the decisions of Nadir Shah in the 18th century, this cannot be regarded as treason against Azerbaijan's territorial integrity.
- In the early 19th century, the annexation of Borchali, Gazakh, and Shamshadil regions to Russia and their incorporation into the Georgian gubernia as a district dealt a significant blow to Azerbaijan's independence. This occupation negatively impacted the economic, social, and cultural life of the local population.
- The Khans of Ganja, particularly Javad Khan, persistently fought for the return of the Borchali, Gazakh, and Shamshadil regions. However, due to internal contradictions, the imbalance of military forces, and the cunning policies of the Russian Empire, this struggle ended in failure.

The following scientific articles covering the content of the dissertation have been published:

1. XVIII əsrdə Borçalı, Qazax və Şəmşəddil bölgələrinin siyasi həyatı haqqında // – Bakı: Sivilizasiya, – 2017. №6, – s. 106-112.
2. XVIII əsrin II yarısında Gəncə xanlığının Kartli-Kaxeti çarlığı ilə münasibətləri haqqında // – Bakı: Tarix və onun problemləri, – 2017. №3, – s. 33-39.
3. 1818-1820-ci illər Qazax-Şəmşəddil üsyanları və Şimali Azərbaycanın milli-azadlıq tarixində onların yeri // – Bakı: Tarix, İnsan və Cəmiyyət, – 2018. №4 (23), – s. 137-146.
4. Cavad xanın Borçalı, Qazax-Şəmşəddil torpaqlarının qaytarılması uğrunda Çar Rusiyasına qarşı mübarizəsi // – Bakı: Tarix, İnsan və Cəmiyyət, – 2022. № 3, – s. 109-118.
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