

**REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN**

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**ABSTRACT**

of the dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Science

**THE HISTORY OF THE SOUTH-EASTERN REGION  
OF NORTH AZERBAIJAN AT THE BEGINNING  
OF THE 20TH CENTURY**

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## I.GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE DISSERTATION

**Relevance and degree of investigation of the topic** After the Republic of Azerbaijan restored its state independence, the necessity to comprehensively re-examine various issues of the homeland's history emerged. Because for a long historical period, the Soviet ideological concept based on class struggle hindered an objective approach to events. The ideological concepts dominant in Soviet historiography, by approaching events from a class perspective, led to the emergence of subjects where the main facts were distorted. In this regard, there are still issues that need to be carefully studied based on the primary historical sources of the period. One such problem is the history of the southeastern region of Northern Azerbaijan. The study of the socio-political, socio-economic situation, and cultural construction of the region in the early 20th century as a problem is one of the important issues to be addressed in Azerbaijani historiography. Thus, in national historiography, the comprehensive study of problems that have been overlooked and poorly researched based on new concepts is of particular relevance.

The southeastern region of Northern Azerbaijan involved in the study encompasses the territories of the administrative districts of Astara, Jalilabad, Lerik, Masally, Yardımyly, and Lankaran, which are part of the modern Republic of Azerbaijan's Lankaran economic region. This geographical area, possessing the same historical-ethnographic characteristics, was referred to as the southern or southeastern region of Northern Azerbaijan for a long period as an administrative unit. During the khanates period, the Lankaran khanate, and after the abolition of the khanates, the Lankaran district, which was formed according to the administrative-territorial division implemented in the Russian Empire, was initially part of the administrative-territorial unit of the Shamakhi and later the Baku Governorate.

The southeastern region of Northern Azerbaijan is one of the areas where people with diverse economic orientations and similar lifestyle characteristics, in terms of geographical location, natural-climatic conditions, and landscape diversity, have settled. The

foundation of the unity united under the name Azerbaijanis was laid in ancient times. For a long historical period, the Turks and Talish people living together have remarkably preserved and passed down the archaic language, culture, customs, and traditions of their ancestors to the present day without any external influence. The achievements of this leading force in material and spiritual culture over the centuries in the region have brought them closer together and strengthened their bond. All of this is the embodiment of the dominant values and unbreakable unity that have ensured their coexistence throughout history. This unity, as in all periods of history, continues today with confidence and success. Thus, the heroism demonstrated by the region's youth during the First Karabakh and the 44-day Patriotic War in defense of our homeland's integrity is a clear example of this.

According to the administrative-territorial division implemented in the Russian Empire, during the period under study, the southeastern region was divided into five police districts: Sabidaş, Lankaran, Arkivan, Zuvand, and Astara. The areas were further divided into communities and villages<sup>1</sup>. The city of Lankaran, the center of the region, was governed by an elected self-governance leader, while the district was managed by a district chief appointed by the governor.

Like other regions of Northern Azerbaijan, the southeastern region also saw an increase in population due to the significant steps taken, albeit partially, towards regulating social relations after it became part of the Russian Empire. In the region, where the majority of the population consisted of Azerbaijanis, the number of people was 131,361 in 1897, 168,122 in 1910, and reached 177,467 in 1912.<sup>2</sup> In terms of numbers, after the Azerbaijanis, the Russian

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<sup>1</sup> Кистинев, Д.А. Экономический быт государственных крестьян Ленкоранского уезда, Бакинской губернии // Тифлис: Материалы для изучения экономического быта государственных крестьян Закавказского края, – 1887, – том VII, – с. 544; Кавказский календарь на 1912 год / Под ред. Действ. Статск. Советн. А.Шаврова. LXVII год. – Тифлис: Типография Канцелярия Кавказского Наместника, - 1911, – IV отд. с. 233.

<sup>2</sup> Кавказский календарь на 1912 год. – IV отд. с. 233.

population was considered the leading force in the region. According to contemporary sources, "in 1844, out of the 8618 Russian population living in the entire South Caucasus, 2634 resided only in the Lankaran district."<sup>3</sup> However, in the first decade of the 20th century, the number of Russians in the region increased sixfold to 14,317<sup>4</sup>, and in 1915, it had reached 20,316.<sup>5</sup>

In this regard, the southeastern region has long been characterized as a rather complex area in terms of the struggle against the colonial and resettlement policies of Tsarist Russia and the uprisings that occurred. As a result of the colonial policies implemented by Tsarism, the villages were plagued by poverty, the peasants faced land scarcity landlessness, and heavy burdens, which led to peasant uprisings in the region.

The population, who did not reconcile with the empire's colonial policy, also waged stubborn resistance against the tsarist officials who did not know the local people's language and customs. Fearing the anger of the local population, Tsarism tried to prevent protests by implementing a partially lenient policy in the region and appointing local officials to leadership positions in the districts.

World War I had a heavy impact on the socio-economic status of the Lankaran region as in other regions of the country. Russia, which was involved in the war, was greeted with such a great crisis. The study of the region's socio-economic situation and the empire's sinister political administration system is of special relevance. The relevance of the research work is also related to the study of important issues such as the relationship between the government and the public in a wartime environment. As a result of the unusually

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<sup>3</sup> Колониальная политика Российского царизма в Азербайджане в 20-60 гг. XIX в.: Феодальные отношения и колониальный режим, 1843-1868 гг. / составила и подготовила к печати Н.Г. Богданова. – Москва-Ленинград: Издательство Академии Наук СССР, – часть II, – 1937. – с. 273.

<sup>4</sup> Очерк сельского и лесного хозяйства Ленкоранского уезда, Бакинской губернии / Г.У.З. и З. Бакинско-Дагестанское Управление Земледелия и Государственных Имуществ. – Баку: 1914. – с. 28.

<sup>5</sup> Кавказский календарь на 1916 г. / Под ред. Действ. Статск. Советн. Шаврова. Отделение статистика. – Тифлиси: Типография Канцелярия Кавказского Наместника, – 1915. – с. 38-39.

deepening food crisis during this period, there was a significant shortage of food products in the region, and their prices had increased considerably. The collapse of agriculture, mobilizations, regular requisitions, inflation, and speculation further worsened the already difficult situation of the peasants in the disaster.

One of the main aspects determining the relevance of the dissertation is the investigation of various art fields that significantly influenced the development of agriculture in the Lankaran district in the early 20th century, including the construction of new roads, trade, communication, and the development of handicrafts. Factors arising from the natural and geographical conditions of the district positively influenced the development of agriculture, particularly rice and grain farming, which were the main sources of income for the population.

In general, although the history of the southeastern region of North Azerbaijan has been the focus of attention of researchers in various ways, many areas of agrarian economy, socio-political, educational, cultural and health history have not been the subject of a comprehensive special study. The choice of the problem as a research topic arose from the need to fill the gap in the Motherland historiography. The fact that research work also studies the issues of the political, economic, and cultural construction of the southeastern region of North Azerbaijan at the beginning of the 20th century based on a large number of sources and literature that have not been involved in the study so far increases the relevance of the problem.

One of the main issues that determined the relevance of the research work is the existence of problems in the fields of education, culture, and healthcare. In a letter sent by the Baku Governorate administration to the Caucasian viceroy on May 16, 1913, the author noted the extreme necessity<sup>6</sup> of having a secondary education institution in the southernmost city located on the border with Iran to strengthen the empire's influence. However, this issue remained a problem. However, by the early 20th century, schools and

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<sup>6</sup> Бакинский губернатор по губернскому по городским делам присутствию: Наместника его императорского величества на Кавказе (Баку: 1913, 16 мая) // Azərbaycan Respublikası Dövlət Tarix Arxivi, Fond № 1, siyahı № 1, iş № 1260, vərəq – 17-18.

gymnasiums such as Bakhjat, Ziya, Russian-Turkish, and Muslim girls' schools, established by prominent intellectuals of the region, had a certain impact on the development of education in the area.

One of the other factors determining the relevance of the dissertation is the study of the socio-political situation in the region during the 1917-1920 years. The revolution did not bring any significant changes to the lives of the region's population. In the region, various opposing political forces were at odds with each other. For nearly two years, the local Muslim population was subjected to massacres by Bolshevik-Armenian bandit groups and Malakans, as well as Russian nationalists.

Thanks to the courage and heroism shown by the Azerbaijani army and local partisan detachments in the region, the enemy forces surrendered. The author, who wrote about this great historical event, wrote: On Saturday, August 23, the savior army, which arrived in Lankaran under the command of Major General Salimov, was warmly welcomed by the population. On the occasion of the arrival of our army, the city was decorated with the national flags of Azerbaijan. The inscription on the arches reads: "In the face of our young army, a new Muslim month has appeared on the horizon of our Motherland, illuminating the joyful spirit of everyone. O Almighty God, increase the light of this month in the world and let it illuminate our path to peace, love for the Motherland, power, and glory. Long live our heroic soldiers<sup>7</sup> working for the welfare of the Motherland," and the inclusion of valuable facts written in a spirit of high patriotism in the research further increases the relevance of the dissertation work.

One of the factors determining the relevance of the research is the study of cultural construction issues during the period of the temporary government and the Azerbaijan People's Republic in the southeastern region. The Azerbaijan People's Republic, which existed for only 23 months, from its very first day, the measures implemented in the fields of state-building, economy, culture, and education yielded positive results.

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<sup>7</sup> Теймурбек. Ленкорань (от нашего специальн. корреспондента) // Азербайджан. – 1919, 3 сентября. – с. 6.

As for the level of study of the problem, although some historical issues of the southeastern region of Northern Azerbaijan have been researched, it has not yet been the subject of a comprehensive study. In many generalizing works, researchers have limited themselves to characterizing socio-economic relations in the region.

Considering the essence of the propositions put forward in the dissertation, the historiography of the research work can be divided into four periods: the early 19th-20th centuries (up to 1917), the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, the Soviet period, and the years of independence. The works written during this period differ from each other in terms of methodology and research methods. The works belonging to the first and second periods were based on various methodological principles and approached from different perspectives. The works of the third period, on the other hand, were based on the methodology of Marxism-Leninism. Here, the principles of problem study were taken into account, and issues were approached critically where appropriate, with objective analysis conducted. During the period studied in the years of independence, although the socio-economic, ethnographic, and political events that occurred in the Lankaran district in 1918-1920 were investigated to some extent, the history of the southeastern region of Northern Azerbaijan has not been studied comprehensively until now.

At the initial stage of the historiography of the research work, the authors laid the foundation for the collection and systematization of factual materials on the agrarian history of the empire. The special value of these works lies in the fact that they were witnesses or organizers of agricultural educational events. In this regard, historical works of the period are of particular importance in obtaining complete information about various areas of agriculture in the region.

In much historical literature works on the socio-economic situation of the South Caucasus provinces, the economic life and everyday life features of the Lankaran province during the reign of Tsarist Russia have been briefly highlighted. The works included in the first stage of historiography did not touch on political issues in general, but rather highlighted the economic potential and ethnic



composition of the region. The information about the region, at least partially provided in the generalized works of V. Gaevsky<sup>8</sup>, Von Graebner<sup>9</sup> on land relations in the South Caucasus, S.Gulishambarov<sup>10</sup> on factories and plants of the Baku province, X.A. Vermishev<sup>11</sup> on land issues of state peasants, N.N. Shavrov<sup>12</sup> on resettlement issues, irrigation, land relations and fishing, V.V. Smirnov<sup>13</sup> on fishing, K. Khatisov<sup>14</sup> on cottage industry, written at the beginning of the 19th-20th centuries, was included in the study.

In the works of the Russian military historian N.F. Dubrovin<sup>15</sup>, while researching the military history of Russia in the Caucasus, also provided information about the history and ethnography of the peoples of the region. In the second book of the first volume of his works, the daily life and customs, religions, educational issues, and

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<sup>8</sup> Геевский В. Краткий очерк земледелия за Кавказом // Тифлис: Кавказского Общества сельского хозяйства. – 1887, вып. 9-10. – с. 145-158

<sup>9</sup> Гребнер, А.В. Торговые дороги Закавказья / А.В. фон Гребнер. – Санкт-Петербург: тип. И. Гольдберга, – 1896. – 55 с.

<sup>10</sup> Обзор фабрик и заводов Бакинской губернии / Историко-статическое описание фабрично-заводской деятельности Бакинской губернии в связи с развитием в ней кустарных промыслов: С планом балаханской площади. – Сост.: Ст. Гулишамбаров. – Тифлис, – 1890. – 278 с

<sup>11</sup> Вермишев Х.А. Земледелие у государственных крестьян Закавказского края / Х.А.Вермишев. – Тифлис: – 1888, – 564 с

<sup>12</sup> Шавров, Н.Н. Остров Сара (строение, особенности, флора и фауна) // Записки Кавказского отдела Императорского Русского Географического общества, – книжка XXVI, выпуск 5, – Тифлис: Типография К.П.Козловского, - 1909. – 50 с.; Шавров, Н. Рыбное дело в Астаринском районе. Вестник Рыбопромышленности. Орган Императорского Российского Общества Рыбоводства и рыболовства. – 1912, № 8-10, – XXVII год, – с. 207-241.; Шавров, Н.Н. Персидские побережье Каспийского моря, его производительность и торговля / Н.Н.Шавров. – Тифлис: тип. К.П.Козловского, – 1913. – 93 с.

<sup>13</sup> Смирнов. В.В. Рыбное хозяйство в водах Азербайджана за 1880-1920 г.г. / В.В.Смирнов. – Баку: Издание Аз. Ц. С. У. – 1925. – 86 с.

<sup>14</sup> Хатисов, К. Кустарные промыслы закавказского края / Отчеты и исследования по кустарной промышленности в России. – Санкт-Петербург: 1894, – том II, – с. 259-370

<sup>15</sup> Дубровин Н.Ф. История войны и владычества русских на Кавказе / Н.Ф.Дубровин. - Очерк Кавказа и народов его населяющих.- Том I. - Книга II. Закавказье. – Санкт-Петербург, – 1871, – 423 с

administrative governance system of the peoples of the South Caucasus were described. The work sheds light on the socio-economic and socio-political situation of the region, as well as administrative issues after the Lankaran Khanate was invaded by Tsarist Russia.

While researching the history of the region, reference was also made to the article by P.F. Riss<sup>16</sup>, one of the experts sent by the empire to study the territories it had occupied. Although the article was not directly related to the problem, the brief notes on the region's socio-economic issues were included in the dissertation.

There is valuable information about the economic situation, social composition, and various sectors of agriculture and industry of the district in the articles of B.Leqobitov<sup>17</sup> and D.A.Kistinev<sup>18</sup>, as well as in the work of V.M.Sidorov<sup>19</sup>. These works, although written

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<sup>16</sup>Рисса, П.Ф. О Тальшинцах их образе жизни и языке // Записки Кавказского отдела императорского Русского Географического общества. Книжка III, изданная под редакцию Е.А.Вердеревского. - Тифлис: В типографии канцелярии наместник Кавказского, 1855. - с. 1-72

<sup>17</sup>Легкобытов, В. Тальшинское ханство // - СПб.: Обзорение Российских владений за Кавказом в статистическом, этнографическом, топографическом и финансовом отношениях, произведенное и изданное по высочайшему соизволению. - в 4 часть часть III. - 1836. - с. 175-254

<sup>18</sup> Кистинев, Д.А. Экономический быт государственных крестьян Ленкоранского уезда, Бакинской губернии // - Тифлис: Материалы для изучения экономического быта государственных крестьян Закавказского края, - 1887, - том VII, - с. 535-764; Кистинев, Д.А. Источники благосостояния крестьян Ленкоранского уезда // - Тифлис: Труды Кавказского общества сельского хозяйства, - 1889. № 1-2, - с. 55-82; Кистинев, Д.А. Источники благосостояния крестьян Ленкоранского уезда // Тифлис: Труды Кавказского общества сельского хозяйства, - 1889, № 3-4, - с. 146-161; Кистинев, Д.А. Источники благосостояния крестьян Ленкоранского уезда // - Тифлис: Труды Кавказского общества сельского хозяйства. - 1889, № 5-6, - с. 284-317; Кистинев, Д.А. Кустарная производительность и посторонние заработки крестьян в Ленкоранском уезде // - Тифлис: Труды Императорского Кавказского общества сельского хозяйства, - год тридцать шестой, сентябрь-октябрь, - 1891, № 9-10, - с. 395-409

<sup>19</sup> Сидоров, В.М. По России. Кавказ. Путевые заметки и впечатления. Практические сведения для туриста / В.М.Сидоров. - С.-Петербург: Типография М. Акинфиева и И.Леонтьева, - 1897. - Том 2. - 683

unilaterally within the framework of the empire's interests, hold special significance in the study of the region's socio-economic situation.

The research also used the works of A. Yunitsky<sup>20</sup> on the settlement of Russians in Northern Azerbaijan, the areas selected for settlers, and the construction of Orthodox religious buildings.

In the study of the region's historical and ethnographic aspects, articles by A.M. Zavadsky<sup>21</sup>, who traveled in the Lankaran district in 1902, were used, which discussed agriculture, horticulture, and gardening in accordance with the area's natural geographical conditions. Karpovich's articles on rice growing in the Lankaran district, and S.P. Zelinsky's articles on melon farms were also used. Here, extensive information is provided about the leading economic sectors of the district, rice growing and melon growing. Additionally, articles by Lev Karpovich<sup>22</sup> on rice cultivation in the Lankaran district and S.P. Zelinsky<sup>23</sup> on gardening farms were also utilized. Here, extensive information is provided about the leading agricultural sectors of the district, namely rice cultivation and gardening.

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<sup>20</sup> Юницкий, А.И. История православных церквей и приходов Бакинской губернии (1815-1905 гг.) / А.И.Юницкий. – Баку: Бакинское братство законоучителей, 1906. – 193 с.; Юницкий А. Гнезда сектантства на Кавказе // Санкт-Петербург: Опубликовано: Христианское чтение, – 1895. № 1-2, – с. 142-164

<sup>21</sup> Завадский, А.М. Поездка, а Талыш летом 1902 года // – Тифлис: Известия Кавказского Отела Императорского Русского Географического общества, т. XIX, 1907-1908. – 1909. – с. 27-39

<sup>22</sup> Карпович, Лев. Культура риса в Ленкоранском уезде // – Тифлис: Кавказское Сельское Хозяйство. – 1900, № 316. – с. 53-56.

<sup>23</sup> Зелинский, С.П. Культура дыни в Ленкоранском уезде // – Тифлис: Орган Императорского Кавказского Общества сельского хозяйства. Кавказское сельское хозяйство. – 1898. № 208, – с. 43; Зелинский, С. Культура дыни в Ленкоранском уезде. Орган Императорского Кавказского Общества сельского хозяйства // – Кавказское Сельское хозяйство. – 1898. – 8 января, № 209, – с. 32-34; Зелинский, С. Культура дыни в Ленкоранском уезде // – Тифлис: Орган Императорского Кавказского Общества сельского хозяйства: Кавказское Сельское хозяйство. – 1898. – 15 января, № 210, – с. 52-53; Зелинский, С. Культура дыни в Ленкоранском уезде // – Тифлис: Орган Императорского Кавказского Общества сельского хозяйства. Кавказское Сельское хозяйство – 1898. – 13 февраля, № 214, – с. 113-114

In the early 20th century, the statistics<sup>24</sup> related to the construction of the Mughan railway and the works on the rural and forestry economy<sup>25</sup> of the Lankaran region played a special role in studying the socio-economic, natural, and geographical conditions of the region, its settlements, and the agricultural and forestry sectors that were valuable sources of raw materials.

While researching the study, reference was also made to the summarized works of S.L. Avaliani on the peasant<sup>26</sup> issue in Transcaucasia and I.L. Segal on peasant land ownership<sup>27</sup> in Transcaucasia, dedicated to the economic history of the South Caucasus. Although the works do not provide information about the Lankaran district, they hold special significance in studying the socio-economic conditions of the period.

In the territory of the Empire, the work of Q.M. Tumanov<sup>28</sup> was used regarding the activities of city self-government and zemstvo administrations. The author provided brief information about Lankaran in the generalized work related to the Caucasus.

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<sup>24</sup> Район Муганской железной дороги в экономическом отношении / Составлено под ред. П.П. Червинского. – Санкт-Петербург, Типография Первой Сиб. Трудовой Артели, 1913, – 526 с.

<sup>25</sup> Очерк сельского и лесного хозяйства Ленкоранскаго уезда, Бакинской губернии / Г.У.З. и З. Бакинско-Дагестанское Управление Земледелия и Государственных Имуществ. – Баку: 1914. – 231 с

<sup>26</sup> Авалиани, С.Л. Крестьянский вопрос в Закавказье / Поселянская реформа и реформа сословно-поземельных отношений в мусульманских провинциях – в 4 томах том III – Одесса: Типография «Техник», – 1914. – 180 с.; Авалиани С.Л. Крестьянский вопрос в Закавказье / Упразднение временнообязанных и зависимых отношений крестьян и поселян в Закавказье. Хизанский вопрос. – Тифлис: издание. Тифлиского Государственного Университет, – в 4 томах том IV – 1920. – 229 с

<sup>27</sup> Сегаль, И.Л. Крестьянское землевладение в Закавказье / И.Л.Сегаль. – Тифлис: Типография К.П.Козловского. – 1912. – 154 с

<sup>28</sup> Туманов, Г.М. Заметки о городском самоуправлении на Кавказе / Г. М. Туманов. – Тифлис: Типография Я.И.Либермана, 1902. – 213 с.; Туманов, Г.М. К введению на Кавказе земского самоуправления / материалов сборни кн. Г.М.Туманов. – Тифлис: Электротечная типографского Тов-ва «Гермес», 1905. – 80 с

In the works of M.A.Rasulzade<sup>29</sup> and M.B.Mammadzade<sup>30</sup> on the historiography of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic period, the political events occurring in the region are illuminated. M.B. Mammadzada's article published in the "Kurtuluş"<sup>31</sup> journal in 1935, dedicated to the 15th anniversary of the uprising against the Bolsheviks in the Lankaran district in 1920-1921, is of great scientific value. In the article, the author commented on the stubborn struggle of the armed groups formed in the region under the leadership of Jamal Chavush for the independence of Azerbaijan.

The research work also included the 1920 address calendar<sup>32</sup> published during the period of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, which reflects various historical events.

Soviet historiography has a unique role in the study of current problems in the region. Although Soviet historians devoted more space to the study of socio-economic phenomena, they did not pay enough attention to the study of administrative management and ethno-demographic problems. Another distinctive feature of historical research of this period was the presentation of the national-liberation struggle taking place in the region as a revolutionary movement.

While researching the study, the works of the leader of the socialist revolution, V.I. Lenin<sup>33</sup>, were also consulted regarding the socio-political situation of the period. In these works, the main

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<sup>29</sup> Rəsulzadə, M.Ə. Azərbaycan Cümhuriyyəti / M.Ə.Rəsulzadə. – Bakı: Elm, – 1990. – 116 s.; Rəsulzadə, M.Ə. Əsərləri. / M.Ə.Rəsulzadə. – Bakı, Qanun nəşriyyatı, 2013. – 4 cildən, IV cild – 456 s.

<sup>30</sup> Məmmədzadə, M.B. Milli Azərbaycan hərəkəti / M.B.Məmmədzadə. – Bakı: Nicat, – 1992. – 246 s.

<sup>31</sup> Mirzə Bala. Cəmal Paşa (Lenkeran isyanının 15-nci yıl dönümü münasibətilə) // İstanbul: Kurtuluş, – 1935. № 10, – s. 275-278.

<sup>32</sup> Адрес-Календарь Азербайджанской Республики на 1920-й г. / Ответственный за выпуск: В.Бахманлы. – Баку: – 2011. Нагыл Еви, – 336 с

<sup>33</sup> Ленин, В.И. Полное собрание сочинений. Декабрь 1911 - июль 1912 / – Институт Марксизма-Ленинизма. При ЦК КПСС. – Москва: Издательство Политической Литературы, – Том 21. – 1968, – 684 с.; Ленин, В.И. Полное собрание сочинений. Март - июль 1921 / Институт Марксизма-Ленинизма. При ЦК КПСС. – Москва: Издательство Политической Литературы, – Том 43, – 1970, – 480 с

essence of the colonial and resettlement policies of the Russian Empire in the early 20th century is explained.

The work of V.A. Rymin<sup>34</sup> was also used in studying the problem. The work briefly covers the historical overview, geographical location, economic life, and cultural spheres of the region.

The research work also refers to the memoirs of Major General of the British troops L. Dunsterville regarding the socio-political situation in the region in 1917-1918<sup>35</sup>. The work comments on the political situation in the region, and the hostile attitude of the Russian-Malakan and Armenian groups towards the local Muslim population.

In accordance with the ideology of the Soviet era, the researcher-scientist N. Alizade<sup>36</sup> has a special role in studying the political history of the region from 1917 to 1920. N. Alizade, in accordance with the ideology of the era, based on the methodological principles of Marxism-Leninism, assessed the events one-sidedly. In the work, the author, who admits that the Bolsheviks had no political power in the region, silently passes over the massacres committed by the Bolshevik-Armenian bandit gang in the region, blames the national forces and local Bolsheviks as the main culprits of the negative events that occurred without any basis in fact.

In the generalized work of prof. H. Azimov<sup>37</sup> related to the studied period, the socio-political events that took place in the Lankaran district from 1917 to 1920, as in other regions of

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<sup>34</sup> Рюмин, В.А. Талышский край (Ленкоранский уезд): (Краткий географической этнографической очерк) / В.А.Рюмин. – Ленкорань: – 1923, – 62 с

<sup>35</sup> Генерал-майор Денстервиль. Британский Империализм в Баку и Персии 1917-1918 (воспоминания) / перевод с английского Б.Руденко. – Тифлис: Изд-во «Советский Кавказ», – 1925. – 281 с

<sup>36</sup> Əlizadə, N. Lənkəran qəzası zəhmətkeşlərinin sovet hakimiyyətinin qələbəsi və möhkəmləndirilməsi uğrunda mübarizəsi tarixindən / N.Əlizadə. – Bakı: Azərbaycan Dövlət Nəşriyyatı, – 1963. – 112 s.; Əlizadə, N. Azərbaycanda Sovet hakimiyyətinin qələbəsi uğrunda mübarizə tarixindən (Lənkəran qəzası zəhmətkeşlərinin Sovet hakimiyyətinin qələbəsi və möhkəmlənməsi uğrunda mübarizəsi) / N.Əlizadə. – Bakı: Azərnəşr, – 1974. – 152 s

<sup>37</sup> Əzimov, H. Azərbaycan qəzalarında sovetlər (1917-1918-ci illər) / H.Əzimov. – Bakı: Elm, – 1971. – 188 s

Azerbaijan, were highlighted. The author notes that the eserists had a significant advantage in the Lankaran district, stating that the Bolsheviks had no advantage whatsoever. In the work, the author's views on the weak promotion of Bolshevism in the region do not reflect the actual reality. The main reason was the local Muslim population's unwillingness to accept the presence of godless Bolsheviks in the region.

The problem studied in the works of A.A. Privolny<sup>38</sup>, A.A. Huseynov, and V.M. Sinichin<sup>39</sup> regarding the political events that took place in Mughan and Lankaran in 1918-1920 was interpreted one-sidedly in accordance with the Soviet concept.

During the Soviet period, in the 19th-early 20th century, the works of M.H.Valiyev (Baharly)<sup>40</sup>, A.S.Sumbatzade<sup>41</sup>, M. İsmaylov<sup>42</sup>, T.T.Valiyev<sup>43</sup>, İ.M.Hasanov<sup>44</sup>, V.D.Mochalov<sup>45</sup>, and A. Sh.

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<sup>38</sup> Привольный, А.А. Над Муганью зарево Октября / А.А.Привольный. – Баку: Азернешр. – 1967. – 199 с

<sup>39</sup> Гусейнов, А.А., Сеницын, В.М. Сражающаяся Мугань / А.А.Гусейнов, В.М.Сеницын. – Баку: Азернешр, - 1979. – 82 с

<sup>40</sup> Vəliyev (Baharlı), Məhəmməd Həsən. Azərbaycan (Fiziki-coğrafi, etnoqrafik və iqtisadi orçək) / M.H.Vəliyev (Baharlı). – Bakı: “Azərbaycan” nəşriyyatı, – 1992. – 192 s.

<sup>41</sup> Сумбатзаде, А.С. Сельское хозяйство Азербайджана в XIX в. / А.С.Сумбатзаде. - Баку: Изд-во АН Азерб. ССР, – 1958. – 364 с.; Сумбатзаде, А.С. Промышленность Азербайджана в XIX в. / А.С.Сумбатзаде. – Баку: Издательство Академии наук А.С.С.Р., – 1964. – 504 с.

<sup>42</sup> İsmayilov, M. XX əsrin əvvəllərində Azərbaycanın kənd təsərrüfatı / M.İsmayilov. – Bakı: – 1960. – 240 s

<sup>43</sup> Vəliyev, T.T. İmperializm dövründə Azərbaycan sənayesi və proletariyatı / T.T.Vəliyev. – Bakı: Elm, – 1987, – 256 s.; Vəliyev, T.T. 1905-1907-ci illərdə Azərbaycan fəhlələrinin inqilabi mübarizəsi // – Bakı: Birinci rus inqilabı ərəfəsi və dövrünün Azərbaycan tarixi məsələləri (Birinci rus inqilabının 80 illiyi münasibətilə). Məqalələr məcmüəsi. – 1985. – s. 8-40.; Vəliyev, T.T. XIX əsrin sonu - XX əsrin əvvəllərində Azərbaycanda dəmir yolu çəkilişi tarixindən // – Bakı: Azərbaycan SSR EA-nın xəbərləri. Tarix, fəlsəfə və hüquq seriyası, – 1984. № 2, – s. 46-52

<sup>44</sup> Гасанов, И.М. Частновладельческие крестьяне в Азербайджане в первой половине XIX века / И.М.Гасанов. – Баку: Издательство Академии Наук Азербайджанской ССР, – 236 с

Milman<sup>46</sup> on the administrative management system were used to study various areas of agriculture and industry in Azerbaijan, the development of capitalism in these areas, the penetration of bank capital into the country's industrial life, the concentration of production, etc. These research works reflected, at least in part, important facts about the socio-economic and administrative structure of the region.

In the dissertation, the works of I.A. Talibzadeh<sup>47</sup> and T.E. Nəbiyev<sup>48</sup> on land relations in Northern Azerbaijan, agrarian relations in peasant and state villages, water management, and peasant uprisings were also used. Although the socio-economic relations of the region are briefly discussed in these works, they hold particular significance in the study of the problem.

Some information about the socio-economic and political history of the city of Lankaran and the region has been provided in the works of N. Jafarly<sup>49</sup>, B.H. Huseynbalaoglu, and M.M. Talishli<sup>50</sup>. In N. Jafarly's works, some issues of the socio-economic and political history of Lankaran in the late 19th and early 20th centuries are discussed. In the work of B. Huseynbalaoglu and M. Talishli, a brief historical overview of the Lankaran region, its ethnography, economic sectors, and networks of education and culture is reflected.

After Azerbaijan restored its state independence, important steps were taken towards the objective study of the history of the

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<sup>45</sup> Мочалов, В.Д. Крестьянское хозяйство в Закавказье у концу XIX в. / В.Д.Мочалов. – Москва: Издательство АН СССР, – 1958. – 492 с.

<sup>46</sup> Мильман, А.Ш. Политический строй Азербайджана в XIX-начале XX веков (административный аппарат и суд, формы и методы колониального управления) / А.Ш.Мильман. – Баку: Азернешр, – 1966. – 320 с

<sup>47</sup> Talibzadə, İ.A. Azərbaycanada 1912-ci il aqrar islahatı / İ.A.Talibzadə. - Bakı: Azərbaycan SSR Elmlər Akademiyasının Nəşriyyatı, – 1965. – 112 s; Talibzadə, İ.A. XIX əsr və XX əsrin əvvəllərində Azərbaycanada suvarma və sudan istifadə / İ.A.Talibzadə. – Bakı: Elm, – 1980, – 152 s.

<sup>48</sup> Nəbiyev, T.Ə. Azərbaycanada aqrar münasibətləri (dərs vəsaiti) / T.Ə.Nəbiyev. - Bakı: – 1970. – 70 s

<sup>49</sup> Cəfərli, N. Lənkəran (tarixi очерк) /N. Cəfərli. – Bakı: Azərbaycan Dövlət Kitab Palatası, – 1995. – 92 s.

<sup>50</sup> Hüseynbalaoglu, B.H., Talışlı, M.M. Lənkəran / B.H.Hüseynbalaoglu, M.M.Talışlı, – Bakı: Maarif nəşriyyatı, – 1990. – 512 s.



homeland, particularly the 19th-20th centuries, based on a national concept, and significant serious research was conducted.

In the study of the history of the southeastern region of Northern Azerbaijan, historian F. Asadov<sup>51</sup> also plays a special role. In his work, information about the socio-political situation of the region has been highlighted.

In the research work, the issues related to the settlement of Russian peasants in the region were also addressed using F.E. Baghirov's works<sup>52</sup>. In the works, the settlement of Russians in the region and their impact on socio-economic processes were examined.

In the dissertations written about the history of the southeastern region of Northern Azerbaijan, the history of the Lankaran district has been studied to a certain extent. L.Q. Majidova<sup>53</sup> studied the socio-economic situation, population, and ethnic composition of the Lankaran district in the 19th-early 20th century, V.Sh. Aliyeva<sup>54</sup> examined the establishment of the Azerbaijan People's Republic government in the Lankaran region, and Sh.M. İbadov<sup>55</sup> investigated the traditional domestic culture of the city of Lankaran from an ethnographic perspective in his dissertation.

The dissertation also used the work of G.A. Aliyev<sup>56</sup> to study the transport history of the period. The work analyzed the construction of a road network in the southeastern part, as well as in other regions of Northern Azerbaijan, and existing projects in this direction.

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<sup>51</sup> Əsədov, F. Taliş diyarının keçmişinə bir nəzər / F.Əsədov. – Bakı: 1993, – 43 s

<sup>52</sup> Багиров, Ф.Э. Переселенческая политика царизма в Азербайджане (1830-1914 гг.) / Ф.Э. Багиров. – Москва: Маросейка, – 2009. – 704 с.

<sup>53</sup> Məcidova, L.Q. Lənkəran qəzasının sosial-iqtisadi vəziyyəti (XIX əsrin sonları - XX əsrin əvvəlləri): / tarix üzrə fəlsəfə doktoru dissertasiyası) / – Bakı: 2015. – 157 s.

<sup>54</sup> Əliyeva, V.Ş. Azərbaycan Xalq Cümhuriyyəti hakimiyyətinin Lənkəran bölgəsində bərqərar edilməsi: / tarix üzrə fəlsəfə doktoru dissertasiyası) / – Bakı: 2011. – 153 s.

<sup>55</sup> İbadov, Ş.M. Lənkəran şəhərinin ənənəvi məişəti / tarix üzrə fəlsəfə doktoru dissertasiyası) / – Bakı, 2018. – 166 s

<sup>56</sup> Əliyev, Q.Ə. XIX-XX əsrin başlanğıcında Şimali Azərbayanda nəqliyyatın inkişafı (Dərs vəsaiti) / Q.Ə.Əliyev. – Bakı: Bakı Universitetinin nəşriyyatı, – 1995. – 115 s

Some information provided in the generalized work of M.C. Gasimly<sup>57</sup> about the socio-political situation in the Lankaran region during World War I was used.

The works of J.Kh. Huseynov<sup>58</sup> provide information about the uprisings that occurred against the colonial policy of Tsarist Russia during the period under study and their causes. The author also briefly touched on the uprisings that occurred in the Lankaran district and commented on the causes of their occurrence.

In the research work, while studying the history of the district from 1917 to 1920, the works of A.C. İsgandarov<sup>59</sup>, V.Sh. Abışov<sup>60</sup>, and A.A. Gardashzade<sup>61</sup> were also consulted. In these works, the massacres committed by Bolshevik-Dashnak bandit groups in the Lankaran district during the studied period, the struggle for Azerbaijan's territorial integrity, governance issues, and socio-political matters are highlighted.

In writing the dissertation, the works of prof. M. Suleymanov<sup>62</sup>

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<sup>57</sup> Qasımlı M.C. Birinci dünya müharibəsi illərində böyük dövlətlərin Azərbaycan siyasəti (1914-1918-ci illər): (sənədlər, materiallar, xəritələr və şəkillər) / M.C.Qasımlı. – Bakı: “Adiloğlu” nəşriyyatı, – 3 hissədə, III hissə. – 2004. – 532 s.

<sup>58</sup> Гусейнов Д.Х. Национально-освободительное движение в Азербайджане в начале XX в. (1900-1907 гг.) / Д.Х.Гусейнов. – Баку: – 2001. – с. 256.; Гусейнов, Д.Х Движение качагов в Азербайджане в 1900-1910 гг. Вторая книга / Д.Х.Гусейнов. – Баку: ЭЛМ, – 2004. – с. 256

<sup>59</sup> İsgəndərov, A.C. 1918-ci il mart qırğınının tarixşünaslığı / A.C.İsgəndərov. – Bakı: Mütərcim, – 1997. – 184 s.; İsgəndərov, A.C. Azərbaycan həqiqətləri: 1917–1920 / A.C.İsgəndərov. – Bakı: Elm və təhsil, – 2012. – 228 s.; İsgəndərov, A. 1915-1920-ci illərdə Azərbaycanda türk və müsəlmanlara qarşı həyata keçirilən soyqırımlar // – Bakı: Azərbaycan Xalq Cümhuriyyəti və Qafqaz İslam Ordusu. – 2008. – s. 75-92.; İsgəndərov, A. Azərbaycan Xalq Cümhuriyyəti (1918-1920) // – Bakı: Azərbaycan Xalq Cümhuriyyəti və Qafqaz İslam Ordusu. – 2008. – s. 39-56

<sup>60</sup> Abışov, V.Ş. Azərbaycanlıların soyqırımı (1917-1918-ci illər) / V.Ş.Abışov. – Bakı: Nurlan, – 2007. – 163 s.

<sup>61</sup> Qardaşzadə, Ə.Ə. Azərbaycanın cənubunda Cümhuriyyət yolunda mübarizə (1918-1920-ci illər) / Ə.Ə.Qardaşzadə.– Bakı: Maarif, – 1998. – 76 s

<sup>62</sup> Süleymanov, M. Azərbaycan ordusu (1918-1920) / M. Süleymanov. – Bakı: Hərbi Nəşriyyat, 1998. – 488 s.; Süleymanov, M. Qafqaz İslam Ordusunun digər fəaliyyətləri və missiyasının sona çatması // – Bakı: Azərbaycan Xalq Cümhuriyyəti və Qafqaz İslam Ordusu. – 2008. – s. 357-392.; Süleymanov, M. Azərbaycan Xalq Cümhuriyyətinin hərbi tarixi / M.Süleymanov. – I cild. – Tehran:

was also used regarding the formation of an independent National Army to protect our people's national interests after the February Revolution of 1917, the establishment of the army during the period of the Azerbaijan People's Republic, and its struggle for the territorial integrity of the country.

In the works of K.N. İsmayılov<sup>63</sup> and N. Mustafa<sup>64</sup>, information is provided about the socio-political processes in the Lankaran and Mughan regions from 1917 to 1920, the massacres committed by Armenians, agrarian issues, and the national-cultural development during the Republic period.

Although the memoir of Captain V.A. Dobrin, a direct participant and witness of the events that took place in the southeastern region of Northern Azerbaijan from January 1918 to August 1919, is one-sided, it sheds light on the events that occurred in Mughan and Lankaran during the studied period<sup>65</sup>.

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Firuzan, 2014. – 760 s.; Süleymanov, M. Azərbaycan Xalq Cümhuriyyətinin hərbi tarixi / M.Süleymanov. – II cild. – Bakı: Maarif, 2014. – 728 s.; Süleymanov, M. Azərbaycan Xalq Cümhuriyyətinin ordu quruculuğu // – Bakı: Strateji Təhlil, – 2018. Say 1-2 (23-24), – s. 331-151.

<sup>63</sup> İsmayılov, K.N. Azərbaycan Xalq Cümhuriyyətinin ictimai-siyasi, mədəni həyatında gənclərin iştirakı // – Bakı: AMEA A.A. Bakıxanov adına Tarix İnstitutunun əsərləri, – 2008. №25, – s.78-88.; İsmayılov, K.N. 1917-1920-ci illərdə Lənkəran-Muğan bölgəsində ictimai-siyasi proseslər // – Bakı: Tarix və Gerçəklik, – 2013. – s.64-82.; İsmayılov, K.N. Azərbaycanda sovet hakimiyyətinin ilk illərində Qırmızı Ordunun kütləvi zorakılıq və özbaşınalılıqları // – Bakı: Hərbi bilik jurnalı, – 2016. №5(143), – s.11-26.; İsmayılov, K.N. 1918-ci ildə Lənkəran bölgəsində erməni silahlı birləşmələrinin cinayətləri Azərbaycan xalqına qarşı soyqırım siyasətinin tərkib hissəsi kimi // XX əsrdə türk-müsəlman xalqlarına qarşı soyqırımları” mövzusunda həsr olunmuş IV beynəlxalq konfransın materialları, – Bakı: AMEA A.A. Bakıxanov adına Tarix İnstitutunun elmi əsərləri, xüsusi buraxılış, – 2017. – 64, 65, 66-cı cildlər, – s. 83-94.; İsmayılov, K.N. Azərbaycan Xalq Cümhuriyyəti və milli-mədəni inkişaf // – Ankara: Bizim külliye dergisi, – 2018. №77, – s. 74-86.; Исмаилов, К.Н., Аграрные отношения и земельный вопрос в Азербайджанской Демократической Республике (1918— 1920 гг.) // -Москва: Вопросы истории, – 2018. №9, – с. 80- 91.

<sup>64</sup> Mustafa, N. Azərbaycan Xalq Cümhuriyyəti işığında (1918-1920) / N.Mustafa. – Bakı: ULU, – 2018. – 268 s

<sup>65</sup> Добрынин, В.А. Оборона Мугани / В.А.Добрынин. – Нальчик: Издательство М. и В. Котляровых, – 2015, – 368

The work of researcher A.P. Adıgözəlova<sup>66</sup> also included issues related to the socio-political situation in Northern Azerbaijan after the February Revolution of 1917. The work commented on the socio-political situation in the southeastern region, along with other territories of Northern Azerbaijan.

The dissertation used the works of professors K. Shukurov<sup>67</sup>, Kh.Y. Verdiyeva<sup>68</sup>, and researcher-scientist N.V. Eyvazova<sup>69</sup> on population migration issues, their dynamics and location, and ethno-demographic problems.

During the studied period, significant successes were also achieved in the development of education and healthcare in the region. In the study of the region's educational history, the summarized works of T.I. Akhundov<sup>70</sup>, H. Ahmadov<sup>71</sup>, N.

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<sup>66</sup> Adıgözəlov, A. Fevral inqilabından sonra Şimali Azərbaycanda idarəçilik sistemi / A.Adıgözəlov. – Bakı: – 2017. – s. 200

<sup>67</sup> Şükürov, K. Azərbaycan əhalisi haqqında ədəbiyyat. Biblioqrafik göstərici. – Bakı: Azərbaycan Dövlət Kitab palatası, 1997. – 368 s.; Şükürov, K. Türk xalqları XVI-XX yüzillikdə. Say dinamikası (çar Rusiyası və Sovet İttifaqı üzrə). – Bakı: 1997. – 54 s.; Şükürov, K. Azərbaycan əhalisi: öyrənilməsi tarixi və qaynaqları (qədim zamanlardan müasir dövrdək). – Bakı: Elm, 2004. – 974 s.; Шукюров, К. Миграция населения между Россией и Ираном в XIX-XX веков (Политико-правовые вопросы) // – Швеция: Кавказ & Глобализация. – 2009. том 3, Выпуск 2-3, – с. 210-219.

<sup>68</sup> Вердиева, Х.Ю. Переселенческая политика Российской империи в Северном Азербайджане (XIX - начале XX вв.) / Х.Ю.Вердиева. – Баку: EScorprint, – 2016. – с. 420

<sup>69</sup> Эйвазова, Н.В. Миграционные процессы в северном Азербайджане в XIX – начале XX вв.: / доктора философии по истории дис. Автореферат. / – Баку: 2016. – 32 с.; Эйвазова, Н.В. О внутренних и внешних аспектах миграций русского православного населения в Северный Азербайджан во второй половине XIX - начале XX века // Москва: Современная научная мысль. Научный журнал НИИ Истории, Экономики и Права. – 2016. № 2, – с. 27-32

<sup>70</sup> Axundov, T.İ. Axundzadə Mirzə İsmayıl Qasir 210 / T.İ.Axundzadə. – Bakı: Şərq-Qərb nəşriyyat evi, – 2015. – 504 s

<sup>71</sup> Əhmədov, H.M. Seçilmiş pedaqoji əsərləri / H.M.Əhmədov – Beş cildlik, I – Bakı: Elm, – 2000. – 450 s.; Əhmədov, H.M. XIX əsr Azərbaycan məktəbi / H.M.Əhmədov – Bakı, Maarif, – 2000. – 364 s.; Əhmədov, H.M. XIX əsr Azərbaycan məktəbi / H.M.Əhmədov. – Bakı: ABU, – 2006. – 580 s

Tahirzadə<sup>72</sup>, and M. Mərdanov<sup>73</sup> were used, while Z.S. Eminova's<sup>74</sup> generalized works were utilized in the study of the region's healthcare history. In these works, the history of education and healthcare in the region is briefly discussed, and information about the region's prominent educators is provided.

While researching the history of the period, certain facts related to the socio-economic and political situation of Lankaran have also been reflected in I.S. Akhundzadə's work.<sup>75</sup> This work, published in the genre of memoirs, has a unique place in the study of the history of the Lankaran district.

The outstanding scientist, prof. G. Javadov, has made great contributions to the historical and ethnographic study of the region. In his monograph "Talysh,"<sup>76</sup> the material and spiritual culture of the region has been extensively studied.

As can be seen from the works involved in the research, materials on the history of the southeastern region of Northern Azerbaijan, which is part of the historiography of the Motherland, are in the minority. Although the history of the region was touched upon to one degree or another in the individual works involved in the research, the problem was not the object of comprehensive research. Thus, by involving new sources and periodical literature on the problem in scientific circulation, "The history of the southeastern region of Northern Azerbaijan at the beginning of the 20th century" was studied.

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<sup>72</sup> Tahirzadə, N. Xalq üçün döyülmüş ürək // Bakı: Azərbaycan məktəbi, – 1977. №3, – 72-73.; Tahirzadə, N.A. Azərbaycan təhsil tarixi öçerkləri və ilk ali təhsillilərimiz / N.A.Tahirzadə. – Bakı: "Nurlan" Nəşriyyat-Poliqrafıya Mərkəzi, – 2015. – 480 s.

<sup>73</sup> Mərdanov, M. Azərbaycan təhsil tarixi / M.Mərdanov. – Bakı: Təhsil, – I cild. – 2011. – 296 s

<sup>74</sup> Eminova, Z.S. XIX-XX əsrin əvvəllərində Azərbaycanda səhiyyənin tarixi / Z.S.Eminova. – Bakı: Təbib, – 2015. – 147 s

<sup>75</sup> Axundzadə, İ. Azərbaycan incisi (Mil-Muğan, Şirvan və Qarabağ) / İ.Axundzadə. – Bakı: Elm, – 1992. – 256 s.; Axundzadə, İ.S. Qəlbim hər zaman Lənkərandır / İ.S.Axundzadə. – Bakı: AFPoliqrAF, – 2019. – 364 s.

<sup>76</sup> Cavadov, Q. Talışlar (tarixi-etnoqrafik tədqiqat) / Q Cavadov. – Bakı: Elm, – 2004. – 614 s

To study the issues arising from the studied problem, a large number of factual materials, including archival documents and periodical sources, were brought into scientific circulation. These materials can be conditionally divided into five groups: legislative acts; letters and imperial stationery materials; statistical sources; periodicals; and memorial sources. By including these identified materials into scientific circulation, many aspects of the topic were studied more fully.

The second group of sources includes the archival materials of state and zemstvo institutions. The historical value of the administrative materials used in the research work is quite significant. Among the archival documents, the following sources from the State Historical Archive of the Azerbaijan Republic (SHAAR) were utilized: the office of the Caucasian viceroy (fond 1), the Ministry of Agriculture in the Caucasus (fond 13), the office of the Water Inspector in the Caucasus (fond 21), the office of the Chief Administration of Civil Affairs in the Caucasus (fond 22), the tax office of the Baku governorate (fond 43), the office of the Baku governor (fond 45), the office of Urban Affairs in the Baku governorate (fond 50), the office of Resettlement Affairs in the Baku governorate (fond 51), the police office of the Lankaran district (fond 81), the office of Fishery Management in the waters of Eastern Transcaucasia (fond 106), the office of Fishery Management in the waters of the South Caspian belonging to the heirs of Lianozov (fond 107), the administration of the Baku-Dagestan folk schools (fond 309), the Baku governorate relief committee for war victims (fond 334), and other sources. Additionally, documents stored in the State Archive of the Republic of Azerbaijan (SARA), including the Ministry of Education of the Government of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic (fond No. 51), the Inspectorate of Public Schools of the City of Baku and its districts (fond No. 52), the Inspectorate of Public Schools of the Lankaran and Javad Districts (fond 53), the People's Commissariat of Food (fond 61), the Internal Affairs Ministry of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic (fond 894), and the Main Administration of the General Staff of the Military Ministry of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic (fond No. 2898), among others, have been involved in the research. Official

correspondence related to the activities of the state, zemstvo schools, and other educational institutions preserved in the archives generates special scientific interest.

During the investigation of the dissertation, materials stored in the Documentary Sources Fund of the National Museum of Azerbaijan History [inv. №526/15; inv. №329/7; inv. №448/7; inv. №230/54; inv. №329/6] related to the problem were also included in the research.

In addition, the research work utilized published collections of documents, memoirs, and materials from the periodical press.

Regarding legislative acts, the research work used various information on the history of the region from the Code of Laws of the Russian Empire<sup>77</sup> and the documents of the Caucasian Archaeological Commission<sup>78</sup>, which is a collection of valuable documents related to the history of the Caucasus.

While researching the dissertation, Seyid Ali Kazim Bey Oglu's work "Cavahirnamei-Lankaran,"<sup>79</sup> related to the region's history, was also included in the study.

Statistical materials on all aspects of the region's socio-economic, political, and cultural life have also been used from the "Caucasus Calendar,"<sup>80</sup> from review-type collections<sup>81</sup> published in

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<sup>77</sup> Полное собрание законов Российской империи (ПСЗ). Собрание (1825-1881) // О преобразовании управления Кавказского и Закавказского края. Законы 45259. – Том 42 (1867): – Часть 2: Законы (44895-45355), – 476 с. Полное собрание законов Российской империи (ПСЗ). Собрание (1881-1913): О преобразовании уездной полиции в губерниях Закавказья. Законы 5188 // – Том 8 (1888): Законы (4933 - 5685). 641 с.; Полное собрание законов Российской империи. Собрание третей. Том XXIX. – 1909. Отделение I: Часть 1: От № 31330-32882, №32266, И Дополнения // Санктпетербург, – 1912, – 1006 с.

<sup>78</sup> Акты Кавказской Археографической Комиссии: / Под редакцией А.П. Берже. – том X, документ 143, – Тифлис: Типография Главного Управления Наместника Кавказского – 1885. – 938 с

<sup>79</sup> Kazım bəy oğlu, Səyid Əli. Cavahirnamei-Lənkəran / Səyid Əli Kazım bəy oğlu. – Bakı: Örnək, – 2000. – 45 s

<sup>80</sup> Кавказский календарь на 1869 год / Под редакциею надворного светника Н.Зейдлица. – Тифлис: Канцелярия Кавказского Наместника, 1868, – 670 с.; Кавказский календарь, на 1874 год. отд., II. / Под редакциею надворного светника Н.Зейдлица. – Тифлис: Канцелярия Кавказского Наместника, 1873,

various years by the Baku Governorate, and from the report by A.M. Kuzminskiy<sup>82</sup>. In these collections, the shortcomings of the tsarist

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– 523 с.; Кавказский календарь на 1879 г., / Под ред. Действ. Статск. Советн. Шаврова. Под редакцию надворного светника Н.Зейдлица. – Изданный Главным Управлением Наместника Кавказского. – Тифлиси: – 1878, 521 с.; Кавказский календарь на 1911 год / Издан по распоряжению Наместника его императорского величества на Кавказе канцелярией наместника по программе Закавказского Статистического Комитета. LXVI год. – Тифлис: Типография Канцелярия Кавказского Наместника, – 1910, – 752 с.; Кавказский календарь на 1912 год / Под ред. Действ. Статск. Советн. А.Шаврова. LXVII год. – Тифлис: Типография Канцелярия Кавказского Наместника, – 1911, – 878 с.; Кавказский календарь на 1913 год / Под ред. А.А.Эльзенгера, Н.П.Стельмашука LXVIII год. – Тифлис: Типография Канцелярия Кавказского Наместника, – 1912, – 1160 с.; Кавказский календарь на 1914 год / Под ред. А.А.Эльзенгера, Н.П.Стельмашука. LXIX год. – Тифлис: Типография Канцелярия Кавказского Наместника, – 1913, 977 с.; Кавказский календарь на 1915 год / Под ред. Под ред. А.А.Эльзенгера, Н.П.Стельмашука LX год. – Тифлис: Типография Канцелярия Кавказского Наместника, – 1914, – 1222 с.; Кавказский календарь на 1916 г. / Под ред. Действ. Статск. Советн. Шаврова. Отделение статистика. – Тифлиси: Типография Канцелярия Кавказского Наместника, – 1915, – 1013 с.;

<sup>81</sup> Обзор Бакинской губернии за 1890 год: Приложение к всеподданнейшему отчету / – Баку: Типография губернского правления. – Баку: 1891. – 78 с.; Обзор Бакинской губернии за 1897 год: приложение к всеподданнейшему отчету / – Баку: Типография Губернского правления, – 1898. – 89 с.; Обзор Бакинской губернии за 1903 год. Приложение ко всеподданнейшему отчету / Баку: Типография губернского правления, – 1904. – 140 с.; Обзор Бакинской губернии за 1904 г. Приложение ко всеподданнейшему отчету / – Баку: Типография губернского правления, – 1905. – 328 с.; Обзор Бакинской губернии за 1909 год. Приложение к всеподданнейшему отчету Бакинского губернатора / – Баку: Типография губернского правления, – 1910. – 122 с.; Обзор Бакинской губернии за 1910 г. Приложение ко всеподданнейшему отчету / – Баку: Типография губернского правления, – 1911. – 140 с.; Обзор Бакинской губернии за 1911 год. Приложение к всеподданнейшему отчету Бакинского губернатора / – Баку: Типография губернского правления, - 1912. – 105 с.; Обзор Бакинской губернии за 1913 год. Приложение к всеподданнейшему отчету Бакинского губернатора / – Баку: Типография губернского правления, – 1915. – 122 с.; Обзор Бакинской губернии за 1915 г. Приложение ко всеподданнейшему отчету / – Баку: Типография губернского правления - 1916. – 112 с

<sup>82</sup> Кузминский, А.М. Всеподданнейший отчет о произведенной в 1905 году, по высочайшему повелению, сенатором Кузминским ревизии города Баку и



colonial system in the Caucasus, which was under the empire's control, were objectively highlighted. The authors primarily explained this deficiency by the arbitrariness of local officials, attempting to conceal the socio-political essence of the absolute monarchy-autocracy, which was the main culprit here. However, although these works approach events in a one-sided manner, they play a significant role in the study of the socio-political and economic situation of the region in the early 20th century.

In the dissertation, articles related to the socio-economic situation of the Lankaran district in the relevant issues of the "Caucasus Agriculture" <sup>83</sup> newspaper from the late 19th to early 20th century were also included in the research.

In the study of the topic, materials from Azerbaijani and Russian-language periodicals are of particular importance. During the writing of the research work, articles from newspapers such as "Kaspi", "Azerbaijan", "Baku", "Achiq soz" and others were widely

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Бакинской губернии / А.М.Кузминский. – СПб., – 190?, – 686 с.; Кузминский, А.М. Всеподданнейшая записка, содержащая главнейшие выводы отчета о произведенной в 1905 году, по высочайшему повелению, сенатором Кузминским ревизии города Баку и Бакинской губернии / А.М.Кузминский. – СПб.: – Сенат. тип.,1913. – 70 с

<sup>83</sup> Бежанов М. Культура риса в Ленкоранском уезде // – Тифлис: Кавказское сельское хозяйство. – 1898, 19 февраля. – с. 128.; Вет. врача Кудрявцева. Об организации ветеринарного надзора на границе Персии с Бакинской губернией. Орган Императорского Кавказского Общества сельского хозяйства // – Тифлис: Кавказское сельское хозяйство. – 1898, 23 апреля. – № 224. – с. 39-43.; Водный закон и земство на Кавказе // Кавказское хозяйство. – 1914, № 14. – с. 1-4.; Зелинский, С.П. Культура дыни в Ленкоранском уезде // – Тифлис: Орган Императорского Кавказского Общества сельского хозяйства. Кавказское сельское хозяйство. – 1898. 1 января, № 208, – с. 43.; Зелинский, С. Культура дыни в Ленкоранском уезде // – Тифлис: Орган Императорского Кавказского Общества сельского хозяйства – Кавказское Сельское хозяйство. – 1898. – 8 января, № 209, – с. 32-34.; Зелинский, С. Культура дыни в Ленкоранском уезде // – Тифлис: Орган Императорского Кавказского Общества сельского хозяйства: Кавказское Сельское хозяйство. – 1898. 15 января, № 210, – с. 52-53.; Зелинский, С. Культура дыни в Ленкоранском уезде // – Тифлис: Орган Императорского Кавказского Общества сельского хозяйства. Кавказское Сельское хозяйство – 1898. 13 февраля, № 214, – с. 113-114.

used about the socio-political and socio-economic situation in the region. Here, articles by Mahammad Amin Rasulzade and Teymur bey Bayramalibeyov are of particular importance.

M.A.Rasulzade's visit to Lankaran in March 1917 was covered in the "Achiq soz" newspaper in the articles titled "Four Days in the People"<sup>84</sup>, published in the issues dated March 24, 29, 31, and April 4, highlighting the socio-political situation in the region.

In the study of the history of the Lankaran district from 1917 to 1920, materials published by the National Archives of the Republic of Azerbaijan, including the stenographic reports of the Parliament of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic (1918-1920)<sup>85</sup>, the Army of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic (1918-1920)<sup>86</sup>, and the collection<sup>87</sup> of documents related to the educational policy of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, have also been used. In these works, valuable materials related to the socio-economic, socio-political, and cultural construction policies of the studied period have been collected.

In the dissertation work, the valuable sources used are "I paid tribute to the Azerbaijani land. Khatirat"<sup>88</sup> by Haji Mirza Salim Akhund Akhundzade, a member of the Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan, who witnessed the socio-political events that took place in 1917-1920 and was one of the leaders of the struggle for national

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<sup>84</sup> Rəsulzadə, M.Ə. Dörd gün xəlf içində // Açıq söz. – 1917, 24 mart. – s. 3.; Rəsulzadə, M.Ə. Dörd gün xəlf içində // Açıq söz. – 1917, 29 mart. – s. 3.; Rəsulzadə, M.Ə. Dörd gün xəlf içində // Açıq söz. – 1917, 31 mart. – s. 4.; Rəsulzadə, M.Ə. Dörd gün xəlf içində // Açıq söz. – 1917, 4 aprel. – s. 4.

<sup>85</sup> Azərbaycan Xalq Cümhuriyyəti (1918-1920): Parlament (Stenoqrafik hesabat) / Azərbaycan Respublikası Nazirlər Kabinetinin yanında Baş Arxiv İdarəsi. – I cild, – Bakı: Azərbaycan, – 1998. – 976 s.; Azərbaycan Xalq Cümhuriyyəti (1918-1920): Parlament (Stenoqrafik hesabat II cild) / Azərbaycan Respublikası Nazirlər Kabinetinin yanında Baş Arxiv İdarəsi Azərbaycanская Демократическая Республика (1918-1920). Армия (документы и материалы) / – Баку: Азербайджан, – 1998. – 440 с. – Баку: Azərbaycan, – 1998. – 992 s.

<sup>86</sup> Азербайджанская Демократическая Республика (1918-1920). Армия (документы и материалы) / – Баку: Азербайджан, – 1998. – 440 с

<sup>87</sup> Azərbaycan Xalq Cümhuriyyəti (1918-1920): Təhsil siyasəti (sənədlər toplusu) / Məsul redaktor A.Ə.Paşayev. – Bakı: Elm və təhsil, – 2018. – 468 s.

<sup>88</sup> Axundzadə, Hacı Mirzə Səlim Axund. Azərbaycan torpağına türbət demişəm / Hacı Mirzə Səlim Axund Axundzadə. Xatirat. – Bakı: – 2016. – 288 s

statehood and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, and the works of Soltan Mahammad bey Gulubeyli, chairman of the executive committee of the Lankaran region, "Troubled Years. Khatirat"<sup>89</sup>. These works provide an interpretation of the socio-political processes that took place on the way to national statehood at the beginning of the 20th century, the creation of the Azerbaijan People's Republic, and the political events that took place during this period.

In the research work, selected works published thanks to E. Javadova's efforts in studying the socio-economic, political, and educational history of the region, and the articles by the prominent researcher and local historian T. Bayramalibeyov<sup>90</sup>, stored in the Manuscripts Institute's fund, were also used.

Thus, the collected source materials on the history of the Lankaran district in the early 20th century allow us to analyze the existing scientific approaches and interpretations in evaluating reality and to determine its essence.

**Object and subject of research.** The *object* of the research is the political, economic, and cultural history of the southeastern region of Northern Azerbaijan in the early 20th century. The *subject* of the research includes the socio-political, ethno-demographic, economic, educational, cultural, and healthcare aspects of the southeast region during the mentioned period, the socio-political events that took place in the district from 1917 to 1920, the struggle for the integrity of the Azerbaijan People's Republic and the establishment of territorial integrity, and issues of cultural construction.

**The purpose and tasks of the study.** The main purpose of the research work is to investigate the ethno-demographic, political, economic, and cultural development of the southeastern region of Northern Azerbaijan at the beginning of the 20th century - during the reign of Tsarist Russia and the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic -

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<sup>89</sup> Qulubəyli Soltan Məhəmməd bəy. Tələtömlü illər "Xatirat" / S.M.b.Qulubəyli. – Bakı: – 2022. – 276 s.

<sup>90</sup> Байрамалибеков Т. Избранные произведения / Т.Байрамалибеков. – Составитель и автор предисловия Э.Джавадова. – Баку: Элм ве техсил, – 2012. – 356 с

based on existing sources and new archival materials. To achieve the goal, the following *tasks* have been identified:

- to determine the main stages of Tsarism's policy in the region during the studied period, to monitor the ethno-demographic situation, the process of implementing the socio-political and administrative management system, and to identify its main directions, to study the activities of urban self-government bodies and the nature of the electoral process conducted;
- to study the main stages and essence of the tsarist resettlement policy in the region by interpreting the socio-political situation of the region;
- to investigate the struggles and uprisings of peasants against the empire's colonial policy by highlighting the political and economic contradictions and difficulties hindering socio-economic development in the region;
- to determine the socio-political and economic situation in the region during World War I;
- in the context of the reforms carried out in the South Caucasus at the beginning of the 20th century, to consider its impact on the southeastern region, the changes that occurred in the socio-legal status of the peasants, and to analyze the socio-political changes that occurred in the region as a result of the reforms;
- to study the process of development of productive forces by comprehensively studying agrarian relations and separate sectors of agriculture in the region, showing socio-economic changes;
- to study the heavy land and tax policy of the empire, the gradual development of agrarian sectors such as agriculture, cattle breeding, and irrigation farms in the region;
- to examine the sectors of trade, transportation, communication, fishing, and handicraft industry that determine the unity of the region's economic development process;
- to investigate the current situation in the fields of education, culture, and healthcare in the region;
- to investigate the socio-political situation in the southeastern region of Azerbaijan after the February 1917 revolution, and the massacres committed by the Bolshevik-Armenian Dashnak and

Russian-Molokan bandit groups in the region;

- to study the struggle for the territorial integrity of the Azerbaijan People's Republic and its victory in the region, as well as the socio-economic situation and cultural construction issues during this period.

**Research Methods.** The methodological basis of the research is constituted by the principle of historicism. The problem of the region's socio-political, economic, and cultural development is studied using general scientific and complex methodological approaches such as historical, logical, comparative historical, and statistical methods based on scientific objectivity.

The dissertation is also based on the principles of scientific objectivity and systematic analysis of history. Based on the principle of objectivity, the political landscape of the era has been studied by examining the social-political, economic, educational, and cultural spheres of the region, utilizing a wide range of sources and literature. At the same time, based on the principles of source study and historiography, the problem was examined in chronological order, and facts and events were studied based on the principle of systematic analysis.

While conducting the research, a complex of historical-typological, historical-comparative, chronological, and statistical scientific methods was also used. The application of these methods and methodological principles contributes to the solution of the objectives and tasks set in the research.

At the beginning of the 20th century, a complex of historical-comparative, chronological, and statistical scientific methods was also used to compare the content of the administrative and political activities of the imperial authorities in the southeastern region of Northern Azerbaijan. The historical-typological method was the basis for determining the general features of the administrative policy of Tsarist Russia in the region.

To achieve the goals and objectives set in the research work, the historical-genetic method was also used, which allowed us to study the origins of socio-political, socio-economic, and cultural processes in the region during the indicated period, as well as the history of the 20th century as a continuation of historical tradition.

**Provisions submitted for defense.** The main provisions of the dissertation submitted for defense:

1. By examining the ethno-demographic situation and administrative-administrative system in the region during the studied period, the ethnic composition of its population was characterized, and despite the settlement of various foreign groups here, the Turkic and Talysh ethnic groups living together here since ancient times did not undergo dynamic changes. Economic stability led to a sharp increase in the population. An analysis of the elections held for self-government in the city of Lankaran shows that the Muslim population of the region, despite all the persecutions, had a certain influence on the imperial administration as a leading force.

2. Tsarism's acceleration of the settlement of Russian populations in the region without addressing the land issue of local Muslim peasants led to uprisings as the local population was driven from their ancestral lands. The population of the Alar village in the district, faced with the empire's violent resettlement policy, was forcibly expelled from their ancestral lands without any land allocation.

3. As a result of the empire's harsh land and tax policies in the region, the situation of the peasants, who constituted a large portion of the population, remained pitiful. The population working in agriculture not only paid a large amount of natural taxes to the treasury but also fulfilled their monetary and labor obligations. All these factors led to the struggle for land in the region, the beginning of the agrarian movement, the exacerbation of the socio-political situation, and the start of peasant uprisings against the oppression of the Tsarist regime.

4. The situation of the local people oppressed under the colonial tyranny of the Tsar worsened during the years of World War I. The ruling circles were plundering the local population by directing all their efforts towards the "victory of the war." The donations collected from the population for the benefit of the Red Cross and other charitable societies established in the aftermath of the disaster further worsened their already dire situation. A peasant uprising occurred in the region against the empire's heavy tax and land policies.

5. In the dissertation, the individual sectors of agriculture in the Lankaran district during the period of Tsarist Russia's rule and their development dynamics are identified. During the studied period, the development of commodity-money relations in the region's agricultural and industrial sectors had a significant impact on the construction of new roads and the development of trade.

6. The development of education and culture in the southeastern region of Northern Azerbaijan led to the establishment of new secular schools. In addition to the Russian-language schools established by the imperial forces to train local personnel, Muslim schools were also created. In the period under study, the healthcare system in the region was such that the population was still using folk medicine.

7. After the February Revolution of 1917 in Russia, the Muslim National Committee, led by S. Gulubeyov, carried out many organizational tasks in the region. To arm the Muslim cavalry division formed in Lankaran, it disarmed the 4th and 7th border regiments under the influence of the Bolsheviks, the Russian ship "Milyutin" arriving from Iran, and the detachment of the Astara Soviet, thereby gaining the upper hand.

8. After the March 1918 genocide in Baku, the Malakan and Bolshevik-Armenian gangs that gained dominance in the province carried out mass looting and massacres against local Muslims in the region. The region's territory became a battleground for the border detachments of the former Tsarist Russia, Malakan, and Bolshevik-Armenian Dashnak bandits.

9. In the struggle against the Bolsheviks, the Muslim population of the district united with the Azerbaijani National Army and local partisan groups, heroically liberating their homeland from enemy occupation. With the cleansing of the southeastern region from enemy forces, the territorial integrity of the Azerbaijan People's Republic was ensured.

10. During the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, new educational and cultural institutions were established, which laid the foundation for the future development of the region. Thus, the achievements and advanced experience gained advanced towards high development.

11. After the April 1920 coup, the occupation of the region by the Bolsheviks was met with great protest by the local population. The local population, who did not accept the Bolshevik occupation, united in partisan groups and fought heroically against the Bolshevik government for up to a year under the leadership of Sergeant Jamal.

**Scientific novelty.** The scientific novelty of the research is determined by the fact that based on the analysis and generalization of extensive sources and literature, the political, economic, educational, cultural, and healthcare sectors of the southeastern region of Northern Azerbaijan in the early 20th century have been comprehensively studied. In the research work, a significant number of new archival materials related to the problem have been introduced into scientific circulation. The scientific novelties of the research are as follows:

- The ethnic-demographic situation in the region at the beginning of the 20th century, the main direction of activity of the administrative-administrative and Lankaran city self-government system, the issues of the struggle of the local Muslim population in the elections were included in the research;
- the main essence of the settlement of the Russian population in the region, its impact on ethnic processes, protests against the resettlement policy, and the attitude of tsarism toward the local Muslim population were studied;
- based on existing archival materials and literature, the uprisings against tsarist slavery in the region, as well as the socio-political and economic situation in the region during the First World War, were analyzed and investigated;
- in the early 20th century, the socio-economic situation of the southeastern region of Northern Azerbaijan was studied, with a comprehensive examination of agriculture, gardening, beekeeping, vegetable growing, cotton cultivation, tobacco farming, irrigation and water usage issues, livestock farming, and other agricultural sectors;
- the various fields of fishing and handicrafts present in the region were analyzed separately based on period sources;
- the land relations, tax policy of the Tsarist regime, trade,



transportation, and communication sectors in the region were investigated;

- during the studied period, the fields of education, culture, and healthcare in the southeastern region of Northern Azerbaijan were comprehensively researched;
- after the February Revolution of 1917, the socio-political and socio-economic situation in the region, the activities of the Muslim national committee that seized power, and the formation of the Muslim cavalry division in Lankaran were analyzed.
- the plunders and massacres committed by Malakan, Bolshevik-Armenian Dashnak groups against local Muslims in the region from March 1917 to August 1919 have been investigated;
- the struggle of local Muslim armed groups alongside the Azerbaijani army for the independence and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and its establishment in the region has been studied;
- the agrarian situation and cultural construction issues in the region during the period of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic were analyzed.

**The theoretical and practical significance of the research.**

The scientific-theoretical and practical significance of the dissertation work lies in the fact that the scientific results of the research can be used to enrich the relevant sections of the history of the homeland, in preparing lecture courses and specialized classes on the history of Azerbaijan in the 20th century, as well as in writing generalized works and conducting scientific seminars.

**Testing and application.** The dissertation was discussed and recommended for defense in the Department of Scientific Research and Presentation of Azerbaijani History at the National Museum of Azerbaijani History. The main provisions of the research have been published in collections included in the list of licensed scientific journals of the Supreme Attestation Commission under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan and have been reflected in reports from several conferences held both within the republic and abroad.

**The name of the organization where the dissertation work was performed.** The dissertation was performed at the National Museum of History of Azerbaijan.

**The total volume of the dissertation in characters, indicating the separate volumes of the structural sections of the dissertation.** The total volume of the dissertation, excluding the list of used literature, consists of 528,393 characters.

Introduction: number of characters – 44,476, Chapter I: number of characters – 169,449, Chapter II: number of characters – 115,110, Chapter III: number of characters – 52,530, Chapter IV: number of characters – 130,003, conclusion: number of characters – 16,825.

## **II. MAIN CONTENT OF THE DISSERTATION**

In the introduction, the relevance of the topic has been justified, and the historiography and source studies have been examined. The object, subject, purpose, and tasks of the research are determined, the methods of the research, the main theses presented for defense, and the scientific novelty are justified, the theoretical and practical significance is demonstrated, and information about the approbation, application, and structure of the dissertation is provided.

The first chapter titled "**The Socio-Political Situation in the Region (1900-1916)**" consists of four paragraphs. In the first paragraph, the region's "**Ethno-demographic processes and administrative governance system**" during the studied period is examined. The Lankaran district, which covered the southeastern region of Northern Azerbaijan, the southwestern shores of the Caspian Sea, the Astara River to the south, the Talish Mountains to the west, and the southern part of the Mughan plain along the Bolgaruchay to the north, was established as an administrative-territorial unit within the Baku Governorate based on the law of April 10, 1840. The center of the district was the city of Lankaran. Sabidash, Lankaran, Arkivan, Zuvand, and Astara were divided into five police districts (sub-districts)<sup>91</sup>, which included several villages within the rural communities. The city of Lankaran, which was the center of the district, was governed by a city leader elected every four years through a voting process. The region was managed by the district chief, appointed by the governor, and the police officer.

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<sup>91</sup> Кавказский календарь на 1917 год. с. 13-19

The economic development of the region has had a significant impact on population growth. According to existing statistical sources, in 1897, there were 120,233 Azerbaijanis and 104,25 Russians living in the Lankaran district, totaling 131,361 people<sup>92</sup>. By 1915, this number had increased to 147,555 Muslims, 20,316 Russians, and other nationalities, reaching a total of 187,515<sup>93</sup> people. In the city of Lankaran, however, in 1915, 17,801<sup>94</sup> people lived.

One of the other reasons for the population increase in the region was the arrival of a large number of workers from the territory of the Gajar state. Due to difficulties in obtaining passports, most of the immigrants crossed the border illegally<sup>95</sup>. In almost every village of the district, there were permanent homes for the immigrants working in all the rice and grain fields.<sup>96</sup>

After 26 years from the June 16, 1870 city "Regulations" of Tsarist Russia, the elections for the Lankaran city self-governance, established on July 26, 1896, were held under conditions of great struggle.

The police officers who governed the districts of the district did not know the language, customs, and traditions of the local people, and their oppression of the people led to protests. The protests that occurred resulted in the murder of the police officer Sachenko-Saku by the fugitive Hajiaga Jabbar oglu in 1905<sup>97</sup>. Although the government-appointed local officials as police officers in the district in order to prevent the existing discontent, it was unable to regulate the current situation.

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<sup>92</sup> Кавказский календарь на 1912 год. – с. 250-251

<sup>93</sup> Кавказский календарь на 1916 год. – с. 38-39

<sup>94</sup> Кавказский календарь на 1917 год. – с. 180-181

<sup>95</sup> Шукюров, К. Миграция населения между Россией и Ираном в XIX-XX веков (политико-правовые вопросы) // Швеция: Кавказ & Глобализация. – 2009. том 3, Выпуск 2-3, – с. 217

<sup>96</sup> Azərbaycanın Rusiya ilə birləşdirilməsi və onun mütərəqqi iqtisadi və mədəni nəticələri (XIX-XX əsrin əvvəlləri) / Redaktor: Ə.N.Quliyev, V.D.Moçalov, tərcümə redaktoru M.İsmayılov. – Bakı: Azərbaycan SSR Elmlər Akademiyası nəşriyyatı, – 1956. – s. 140-141

<sup>97</sup> Əsədov, F. Talış diyarının keçmişinə bir nəzər. – s. 16

In the second paragraph titled "**The Settlement of Russians in the Region and Their Impact on Ethnic Processes**," the study examines the Russian Empire's mass relocation of Armenians, Russians, primarily Christian sectarians, to strengthen its position in the region and create a base for itself, focusing on the main essence and impact on ethnic processes. As a result of this violent influence on the region's ethnic composition, it was initially an exile area for sectarian Russians, but in later periods, it became an area of mass settlement for them.

In the South Caucasus, including the Lankaran district, 13 Russian villages were established from 1838 to 1905<sup>98</sup>. As noted in the work "Cavahirnamei-Lankaran" regarding the settlement of Russians in the region, the Russians who migrated to the region from various parts of the empire disrupted the livelihood of the land-poor local population, and their lives fell into a difficult situation<sup>99</sup>. The Russian peasants, who had a significant advantage in the region, owned vast territories without any restrictions, unlike the local population<sup>100</sup>.

In order to speed up the resettlement work in the region, in May 1904, the transfer of the resettlement station under the Ministry of State Property and Agriculture to the disposal of the district chief on special assignments led to the expulsion of the Alar people from their lands, who were an obstacle to the establishment of Russian settlements in Mughan.

As a result of the arbitrariness of the tsarist officials, hundreds of innocent peasants were subjected to hunger and misery. In his speech at the parliament on June 11, 1913, M.Y. Jafarov, a member of the State Duma, expressed his protest by stating that "the Russians who were transferred to the territory by the tsarism, who did not take into account the interests of the local population, occupied the best lands and settled in a large area irregularly", "the local people who

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<sup>98</sup> Кузминский, А.М. Всеподданнейший отчета о произведенной в 1905 году. - с. 507

<sup>99</sup> Kazım bəy oğlu, Səyid Əli. Cavahirnamei-Lənkəran. – s. 16

<sup>100</sup> Ил. Жабин. Хозяйственный быт села Привольного // Тифлис: Кавказское сельское хозяйство. – 1897. № 157, – с. 22

became victims of politics and opposed this arbitrariness were presented as the image of the enemy”<sup>101</sup>

Despite the subjective reactionary goals of the resettlement policy implemented by the Tsarist regime in the region, it also had some progressive aspects. They had a special role in familiarizing local peasants with primitive agricultural tools and in adopting new practices in the agricultural fields.

The third paragraph, titled "**Social Situation in the Region and Peasant Revolts,**" examines the poverty prevailing in the villages as a result of the colonial policy implemented by Tsarism in Northern Azerbaijan, the landless and landless situation of the peasants, and the peasant uprisings that occurred in the region due to heavy taxes.

Since the beginning of the 20th century, the peasant uprisings in the district have become a serious threat to tsarism. These uprisings were social in nature and manifested themselves in the form of a struggle against the autocracy. During the period under study, agrarian movements in the district began to take on a very massive character. If in the first year of the century, the number of fugitive groups was 4, then very soon their number reached for 12<sup>102</sup>. On July 24, 1906, an operation prepared under the leadership of district chief Chussin resulted in the defeat of the bandit groups.

During the period under study, in addition to the smuggling movement in the district, peasant uprisings also became widespread. The head of the Caucasian police department, who was frightened by the peasant uprising, in his instructions sent to the police bailiffs of the provinces and districts on January 20, 1906, demanded that the most decisive measures be taken against any actions of the peasants - seizing landowners' lands, forests, and woods, "robbery", resistance to the government and other rebellious actions and that they use weapons without hesitation.<sup>103</sup>

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<sup>101</sup> Переселенческий вопрос // Каспий. – 1913, 19 июня. – с. 4.

<sup>102</sup> Гусейнов, Д.Х Движение качагов в Азербайджане в 1900-1910 гг. – с. 182-183

<sup>103</sup> Рапорта Кавказского полицейских управления (Тифлис: 1906, 20 января) // Azərbaycan Respublikası Dövlət Tarix Arxivi, Fond № 46, siyahı № 20, iş № 1, vərəq – 4

Conducted research shows that in the district, the peasants' hatred towards the tsarist authority and local exploiters due to colonial oppression was so great that neither arrests and exiles nor vague promises of reform could deter them from this struggle.

In the fourth paragraph titled "**The Socio-Political Situation in the Region During World War I,**" the activities of the Red Cross and other charitable societies established to supply food and material resources to the imperial army in the Lankaran district, one of the remote provinces of Tsarist Russia, and the existing situation in the district were examined.

As a result of the unusually deep food crisis during the war, food shortages, and their prices rose significantly in the region. Grain, meat, sugar, and other food products rose sharply in the region. In 1916, the price of grain was 7-8 times higher than before the war, and the state land tax collected from peasants was increased by 11 percent<sup>104</sup>. As if this were not enough, the war severely depressed the region's economy, and livestock breeding, along with other sectors of agriculture, was also severely affected, and 70 percent of draft animals were mobilized.

Thus, the severe consequences of the war further aggravated the situation of the population of the district. In the district, famine, high prices, bribery of tsarist officials, various diseases that led to an increase in deaths, and exploitation of the peasants intensified. Fed up with this, the peasants massively refused to pay taxes and fulfill their obligations and offered armed resistance to tsarist officials and the police.

The imperial forces, in order to prevent potential armed uprisings in the Lankaran district, began forcibly collecting various types of weapons and ammunition from the population starting in 1915<sup>105</sup>. With this, the imperial forces, viewing the local population

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<sup>104</sup> Hüseynov, C.X. Birinci dünya müharibəsi dövründə Azərbaycan kəndində vergi və mükəlləfiyyət əsarətinin daha da güclənməsi // – Bakı: Azərbaycan SSR Elmlər Akademiyası Tarix İnstitutu. Azərbaycan Tarixi Məsələləri (Aspirant məqalələri külliyyatı). – 1966. – s. 120

<sup>105</sup> Ведомость огнестрельному оружию, отобранному у населения Бакинской губернии в течении 1 и 2 трети апреля месяца 1915 г. (Баку: 1915, 10 мая) //

as "unreliable," kept them under constant surveillance and armed their co-religionists in the name of protection.

The second chapter titled "**Economic Situation**" consists of 3 paragraphs. In the first paragraph titled "**The Development of Agriculture and Agrarian Relations in the Region,**" the existing agricultural sectors in the region have been examined. According to the natural and geographical conditions of the southeastern region of Northern Azerbaijan, the local population primarily engaged in agriculture, horticulture, beekeeping, sericulture, viticulture, cotton cultivation, tobacco cultivation, and other fields. In this regard, the factors arising from the natural and geographical conditions of the Lankaran district have had a significant impact on the development of various agricultural sectors.

Rice cultivation developed as a leading sector in the region. Based on periodic sources, we can determine that in the early 20th century, in the region considered the granary of the South Caucasus, the 17,000 tithes of land in the region yielded an average of 150 poods of produce per desyatin, reaching an annual production of 2,550,000 poods<sup>106</sup>. The population was engaged in both rice cultivation and grain farming. During the studied period, the district was considered the main grain repository of the province, ranking first in wheat production in the province with an output of 2,988,463 poods of winter wheat<sup>107</sup>.

In addition to grain farming, one of the main profitable sectors in the region was the extensive cultivation of melons, watermelons, and vegetables. In the mountainous part of the region, the potatoes grown in Zuvand were considered superior in quality and were sold at a higher price<sup>108</sup> than those grown in the flat areas. The cotton and

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Azərbaycan Respublikası Dövlət Tarix Arxivı, Fond № 1, siyahı, № 1, iş № 247, vərəq – 2-3

<sup>106</sup> Очерк сельского и лесного хозяйства Ленкоранского уезда, Бакинской губернии. – с. 80

<sup>107</sup> Обзор Бакинской губернии за 1911 год. – с. 6-7

<sup>108</sup> Кистинев Д.А. Источники благосостояния крестьян Ленкоранского уезда // Тифлис: Труды Кавказского общества сельского хозяйства, – с.159.

tobacco grown in district have become characteristic agricultural sectors for the population<sup>109</sup>.

The population of the district was engaged in gardening and beekeeping, along with other agricultural activities. In the district, "honey" with a special taste and aroma was produced from bees without any care.<sup>110</sup>

In most parts of the district, the population primarily engaged in rice cultivation, which led to a high demand for water. In the district, the main source of irrigation for the population consisted of water reservoirs – canals. The use and distribution of water were overseen by specially appointed individuals - the mihrab and their assistants - the abyar. The arbitrariness of the mihrabs in the region has caused serious protests from the peasants<sup>111</sup>. Although the Tsarist government adopted the December 3, 1890 law to regulate the irrigation system in order to prevent the existing protests, it could not solve this important problem.

The beautiful mountain meadows of the region and the fertile winter and summer pastures have greatly influenced the development of livestock farming. In the Baku governorate, the largest livestock market in terms of trade volume was located in the village of Hasulla in the district. Here, 240 horses, 27,000 head of cattle, and 12,000 head of small cattle were sold throughout the year.

In the second paragraph, the **“Development of fishing and cottage industries”** in the southeastern region of North Azerbaijan was examined as a problem. As we know, due to the rich rivers, lakes, and location of the region on the sea coast, fish products occupied a special place in the field of food production. Starting from the early 90s of the 19th century, fish production in the region began to increase further based on a new capitalist lease. The main reason for this was the abolition of the outdated lease (buy-out) system in the region's fish

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<sup>109</sup> Обзор Бакинской губернии за 1913 год. – с. 15

<sup>110</sup> Новоселов, М.О. Первая колония русских переселенцев в Ленкоранском уезде // – Тифлис: Кавказское сельское хозяйство, – 1895. № 89, – с. 1381

<sup>111</sup> Рапорт Ленкоранского уездного начальника от 9 августа 1912 года за № 5432, на имя Бакинского губернатора // Azərbaycan Respublikası Dövlət Tarix Arxivi, Fond № 185, siyahı, № 18, iş № 547, vərəq – 1-2



economy in 1880, which had slowed down its development. According to the new system, fishing areas were given to individual persons for use for 5 years based on a free auction<sup>112</sup>. According to sources, while 40-100 thousand fish were caught annually in the Caucasus, their number was more than a million on the shores of Lankaran, which is called the fish house. In addition, 1000 barrels of pressed and liquid caviar, 500 poods of sturgeon glue, and 200 poods of nagga fish products were produced here<sup>113</sup>.

The flow of local capital into the fishing industry in the region expanded significantly from 1906. In addition to foreign entrepreneurs, local capitalists also had a stake in the fishing industry of the region.<sup>114</sup>

The development of capitalist relations in the region's traditional crafts has accelerated their export. In terms of existing demand, handicraft industries were widely spread in the district. In the region, honey-beer and "Weiner" breweries operated.

At the beginning of the 20th century, the development of various traditional arts in the Lankaran province had a great impact on the economic life of the population. In this regard, the local population wove woolen carpets and carpet products, socks, gloves, felt, men's outerwear, and other things. M.H. Baharlı noted that Lankaran province, as one of the 5 carpet weaving schools in Azerbaijan, gained fame with pileless carpets and kilims.<sup>115</sup>

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<sup>112</sup> Обзор фабрик и заводов Бакинской губернии / Историко-статическое описание фабрично-заводской деятельности Бакинской губернии в связи с развитием в ней кустарных промыслов: С планом балаханской площади. с. 141-142

<sup>113</sup> Живописная Россия / Под ред. П.П. Семенова. - СПб. - М. Издание книгопродавца – типографа М. О. Вольфа, - Том IX.- 1883. - с. 215

<sup>114</sup> Список: лич, арендующих казенные ватажные усачткы 9 района а указанием их званий и постоянном местожительстве (1915, 9 декабря) // Azərbaycan Respublikası Dövlət Tarix Arxivi, Fond № 106, siyahı, № 1, iş № 1430, vərəq - 7-8.; В Ленкоранском полицейском управлений на отдачу в в арендное содержание Ленкоранского рыболовного участка (Ленкорань: 1907, 2 февраля) // Azərbaycan Respublikası Dövlət Tarix Arxivi, Fond № 106, siyahı, № 1, iş № 426, vərəq - 50-55.

<sup>115</sup> Vəliyev (Baharlı), Məhəmməd Həsən. Azərbaycan. - s. 119.

During this period, one of the ancient traditional crafts of the local population namely reed weaving and salt production, has significantly developed. Salt production was mainly widespread in the villages of "Separadi, Arkivan, Shaghlakuça, and Privolnı" of the district.<sup>116</sup> One of the industrial sectors that had taken on an industrial character in the region was the brick production enterprises.

In the third paragraph, "**Trade and trade routes**" have not been examined as an issue. The location of the region on the northern and southern transit routes has had a significant impact on its economic life. The main commercial center of the region, Lankaran, received agricultural products not only from the villages of the district but also from neighboring provinces (mainly livestock, fruits and vegetables, dairy products, honey, etc.) at its market<sup>117</sup>.

T. Bayramalibeyov wrote about the extremely poor condition of the roads in Lankaran, which negatively affected the development of trade: "Despite the richness of the region and the fertility of the soil, the lack of convenient roads has plunged the villages into terrible poverty. If a new road network is developed, the peasants will sell their produce and poverty will disappear."<sup>118</sup>

The author then wrote: "The city self-government organization had submitted the project of this road to the governor on March 16, 1901, requesting permission for its construction." However, this issue remained unresolved. On May 21, 1913, the commission of the Ministry of Roads, which was reviewing the construction of new railways, granted permission to construct the Alat-Astara railway line when it approved the society's charter on June 20, 1914. However, the outbreak of World War I prevented the implementation of this project.<sup>119</sup>

The third chapter, titled "**Education, Culture, and Healthcare,**" consists of two paragraphs. In the first subsection titled

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<sup>116</sup> Хатисов, К. Кустарные промыслы закавказского края. - с. 336

<sup>117</sup> Очерк сельского и лесного хозяйства Ленкоранского уезда. - с.101-102

<sup>118</sup> Ленкорань (от нашего корреспондента) // Каспий. - 1902, 2 ноября. - с.3

<sup>119</sup> Vəliyev, T.T. XIX əsrin sonu – XX əsrin əvvəllərində Azərbaycanada dəmir yolu çəkilişi tarixindən. - 1984. № 2, - s. 49-50

**"The Development of Education and Culture in the Region,"** the educational history of the southeastern region of Northern Azerbaijan has been examined. In the development of the school network in the region, the prominent educational figures of the region played a special role.

Secular schools that formed in the region in the mid-19th century developed significantly in a short period due to the efforts of local intellectuals. In the region, on September 15, 1907, a five-year Russian-Turkish school named "Behjat" and in 1909, a school named "Ziya" began their activities. However, due to artificial obstacles and lack of funds, these schools are closed. However, despite these persecutions, thanks to Teymur bey's efforts, a two-class Russian-Turkish primary school was established in Lankaran in 1911<sup>120</sup>. At the beginning of the 20th century, in addition to these educational institutions, two-class and four-class schools and gymnasiums were organized in the district. In the 1914-1915 academic year, 884 students were educated in the 68 schools in the district, taught by 68 teachers.<sup>121</sup> According to a document dated July 13, 1916, there were 100 students studying at the school<sup>122</sup>. The two-class school opened in 1904 for the education of girls in the city of Lankaran and was transformed into a four-class school in 1908 and a seven-class gymnasium in the 1915-1916 academic year. Thus, despite all the difficulties, the school network in the region developed thanks to the efforts of local teachers.

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<sup>120</sup> Его Превосходительству Господину директору народных училищ: Председател училищной при городской думе комиссии (Баку: 4 ноября 1910 // Azərbaycan Respublikası Tarix Dövlət Arxivi, Fond № 309, siyahı № 4, iş № 776, vərəq – 2

<sup>121</sup> Школьная сеть по Ленкоранскому уезду Бакинского губерния. Составлена в 1914 году: Инспектор народных училищ 1-го района Бакинско-Дагестанской дирекции М.Коптелов. // Azərbaycan Respublikası Dövlət Tarix Arxivi, Fond № 309, siyahı № 1, iş № 1074, vərəq – 1-24.

<sup>122</sup> Школьная сеть по Ленкоранскому уезду Бакинского губерния. Составлена в 1914 году: Инспектор народных училищ 1-го района Бакинско-Дагестанской дирекции М.Коптелов. // Azərbaycan Respublikası Dövlət Tarix Arxivi, Fond № 309, siyahı № 1, iş № 1074, vərəq – 1-24

As a result of the development of education in the region, scientific knowledge also advanced during the period under study. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, regarding the region's history and culture, chronicler historians such as Mirza Akhmad Mirza Khudaverdi oglu with his work "Akhbarnama," Seyid Ali Kazim bey oglu with "Javahirnamei-Lankaran," prominent enlightenment figures like Mirza Mammadali Safiyev, and articles published in the Tbilisi newspapers "Zakavkazski Vestnik" and "Kafkaz" by T. Bayramalibeyov provided valuable information.

In addition to the study and promotion of historical values in the region, it has also developed in the literary environment. In the second half of the 19th century, under the initiative of Mirza Ismail Gasiri, the "Fovcul-fusaha" ("Beautiful Speakers") literary assembly was formed in the city of Lankaran, uniting creative individuals from the entire region. In this assembly, every person with creative abilities and poetic talent participated in individual poetry and scientific discussions.

During the studied period, progressive-minded intellectuals in the region, such as T. Bayramalibeyov, M. Aliyev, and M. I. Talishinski, made significant contributions to the development of education, literature, and especially theater art. T. Bayramalibeyov's amateur theater group, organized in Lankaran in 1903, had a significant impact on the development of this field.

In the second paragraph titled "**Healthcare,**" the healthcare history of the region during the studied period has been examined. During the studied period, there was one city hospital, 3 doctors, 6 first-aid men, 2 midwives, 1 pharmacist, and 1 pharmacy operating in Lankaran. The weakness of the healthcare service in the region led to the spread of various infectious diseases and an increase in death rates. The local population's main reliance was on the medicinal springs they had used for centuries. The hot water springs available in the Lankaran district have become a healing source for diseases.

According to the law dated March 8, 1904, on the reconstruction of rural medical stations in the South Caucasus, the number of beds in the existing hospital in the district has increased

from 4 to 6<sup>123</sup>. According to the law, the number of hospitals in the Lankaran district has increased to two. Despite all the difficulties, efforts were being made within the available means to combat the various widespread diseases in the district.

Chapter IV, entitled **“The Southeastern Region in 1917-1920,”** consists of four paragraphs. The first paragraph examines **“The socio-political situation in the region after the February Revolution.”** On February 28, the news of the victory of the democratic revolution in Petersburg was greeted with immense joy in Lankaran. As soon as the news of the overthrow of the Tsar was heard, the peasants, who had been fed up with his extreme torture for 100 years, seized the landowners and state lands, which led to the resumption of the peasant movement in the region.

In order to regulate the situation in the district and prevent a recurrence of possible incidents, the Baku provincial executive committee elected S. Gulubayov as chairman of the district executive committee based on elections held in Lankaran in March 1917 with the participation of M.A. Rasulzade, editor of the newspaper "Achig Soz" and cadet Kuznetsov<sup>124</sup>.

However, the dangerous situation in the Sabidash region became even more complicated as a result of the uprising of the Russian Malakan peasants who were trapped in the district against the existing local administration. According to Soviet historiography, “Russian chauvinist nationalists, spreading hostility between the soldiers and the population, committed massacres in the district, beating, insulting, and sometimes even killing the hardworking peasants.<sup>125</sup>” As a logical consequence of this, on September 23, 1917, 14 Muslims were brutally dismembered by Russian soldiers in Prishib without trial<sup>126</sup>.

In order to prevent the lawlessness occurring in the region and to strengthen the national armed groups, the activists of the Muslim

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<sup>123</sup> Hüseynbalaoğlu, B.H., Talişlı, M.M. Lənkəran. - s. 162-163

<sup>124</sup> Rəsulzadə, M.Ə. Əsərləri. [IV cild]. - s. 93-94

<sup>125</sup> Əzimov, H. Azərbaycan qəzalarında sovetlər (1917-1918-ci illər). - s. 104

<sup>126</sup> По Бакинской губернии: Волнения в Пришибе // Каспий. - 1917, 1 (14) октября. – с. 3

Council disarmed the 4th and 7th border regiments, which were under the influence of the Bolsheviks, in January 1918. As a result of the disarmament of the "Milyutin" ship in Lankaran, 6 machine guns, 3 thousand rifles, 85 thousand cartridges, and 10 crates of bombs were seized.<sup>127</sup>

The local Muslim community in Lankaran took advantage of the decision to form a Muslim cavalry division here. In February 1918, the division located in Lankaran was provided with military equipment. The Muslim cavalry division, the only military force in the region, was defeated by Malakan rebels on the way to the village of Nikalayevka in late March 1918 under the leadership of Iskander bey Malikbeyov<sup>128</sup> in order to put an end to the arbitrariness of the Malakans. The weakening of the division, which was the only support of the local Muslim population, led to the strengthening of the Bolsheviks<sup>129</sup>.

In the disaster, the ship "Aleksandr Jander," carrying the Bolshevik-Armenian armed forces belonging to the Baku Soviet led by the Armenian Shaumyan, was used to bombard all the villages along the coastline with artillery fire starting from March 30, 1918 (April 17). As a result of the massacres by the Bolshevik-Armenian detachments that captured the city of Lankaran, about 40 villages were burned in the region, and thousands of innocent Muslims were killed<sup>130</sup>.

Thus, until August 1919, the Lankaran district was subjected to massacres by the Bolshevik-Armenian combined detachments and Molokans due to successive changes in power.

In the second paragraph, **"The massacres committed by the Bolshevik-Armenian Dashnak gangs against the Muslim population in the region"** are examined. In the southeastern region

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<sup>127</sup> Lənkəran hadisələri // Açıq söz. - 1918, 28 yanvar. – s. 2

<sup>128</sup> Süleymanov, M. Azərbaycan ordusu (1918-1920). – s. 46

<sup>129</sup> Qulubəyli Soltan Məhəmməd bəy. Tələtömlü illər "Xatirat". – s. s. 34-35

<sup>130</sup> Kərimov, B.B. Lənkəran qəzasında Azərbaycan Xalq Cümhuriyyətinin ərazi bütövlüyü uğrunda mübarizə. "XX əsrdə türk-müsəlman xalqlarına qarşı soyqırımları" mövzusunda həsr olunmuş V Beynəlxalq elmi konfransın materialları. Tarix İnstitutu. Elmi Əsərləri. 2018, №70, s. 282-288

of Northern Azerbaijan, in order to disarm the national forces concentrated there, the Armenian bandits, who formed the main force of the Bolshevik units, along with the Malakan groups present in the district, committed atrocities against the peaceful population of the district for a full year and three months, subjecting thousands of peaceful Muslim inhabitants to massacre.

The White Army officer V.A. Dobrinin, who chronicled the lawlessness in the region, wrote in his memoirs: "Hearing about the arrival of the Bolshevik-Armenian detachments, the Tatars (Azerbaijanis) fled to the forests and mountains to escape the massacres.<sup>131</sup>" The urban population that could not escape was killed by the Armenians." Thus, under the leadership of Shaumyan, the Bolshevik-Armenian forces established an Armenian government in the region on April 14 in the name of Soviet power, and as a result of the massacres committed against the peaceful Muslim population, more than a hundred villages were burned, and thousands of unarmed Muslims were killed.

In a desperate and difficult situation, the Muslims of Lankaran see their salvation in the unity, strength, and steadfastness of the Azerbaijani army, and they hope that with the help of this savior army, they will achieve freedom and be able to return to their homes<sup>132</sup>. Thus, the massacres committed by enemy forces in the region came to an end in the summer of 1919 due to the efforts of the Azerbaijani Army.

In the third paragraph, the period of **"the socio-political situation in the region during the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic"** has been studied based on period sources and literature. After the fall of the Baku Soviet in late July 1918, and the establishment of a government called the "Dictatorship of the Temporary Leadership of the Central Caspian and Soviet Executive Committee" in Baku on August 1, a detachment of 600 men commanded by Ilyashevich began to consolidate in Prishiv and intervened in the district's affairs.

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<sup>131</sup> Добрынин, В.А. Оборона Мугани. – с. 25, 27

<sup>132</sup> Т.Б. Ленкорань (от нашего корреспондента) // Азербайджан. – 1918, 15 (2) ноября. – с. 3.

The local Muslim population, fed up with the massacres and lootings that took place in the region, took up arms in mid-1919 in defense of the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan under the leadership of Huseyn Ramazanov, Ibrahim, Haji Osman, and Shahveran and began to fight against the invaders.<sup>133</sup> To help the Muslim forces that were stubbornly fighting to restore the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan in the region, the national government sent armed groups led by J. Malikyeganov to Astara at the end of June, together with Huseyn Ramazanov<sup>134</sup>. On July 6, the Bolsheviks were defeated and retreated in the battles near Kaladahna and Pusadahna<sup>135</sup>.

On August 4, 1919, under the command of Chief of Staff Major General Habib bey Salimov, military units were to advance along the route of Hajigabul, Salyan, Pokrovka, Prishib, and Lankaran to establish order and tranquility in the southeastern region. Describing the stubborn attack of the Azerbaijani army in the direction of Lankaran, the author wrote that "if the Mughan Russians do not abandon their intentions, it will not be possible to stop the attack."<sup>136</sup> Around the city of Lankaran, an armed group of nearly 6,000 people was waiting for an order from the Azerbaijani government<sup>137</sup>.

Azerbaijani army units and local Muslim militias entered Lankaran on August 12, began to cleanse the city of the White Guards, and started disarming them. By August 15, the city of Lankaran and its surrounding areas were fully brought under control, ending the dominance of the Bolshevik-Dashnak and Denikin forces<sup>138</sup>. Under the command of Major General H. Salimov, our liberating army was greeted with great fanfare in Lankaran on August 23<sup>139</sup>.

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<sup>133</sup> Mirzə Bala. Cəmal Paşa. - s. 275

<sup>134</sup> Süleymanov, M. Azərbaycan ordusu (1918-1920). – s. 345

<sup>135</sup> Астаринец. Азербайджанская Астара // Азербайджан. – 1919, 12 июля. – с. 4.

<sup>136</sup> Салман-бек. Ленкорань (от нашего спец. корреспондента) // – Азербайджан. – 1919, 13 августа. – с. 2

<sup>137</sup> В Ленкорани // – Азербайджан. – 1919, 8 августа. – с. 2

<sup>138</sup> Ленкорань (от нашего корреспондента) // Азербайджан. – 1919, 30 августа. – с. 4

<sup>139</sup> Теймурбек. Ленкорань (от нашего специальн. корреспондента) // Азербайджан. – 1919, 3 сентября. – с. 6.



The food inspection of the Azerbaijan People's Republic began in September 1919, providing food aid to the impoverished population in the region, and the burned and destroyed villages were restored.<sup>140</sup>

However, in the early 1920s, the activity of the Bolsheviks in the region began to increase significantly. The authorized representative of the Azerbaijani government in the region, B. Nakhchivansky, sent a telegram to the Ministry of Internal Affairs on March 6, 1920, stating that measures were being taken against the Bolshevik agitation in the region and that Mughan had armed the population in Russian villages to support the Bolshevik movement<sup>141</sup>. After the April 1920 coup, despite the resistance of the National forces, a military revolutionary committee consisting of Lankaran Bolsheviks was organized.

However, in the district, the national forces, who did not reconcile with the newly established Bolshevik government, began to put up serious resistance against them. The struggle that began against the Soviets in the Lankaran district in May 1920 and gradually intensified continued for a full year until May 1921.

In the fourth paragraph, the issues of **"Cultural Construction"** in the region during the period of the Azerbaijan People's Republic are highlighted. Until the February Revolution, almost all non-Russian peoples, whom the tsarist officials referred to as "foreign," had no opportunity for education.

However, after the February Revolution of 1917, serious measures were implemented in this field. In order to implement a new education reform in the region, a general assembly of the members of the "Lankaran General District Professional Teachers' Union" was held on April 7-8, 1917, where decisions were made regarding increasing the number of classrooms in schools based on

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<sup>140</sup> История Азербайджана по документам и публикациям / Под редакцией академика З. М. Буниятова. - Баку: Элм, - 1990. - с. 173-174; Адрес-Календарь Азербайджанской Республики на 1920-й г. - с. 257

<sup>141</sup> Əlizadə, N. Azərbaycanca Sovet hakimiyyətinin qələbəsi uğrunda mübarizə tarixindən. - s. 106

the number of students, providing additional salaries to teachers who teach in the native language by the state, implementing compulsory free education in the native and state languages starting from the age of 7, and so on. On September 30, 1917, Turkish and Russian language departments were opened under the "Umud" society, which began its activities in Lankaran<sup>142</sup>.

On September 30, 1917, Turkish and Russian language courses were opened under the "Umud" society, which began its activities in Lankaran<sup>143</sup>.

By the summer of 1918-1919, as a result of the massacres that took place in the region, 8 of the 54 existing schools had been closed, including 6 schools destroyed<sup>144</sup>.

After the establishment of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic in the region, the school network began to develop again. The Turkish Muslim women's schools operating in Lankaran under the leadership of M. Bayramalibeyova and Zeynab Muzaffarova played a special role in the upbringing of female schools<sup>145</sup> in the region. In addition to teaching at the Lankaran Muslim Girls' School, M. Bayramalibeyova created the first women's charitable society in the region.

In the "**Conclusion**" section of the dissertation, the main scientific and theoretical conclusions obtained during the dissertation have been systematized and generalized. The analysis of official documents shows that Tsarism, in order to strengthen its power in the

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<sup>142</sup> Нам пишут: Из Ленкорани. Общеуездный учительский съезд // Каспий. - 1917, 28 апреля (11 мая). – 3 с

<sup>143</sup> Общества «Умид»: Господину директор народных училищ Бакинской-Дагестанской области 1-го района (Ленкоран: 1917, 31 сентября) // Azərbaycan Respublikası Dövlət Tarix Arxivi, Fond № 309, siyahı № 1, iş № 1250, vərəq – 22

<sup>144</sup> Рапорт инспектору народных училищ Ленкоранского уездов (Ленкоран: 1919, 14 марта) // Azərbaycan Respublikası Dövlət Arxivi, Fond № 51, siyahı №1, iş № 16, vərəq – v. 5

<sup>145</sup> Ведомость на жалование учащим начальных училищ Ленкоранском уезда (1920, 17 января) // Azərbaycan Respublikası Dövlət Arxivi, Fond № 53, siyahı №1, iş № 29, vərəq – 1-2.

region, aimed to establish a strong administrative management system; create social support in the local government bodies represented by the local population; and change the ethnic-demographic situation in the region.

Ignoring the national composition of the region, Tsarism kept the local population under control by conducting the elections for the city self-government in a formal, deliberately contradictory, and fragmented manner, appointing the candidate it desired.

The Tsarist regime's discriminatory policy of settling Christian populations in the region to create a support base for itself led to the expulsion of local peasants from their lands, causing serious protests in the region.

The laws adopted to prevent the discontent in the region also failed to improve the situation. These discontents led to the outbreak of peasant uprisings.

During World War I, the tsarist regime, ignoring the dire situation in the region, plundered the people through charitable societies created in connection with the war. The current situation led to the outbreak of peasant uprisings in the region.

At the beginning of the 20th century, the country's leading position as the main grain storehouse indicated the development of agriculture. The development of rice cultivation, grain cultivation, melon cultivation, cattle breeding, and other agricultural activities in the region further increased the economic power of the district.

Cattle breeding in the region had a special position in the economic life of the population. As a result of the development of commercial cattle breeding, the region became one of the main sales points of the Baku province. The fact that cattle breeding was a leading sector in the district had a great impact on the production of wool, carpets, and carpet products.

Alongside other economic sectors, the region known as the "fish house" held a leading position in the production of fish products in the South Caucasus.

As a result of the measures implemented by the Tsarist regime in the region in the fields of transportation and communication, the establishment of new roads, albeit partially, and the organization of postal and communication services had a significant impact on the development of the domestic market.

As a result of the efforts of local intellectuals, the new schools, clubs, and library networks that emerged in the region had a significant impact on the development of education and achieved certain successes in the advancement of science, the literary environment, theater, and music.

After the February Revolution of 1917, the Muslim National Committee, which briefly seized power in the region, actively fought for the organization of the local Muslim population and the provision of material and technical support to the Muslim cavalry division located in the district.

Until the establishment of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic in the district, during nearly two years—until August 1919—the Muslim population of the Lankaran district was subjected to massacres by the Malakan, Bolshevik-Armenian gangs, and Russian nationalists.

In the region, the struggle for the country's territorial integrity, resulting in the establishment of Azerbaijani authority in the district through the efforts of the National Army and local Muslim detachments, saved the local population from massacres and plundering.

The Bolsheviks, who had begun a campaign of disobedience against the national government in the early 1920s, began to expand their propaganda among the Russian peasants and enlist them in an uprising against the government. On April 28, as in Baku, power in Lankaran passed into the hands of the Soviets.

After the April 1920 revolution, the struggle of the local Muslim population against Soviet rule in the region lasted a full year - until May 1921. Despite the serious resistance of the local population, the uprising was defeated.

As a result of the establishment of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, the school network was restored in the region, and as a result of the development of education and culture, new male and female schools, including a pedagogical museum, were established.

Summarizing all of the above, it should be noted that the political, economic, and cultural development of the region at the beginning of the 20th century allows us to determine the course and nature of existing social processes, and problems, and assess the effectiveness of measures taken to solve them.

**The main results of the dissertation work were published in the following works:**

1. XX əsrin əvvəllərində Lənkəranda müsəlman qız məktəbinin təşkili tarixindən // – Bakı: Bakı Universitetinin Xəbərləri, Humanitar elmlər seriyası, – 2011. №3, – s. 103-108.
2. Görkəmli maarifçi Teymur bəy Bayraməlibəyov // – Bakı: Milli Azərbaycan Tarixi Muzeyi – 2011. – 2011, – s. 45-54.
3. Görkəmli maarif xadimi Teymur bəy Bayraməlibəyov ocağının davamçıları // – Bakı: Üç əsrin qəzeti, – 2011. – s. 218-233.
4. Milli Azərbaycan Tarixi Muzeyinin fondunda Talışxanovlara dair materiallar // – Bakı: AMEA İntellektual İnkişaf Mərkəzi. Gənc Alimlərin Əsərləri, – 2012. № 5, – s. 209-216.
5. 1918-1920-ci illərdə Lənkəran qəzasında ermənilərin törətdikləri soyqırım // – Bakı: Bakı Universitetinin Xəbərləri, Humanitar elmlər seriyası, – 2012. №2, – s. 151-160.
6. XX əsrin əvvəllərində Lənkəran qəzasında sənayenin, ticarətin inkişafı və kənd təsərrüfatın yüksəlişi // Gənc Alimlərin Elmi Konfransının Materialları (“Gənc Alimlərin II Respublika İnnovativ İdeya Yarmarkası” çərçivəsində), – Bakı: 25-27 iyul, 2012. – s. 233-236.
7. Peterburq Universitetinin Şərq fakültəsini bitirən ilk azərbaycanlı tələbələr (MATM materialları əsasında) // – Bakı: Milli Azərbaycan Tarixi Muzeyi – 2012. – s.100-107.

8. Религиозная политика царской России на Южной Кавказе (Закавказье) в XIX-начале XX вв. // – Махачкала: Исламская цивилизация и современный мир. Международная научно-практическая конференция. г. Махачкала, 13-14 октября, 2011 г. Махачкала, Издательство ДГУ, – 2012. – с. 143-145.
9. Talışinskilər nəslinin iki generalı haqqında (Milli Azərbaycan Tarixi Muzeyinin materialları əsasında) // – Bakı: “Azərbaycan tarixinin öyrənilməsində muzeylərin rolu” II Respublika Elmi Konfransının materialları (Bakı – 18.06.2012). – s. 106-113
10. XIX əsrin ikinci yarısı - XX əsrin əvvəllərində Lənkəran qəzasında maarif işi // – Bakı: XIX əsr-XX əsrin birinci yarısı Azərbaycan maarifçiliyi və maarifçiləri: Məqalələr toplusu, – 2013. – s. 57-67.
11. XX əsrin əvvəllərində Lənkəran qəzasında kəndli çıxışları (1900-1913-cü illərdə) // – Bakı: Milli Azərbaycan Tarixi Muzeyi - 2013. – 2013. – s. 149-157.
12. XX əsrin əvvəllərində Lənkəran qəzasında aqrar münasibətlər // – Bakı: Bakı Universitetinin Xəbərləri, Humanitar elmlər seriyası, - 2013. № 4, – s. 71- 80.
13. XX əsrin əvvəllərində Lənkəran qəzasının əkinçilik təsərrüfatı (1900-1913-cü illərdə) // – Bakı: Bakı Universitetinin Xəbərləri, Humanitar elmlər seriyası, – 2014. № 3, – s. 88-95.
14. XX əsrin əvvəllərində Lənkəran qəzasında ticarətin inkişafına dair // – Bakı: Azərbaycan Milli Elmlər Akademiyasının Xəbərləri, İctimai elmlər seriyası, – 2015. № 1, – s. 78-86.
15. Lənkəran qəzasında ermənilərin törədikləri soyqırım // AMEA Tarix İnstitutu. Elmi Əsərləri. Xüsusi buraxılış. “Azərbaycan və Şərqi Anadoluda türk-müsəlman əhaliyə qarşı soyqırımları (1914-1920)” mövzusunda həsr olunmuş II Beynəlxalq elmi konfransın materialları. – 2015. № 52, 53, 54, 55, – s. 132-137.
16. XX əsrin əvvəllərində Lənkəran qəzasının kənd təsərrüfatı // Gəncə Dövlət Universiteti. “Qafqaz tarixinin aktual məsələləri” Beynəlxalq Konfransın materialları, – [II hissə] – Gəncə: 15-16 oktyabr 2015. – s. 20-23.

17. Lənkəran qəzasında Rus yaşayış məskənlərinin təşkili tarixindən // – Bakı: Azərbaycan Milli Elmlər Akademiyasının Xəbərləri, İctimai elmlər seriyası, – 2015. № 4, – s. 51-62.
18. Lənkəran qəzası Birinci Dünya Müharibəsi illərində // – Bakı: Bakı Universitetinin Xəbərləri, Humanitar elmlər seriyası, – 2015. № 2, – s. 66-75.
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