

REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

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ABSTRACT

of the dissertation of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

**THE STATE ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEM
IN AZERBAIJAN DURING THE
GREAT SELJUK EMPIRE**

Speciality: 5503.02 – “History of the Motherland”

The field of science: History

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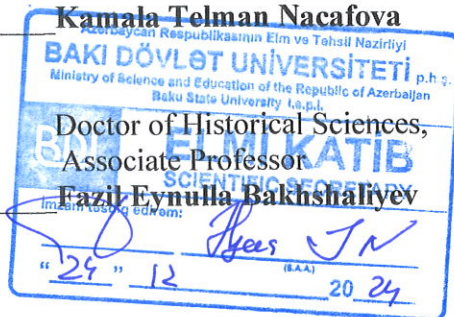

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I. GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DISSERTATION

Relevance and elaboration of the topic. The Seljuk Turks, under the leadership of the Seljuk Bey, founded a small principality in Jand and played an important role in the international relations between Samani, Qarakhanid, and Ghaznavid states in the power struggle in Transoxiana and Khorasan. Actively participating in the political events of the time, the Seljuks moved forward in state-building due to Tughrul Bey's military strength and Chaghri Bey's diplomatic skills. In 1040, Ghaznavid state was defeated at Dandanaqan, laying the foundation of Seljuk state through numerous campaigns led by Sultan Tughrul (1038-1063), Sultan Alp Arslan (1063-1072), and Sultan Malik Shah (1072-1092), the state evolved into a great empire. The Seljuks left deep marks on the economic, social, cultural, and political life of the states they governed.

Since ancient times, Azerbaijan, as a Turkic homeland, has been a key participant in the public-political, social and cultural policies carried out by the Seljuk Turks. Due to the influx of the Turkmen connected to Arslan Yabgu and later the Seljuk sultans, Azerbaijan became one of the centers of the Seljuk Turks. Turkic historian F. Sumer writes about the Seljuk Turks who settled in Azerbaijan: "From the time of the Seljuk conquest, many Oghuz Turks lived in Azerbaijan and Arran. It was the Oghuz from Azerbaijan who conquered Anatolia and sustained Turkish identity there for a long time."¹ The Oghuz who settled in Azerbaijan played an important role in the Seljuks' conquest of Anatolia and in preventing the Crusades.

The research of the dissertation titled "The state administrative system in Azerbaijan during the Great Seljuk Empire" holds an important place in our contemporary historiography, both the period it covers and the subject it addresses. The existing unity and equality among Turkic states in the rapidly evolving system of political, economic, social, and cultural relations in world politics enhances the significance of studying this topic. Recently, political, military, social-economic, and cultural reforms have been carried out among Turkic-speaking states. The Azerbaijanis have always played a crucial role in the socio-political, socio-economic, military, and cultural developments in the Turkic world.

The proper organization of state policy is one of the fundamental

¹ Sümer, F. Oğuzlar (Türkmenler). Tarihleri-Boy teşkilatı-Destanları. İstanbul: Türk dünyası araştırmaları vakfı, 2016, s. 150.

elements of a state. This system is not established overnight, it forms over the years and centuries because of various experiences. The Azerbaijani state organization has also developed based on the experiences of many countries and empires. Based on numerous factors that constitute the foundation of state policy, we can say that Azerbaijani state policy is an integral part of the Turkic state organization. At a time when the connections between Turkic states are strengthening, there is a great need for the promotion of Turkic policy. At the same time, it is important to study various issues of Turkic history. Investigating the different areas of state systems of Turkic-speaking countries is also among these significant topics.

The study of both the political history and administrative system of Azerbaijan during the Seljuk period is an important and significant issue. Although numerous scientific works have been published regarding Azerbaijan's political history during the Seljuk rule until recent times, the administrative system they implemented in Azerbaijan has not been examined as a separate research topic. At the same time, there have been no separate scientific works written on the administrative system of Azerbaijani states, including higher governing bodies, administrative management systems, urban governance, military organization, etc. Information about the issues mentioned has been provided in one chapter or subsection of various monographs, and scientific articles have also been published. For the first time in Azerbaijani historiography, our dissertation investigates the administrative system of Azerbaijani states in a comprehensive manner based on numerous sources and historiographical databases. Taking this into account, we can say that the topic "The State administrative system in Azerbaijan during the Great Seljuk Empire" holds original significance for Azerbaijani history.

As noted, the topic "The state administrative system in Azerbaijan during the Great Seljuk Empire" may not be a specific research topic in Azerbaijani historiography, but significant scientific works have been written about the history of the Azerbaijani states that existed during that period. In researching the topic, detailed reference has been made to the monographs and articles of Rauf Huseynzade, a researcher of the Seljuk era. In his monographs "The Caucasus and the Seljuks"² and "The

² Гусейн-заде, Р.А. Кавказ и Сельджуки, Баку: Кавказ, 2010, 272 с.

Caucasus during the Seljuks,"³ the author provides information about the socio-political situation in the Azerbaijani states during the Seljuk influx, vassal relations, military organization, the atabeg system, and frontiers. Particularly relevant to our topic the author's article "The Atabeg Institution"⁴ has played important role.

In the study of the topic, we would like to mention the work of Azerbaijani historian Muhammad Sharifli.⁵ The information provided in his work about the political history of the Rawwadids and Shaddadids during the Seljuk influx is significant for our study. We obtain information about the history of the Shirvanshahs state, one of the Azerbaijani states during the Seljuk period, from Sara Ashurbeyli's book "The Shirvanshahs state from the 6th to the 16th century."⁶ Azerbaijan's prominent historian Ziya Bunyadov's monograph "The Azerbaijani Atabegs State (1136-1225)"⁷ is rich in valuable information related to our topic. The researcher has created a valuable work by analyzing the Azerbaijani Atabegs state through contemporary sources and historiographical works. The author provides extensive information about the formation, flourishing, and decline of the Atabegs state, its administrative system, cities, taxation, land ownership forms, and cultural life.

Although many scientific works on the history of the Seljuk period have been published in the last 50 years, numerous issues related to Seljuk history remain unresolved. This is due to the fact that, despite the increase in the number of research works, the number of sources related to Seljuk history that have reached our time remains unchanged. The fact that many sources from the Seljuk period have not survived to our time has also complicated the resolution of various issues. Another problem is that the

³ Гусейн-заде, Р.А. Сельджукская эпоха истории Кавказа, Москва: Kremlin Multimedia, 2002, 183 с.

⁴ Гусейнов, Р.А. Институт Атабеков // Палестинский сборник, выпуск 15 (78). Москва, Ленинград: Наука, 1966, с. 182-196.

⁵ Шарифли, М.Ф. Феодалные государства Азербайджана второй половины IX-XI веков, Баку: Кавказ, 2012, 405 с.

⁶ Aşurbəyli, Sara. Şirvanşahlar dövləti (VI-XVI əsrlər), Bakı: Avrasiya press, 2006, 416 s.

⁷ Bünyadov, Z. Azərbaycan Atabəyləri dövləti (1136-1225) / Z.Bünyadov. Bakı: Şərq-Qərb, 2007, 312 s.

information found in the sources regarding Azerbaijani history primarily pertains to the influx of Seljuk Turks and sultans into Arran and Azerbaijan, as well as Anatolia. There is also a lack of information about the administrative systems of Azerbaijani states in the sources. Considering this, we can consider that studying the administrative systems of Azerbaijani states is a challenging and responsible task.

In the study of the topic, it is necessary to mention the monographs of Azerbaijani historian Ekber Necef. The author's research plays an important role in shedding light on many issues related to Seljuk history. E.Necəf is the author of several monographs that provide information about both the political and socio-economic history of Azerbaijan during the Seljuk Empire. In his monograph "The History of the Seljuk States and Atabegs," the history of the Seljuk state and the Seljuk Atabegs is examined, starting from the emergence of the Oghuz Turks on the historical stage.⁸

E.Necəf's work "The Azerbaijani Seljuks: The Yaqutids (1043-1103)" is the first research work written about the Yaqutids in our historiography.⁹ In this work, the author investigates the rule of three representatives of the Yaquti family and the political events occurring during that time based on primary sources. In the author's monograph "The Aran Atabegs," information is provided about the Aran Seljuk principality (1093-1119) and the Aran Atabegs (1119-1153).¹⁰ Along political historical events, socio-economic situation, state organization, and military management system also has been analyzed.

The dissertation utilizes a recent research work by Elmira Mirzoyeva.¹¹ In the author's monograph, the administrative structure of Azerbaijani cities in the 11th-13th centuries is examined. E. Mirzoyeva provides information about the religious, civil, and military duties involved in the governance of Azerbaijani cities, as well as their significance and role, based on Arab and Persian sources, as well as

⁸ Nəcəf, Ə.N. Səlcuqlu dövlətləri və atabəyləri tarixi. (Oğuzların ortaya çıxmasından -XIV əsrə qədər). Bakı: Qanun, 2010, 756 s.

⁹ Nəcəf, Ə.N. Azərbaycan Səlcuqları Yaqutilər (1043-1103). Bakı: Çapar, 2020, 282 s.

¹⁰ Nəcəf, Ə.N. Aran Atabəyləri. Bakı: Başla Kitab, 2017, 430 s.

¹¹ Мирзоева, Э. Городское управление Азербайджана (XI-XIII века). Баку, 2002, 155 с.

domestic and foreign historiography.

In Turkish historiography issues such as the state organization of the Seljuks, the central and provincial administration systems, government organization, palace organization, military organization, religious policies and etc. have been studied. The state organization of the Seljuks was first examined by İ.H. Uzuncharshili in Turkish historiography.¹² In Uzuncharshili's work, analyses related to state administration, including the divan organization, palace organization, and military structure during the periods of the Great Seljuks, Anatolian Seljuks, Anatolian beyliks, Ilkhanids, and Mamluks, are presented.

We would like to mention the research of Mehmet Altay Koymen in the investigation of this topic. In addition to the political history of the Seljuk period, the author provides information about the Seljuk palace organization, central organization, provincial organization, military structure, and religious policies in the third volume of his book "The History of the Great Seljuks."¹³ M.A. Koymen has also offered insights into the system of vassal states, the essence of this system during the Seljuk period, and the categories of vassal states.¹⁴

In the research of the dissertation, the works of Turkish historian Prof. Erdogan Merchil are important. Merchil has investigated many issues related to the state organization of the Seljuks. The author's research on the responsibilities associated with the palace and palace organization during the Seljuk period¹⁵, the divan organization and the officials serving in it,¹⁶ the titles and epithets of the ruler, the khutbah, the çetir, and other royal attributes are directly related to the topic, and thus his work has been referenced in detail.¹⁷

¹² Uzuncharshılı, İ. H. Osmanlı devleti teşkilâtına medhal. Ankara: Türk Tarih Kurumu, 1988, 520 s.

¹³ Köymen, M.A. Büyük Selçuklu imparatorluğu tarihi. Alp Arslan və zamanı. c. 3., Ankara: Türk Tarih Kurumu, 2016, 532 s.

¹⁴ Köymen, M.A. Selçuklu devri Türk tarihi. Ankara: Türk Tarih Kurumu, 2019, 322 s.

¹⁵ Merçil, E. Selçuklularda saraylar ve saray teşkilatı. İstanbul: Bilge Kültür Sanat, 2011, 344 s.

¹⁶ Merçil, E. Selçuklular zamanında dîvân teşkilâtı (Merkez ve Eyalet divanları). İstanbul: Bilge Kültür Sanat, 2015, 232 s.

¹⁷ Merçil, E. Selçuklularda hükümdarlıq alametleri. Ankara: Türk Tarih Kurumu, 2007, 284 s.

In dissertation, we have also utilized facts related to Azerbaijan from the works of Zeki Validi Togan¹⁸ and M.H. Yınancı¹⁹ during the Seljuk rule. These research works provide information about the socio-political situation in Azerbaijan during the Seljuk period and the Seljuk policies towards Azerbaijani states. Faruk Sumer's work contains valuable information about the history of the Oghuz, as well as the political history of the Seljuks.²⁰ Faruk Sumer has also studied the activities of Seljuk Turks in Azerbaijan. İbrahim Kafesoğlu, who plays an important role in Turkish historiography of the Seljuk period, is the author of several monographs related to the topic.²¹ In Turkish historiography, the monographs of Osman Turan have clarified many obscure issues related to Seljuk history.²²

In the dissertation, the work of S.Q. Ağajánov has also been utilized.²³ S.Q. Ağajánov is a well-known historian in the field of Oghuz and Seljuk history. In the investigation of the topic, the research works of Russian historians V. Bartold²⁴ and V. Gordlevsky²⁵ have also been consulted. Both historians have conducted scientific studies on the political history of the Seljuk state, along with the social structure, state administration system, and economic policies of the period.

In the investigation of the dissertation, we would like to mention

¹⁸ Togan, Z.V. Oğuz destanı. İstanbul: Enderun Yayınları, 1982, 164 s.

¹⁹ Yınanç, M.H. Türkiye tarihi. Selçuklular devri. İstanbul: Burhaneddin Matbaası, 1944, 191 s.

²⁰ Sümer, F. Oğuzlar (Türkmenler). Tarihleri-Boy teşkilatı-Destanları. İstanbul: Türk dünyası araştırmaları vakfı, 2016, 506 s.

²¹ Kafesoğlu, İ. Selçuklular ve Selçuklu tarihi üzerine araştırmalar. İstanbul: Ötüken neşriyat, 2019, 376 s.; Kafesoğlu, İ. Sultan Melikşah devrinde Büyük Selçuklu imparatorluğu. İstanbul: Ötüken, 2014, 238 s.; Kafesoğlu, İ. Türk Milli Kültürü, İstanbul: Ötüken Neşriyyat, 1998, 466 s.

²² Turan, O. Selçuklular tarihi ve Türk-İslam medeniyeti. İstanbul: Ötüken neşriyat, 2020, 542 s.; Turan, O. Türk Cihan hakimiyeti mefkuresi tarihi. Türk dünya nizamının milli, İslami ve insani esasları. İstanbul: Ötükün neşriyat, 2003, 560 s.

²³ Ağacanov, S.G. Oğuzlar / Rus. çev., E.N.Necef, A. Annaberdiyev, İstanbul: Selenge yayınları, 2019, 454 s.; Агаджанов, С.Г. Очерки истории Огузов и туркмен средней Азии IX-XIII. Ашхабад, 1969, 303 с.

²⁴ Бартолд, В.В. Сочинения. Туркестан в эпоху монгольского нашествия. Москва: Восточной литературы, т. 1. 1963, 759 с.

²⁵ Гордлевский, В. Государство Сельджукидов Малой Азии. Москва: Издательство Академия Наук СССР, 1941, 199 с.

the research of European historians Claude Cahen,²⁶ Karla Klausner,²⁷ and A.K.S. Lambton.²⁸ These authors have conducted studies on the political, economic, cultural history and state building of the Seljuks. The research works of V. Minorski also hold significant importance in the study of this topic.

One of the sources used in the dissertation is the work titled “Fotur zamân al-sodur və sodur zamân al-fotur” (“The Nature of the Time of Ministers and the Ministers of the Time of Nature”), which provides extensive information about the period. The author of this source, Sharaf al-Din Abu Nasr Anushiravan ibn Khalid, lived during the reign of Sultan Malik Shah and served as the secretary of Sultan Borkyarig (1094-1105) and as the vizier of Sultan Muhammad ibn Malik Shah (1105-1118). Written in Persian, this work covers events from Malik Shah's ascension to the throne (1072) until the death of the Seljuk Sultan Tughrul ibn Muhammad (1094). Since the source contains information about the Seljuk divan organization, viziers, mustoufis, tughris, mushrifs, ariz al-jaysh, and the overall state structure, it has played an important role in the research of the dissertation.

In the research of the topic, several "Seljukname" works, considered primary sources for the period, have been utilized. Among them, Zahir al-Din Nishapuri's “Seljukname” reflects events from the early activities of the Seljuks up to the beginning of the reign of the Seljuk Sultan III Tughrul in Iraq. Written between 1177 and 1186, the “Seljukname” provides extensive information about the political, social, cultural, and historical context of the period.²⁹ The details provided about the Seljuk and İraqi Seljuk states, their sultans, viziers, and dignitaries are particularly significant for the investigation of the topic.

Another significant source from the Seljuk period is the work titled “Akhbar al-Dawla al-Saljuqiyya.” This work encompasses historical

²⁶ Cahen, C. Osmanlılardan önce Anadolu. Çeviren: Erol Üyepazarıcı, İstanbul: Tarih Vakfı Yurt yayınları, 2008, 408 s.; Cahen, C. Türklerin Anadoluya ilk girişi (XI yüzyılın ikinci yarısı). Çeviri: Y.Yücel ve B.Yediyıldız // Belleten. Ankara: Türk Tarih Kurumu Basımevi, 1987, c. 51, sayı 201, s. 1375-1431.

²⁷ Klausner, C. Selçuklularda vezirlik. Sivil idare üzerine bir araştırma (1055-1194). Çeviri: Mehmet Fatih Baş, Sinan Tarifçi, İstanbul: Kronik kitab, 2019, 174 s.

²⁸ Lambton, A.K.S. The internal structure of the Saljuq empire. Cambridge history of İnan, vol. 5. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1968, pp. 203-282.

²⁹ Zahîru'd-dîn Nişâbüri. Selçuknâme. Çeviren: A. Fidan, İstanbul: Kopernik Kitab, 2018, s.9.

events from the establishment of the Seljuk state (1038) until its downfall and is preserved in the British Museum. The value of this source lies in its rich information regarding the Seljuks' relations with Christians, their wars with the Georgians, Alp Arslan's wars against Byzantium, and more. The work also provides comprehensive information about the Atabeg state of Azerbaijan, which holds significant importance in Azerbaijani history.

One of the valuable sources written about the Seljuk period is "Rahat al-Sudur wa Ayat al-Surur" ("The Peace of Hearts and the Sign of Joy") by Muhammad ibn Ali ibn Suleiman al-Ravendi. Ravendi began writing this work in 1203 and completed it over several years, dedicating it to the Seljuk Sultan of Anatolia, Qiyas al-Din Kaykhusraw.³⁰

The work "Siyasatnama" ("The Book of Governance") or "Siyar al-Muluk" ("Lives of the Rulers"), written in Persian by the Seljuk vizier Nizam al-Mulk, is considered a primary source for our topic. Nizam al-Mulk composed the work in 50 chapters. He assigned titles that corresponded to the content of each chapter and, as he noted, included hadiths, verses from the Quran, and stories told by the great figures of the time in each chapter.³¹ The "Siyasatnama" encompasses nearly all issues related to state structure and governance.

One of the important sources for our research is "Tarikh-i Beyhaqi," written by Abu Fazl Beyhaqi regarding Ghaznavid history. The author, Beyhaqi, served as a secretary in the Ghaznavid state. "Tarikh-i Beyhaqi" is a work consisting of 30 volumes, based on Beyhaqi's own observations and notes, covering the history of the Ghaznavids from its inception until the years 1030-1041.³² The 5th to 10th volumes of the work have survived to this day. The author's position as a secretary in the Ghaznavid divan has contributed significantly to the study of state structure issues in "Tarikh-i Beyhaqi." The source contains extensive information on matters of state organization, divans, military

³⁰ Muhammed b. Ali b. Süleyman er-Râvendi. Râhat-üs-sudûr ve Âyet-üs-sürûr (Gönüllerin Rahatı ve sevinç alameti). Çeviri: Ahmed Ateş, Ankara: Türk Tarih Kurumu, 2020, s.62.

³¹ Nizâmü'l-mülk. Siyâset-nâme. Tercüme: Köymen M.A, Ankara: Türk Tarih Kurumu: 2016, s.2.

³² Hüseyin-i Beyhaki. Târîh-i Beyhakî. Tercüme: N.Lügal. Ankara: Türk Tarih Kurumu, 2019, s.XI.

organization, urban administration, and civil and administrative officials. These details have been used extensively in our research.

One of the sources on Seljuk history is “*Təvârix-e Al-e Səlçuq*,” written in Turkish by Yazıçızadə Ali in 1424 and presented to Sultan II Murad.³³ The section on “*Oghuzname*” included by Yazıçızadə, along with the parts related to Seljuk history, plays an important role in our dissertation research.

We also find information about the Seljuks in works written on general Islamic history. One such source is “*Zeyn al-Akhbar*” (“*Tarikh-i Gardizi*”), written in Persian by Abu Said Abdul Hayy bin Zakhak ibn Mahmud Gardizi between 1050 and 1052. This substantial work consists of various chapters covering the history of Iranian kings before Islam, the history of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) and the caliphs until the year 423 AH (1032 CE), as well as the history of Khorasan up to 1041.

A prominent Arab historian of the 13th century, Ibn al-Athir, authored the general historical work “*Al-Kamil fi al-Tarikh*” (“*The Complete History*”), which consists of 12 volumes.³⁴ “*Al-Kamil fi al-Tarikh*” concludes with events from the year 1231. From the perspective of Azerbaijani history, the significance of this work is reflected in the information it provides about the socio-political situation in Azerbaijan during the Seljuk period, as well as details about the Atabeg state and its leaders.

Another work related to Islamic history is “*Jami al-Tawarikh*” (“*Collection of Histories*”), written by Fadlullah Rashid al-Din, who served as a vizier in the Ilkhanate. This work is divided into two volumes, and the second volume contains a section titled “*Zikr-i Tarikh-i Al-e Seljuq*,” which discusses Seljuk history following the history of the Ghaznavids.³⁵ Each ruler from Seljuk Sultan Tughrul to the Seljuk ruler of Iraq, III Tughrul, is allocated a separate chapter. One of the sources used in the dissertation is “*Tarikh-i Azimi*” by Abu Abdullah Muhammad

³³ Yazıçızade Ali. *Tevârih-i Âl-i Selçuk. Oğuznâme-Selçuklu tarihi*. Hazırlayan: Abdulla Bakır, İstanbul: Çamlıca, 2017, 802 s.

³⁴ İbnü'l Esîr. *El-Kâmil'de Selçuklular*. Çeviri, notlar ve açıklamalar: Ö.Abdülkerim, İstanbul : Bilge Kültür Sanat, 2022, 545 s.; İzzeddin ibn Əl-Əsir. *Əl-Kamil fi-t-tarix (Mükəmməl tarix) / Ərəbcədən tərc. Z. Bünyadov*, Bakı: Şur nəşriyyatı, 1996, 192 s.

³⁵ Reşidü'd-dîn Fazlullâh. *Câmi'ü't-Tevârih (Zikr-i Târih-i Âl-i Selçûk)*. Çeviren: Erkan Göksu, H.Hüseyn Güneş, İstanbul: Bilge Kültür Sanat: 2014, s.37.

al-Azimi (1090-1160). This concise work provides information about historical events from the time of Prophet Adam up to the end of the reign of the Abbasid caliph al-Muqtadi (1075-1094).³⁶ In the dissertation, sections related to Azerbaijani history, particularly those concerning the Shaddadids, have been utilized.

In the writing of the dissertation, valuable sources for Turkish history, such as Mahmud Kashgari's "Divan-i Lughat-it-Turk," have been utilized. To clarify the connection of the Seljuk period's state organization with ancient Turks, translations of ancient Turkish monuments, particularly the Orkhon-Yenisei inscriptions, have been referenced.³⁷ Not only sources from the Seljuk period but also works written by Islamic scholars have been included in the research. The works of Ibn Khaldun,³⁸ Mavardi,³⁹ and Ibn al-Tiktak⁴⁰ are among these sources.

Object and Subject of Research. The object of the topic "The Administrative System in Azerbaijan during the **Period** of the Great Seljuk Empire" is the administrative systems of Azerbaijani states—Ravvadids, Shaddadids, Shirvanshahs, and the Azerbaijani Atabegs—from the early 11th century to the 30s of the 13th centuries. The subject of the research includes the supreme governing bodies of the Azerbaijani states, the civil administration system, military organization, urban management, judicial system, and the institution of atabegs.

The goals and objectives of the research. The main aim of the research work titled "The State Administration System in Azerbaijan during the Period of the Great Seljuk Empire" is to examine the state administration systems of the Azerbaijani states of Rawwadid, Shaddadid, and Shirvanshah, as well as the Atabeg dynasty of

³⁶ Azimî Tarihi. Selçuklarla ilgili bölümler (H.430-538=1038/39-1143/44). Metin, çeviri, notlar ve açıklamalar: A.Sevim, Ankara : Türk Tarih Kurumu Basımevi, 1988, 163 s.

³⁷ Rəcəbov, Ə. Orxon Yenisey abidələri. Bakı: Yazıçı, 1993, 389 s.; Orkun, H.N. Eski Türk Yazıtları, Ankara: Türk Dil Kurumu Yayınları, 1994, 192 s.

³⁸ İbn Haldun. Mukaddime. Evrensel tarihe ve toplum bilimlerine giriş. Çeviren: Cemal Aydın, İstanbul: Timaş yayınları, 2022, 968 s.

³⁹ Ebu'l Hasan Habib el-Maverdi. El-Ahkamü's-Sultaniyye. İslamda devlet ve Hilafet hukuku / Çev., prof. Dr. Ali Şafak, İstanbul: Bedir yayınevi, 1994, 504 s.

⁴⁰ İbnü't-Tiktaka El-Fahrî (Devlet İdaresi, Halifeler, Vezirleri Tarihi, 632-1258). Çeviren: R.Şeşen, İstanbul : Bilge Kültür Sanat, 2016, 237 s.

Azerbaijan. A key task of the research is to identify the similarities and differences between the state administration systems of these vassal states of the Seljuk Empire and the empire itself. The primary aim and task of the research is to conduct a comparative analysis of the Seljuk state's administrative system with other Muslim Eastern states and the sultanates that emerged from the fragmentation of the empire. To achieve the objectives set for the writing of the dissertation, the following tasks have been determined:

- To incorporate sources related to the administrative system of the Seljuk Empire into research and to study these sources in a comparative manner.

- To analyze national, Turkish, Russian, and European historiographical works written about the administrative systems of Azerbaijani states.

- To conduct a comparative analysis of the administrative system of the Great Seljuk Empire with that of ancient Turkish states and Muslim Turkish states.

- To clarify the similarities and differences in the concept of vassal state systems during the Seljuk period compared to other periods, and to determine the role of Azerbaijani states within this system.

- To investigate the history and essence of the Atabeg institution and to assess its impact on the Seljuk Empire.

- To compare the administrative system of the Azerbaijani Atabegs with that of the empire and other Atabegs.

Research Methods. Historical research methods have been systematically applied in the writing of the dissertation. The historical genetic method has been used to study political events and state functions along with their developmental stages. Information about all the functions discussed in the dissertation has been provided not only regarding the Seljuk period but also concerning ancient Turkish states and Turkish states existing in the 11th to 13th centuries.

Within the framework of the historical comparative method, similarities and differences between historical events have been analyzed. Another research method employed in the dissertation is the historical typological method. Through this method, events and processes, as well as the state organization system, have been classified according to their

main characteristics and indicators. The historical chronological method has also been utilized during the research.

Main issues defended. The main assertions to be defended are as follows:

1. The examination of the state administration system in Azerbaijan during the rule of the Seljuk Empire within the framework of the concept of Turkism.

2. The influence of the state administration policies of the Great Seljuk Empire on the governance of Azerbaijani states.

3. The emergence of the vassal state system and the identification of the place and role of Azerbaijani states (Rawwadids, Shaddadids, and Shirvanshahs) within this system.

4. The identification of the main structural divisions of the military organization during the Seljuk era and the determination of the place and role of slave's soldiers in the army.

5. A comparative analysis of the duties and powers in the state administration system with those existing in ancient Turkish states.

6. The analysis of existing historical perspectives on the formation of the Azerbaijani Atabeg state through various sources.

7. The clarification of the process of the transformation of the Atabeg institution into a sultanate and the essence of the Atabeg institution.

Scientific novelty of the research. The key assertions that substantiate the scientific novelty of the dissertation are as follows:

During the writing of the dissertation, Arabic and Persian sources, as well as the research works of national, Turkish, English, and Russian historians related to the topic, have been systematically incorporated for the first time.

The scientific novelty of the research lies in the fact that issues regarding the state administration system in Azerbaijan during the Seljuk rule have been examined based on primary sources.

The dissertation presents the first comprehensive study of the administrative systems of Azerbaijani states in the 11th to 13th centuries.

The state administration and related functions of Azerbaijani states have been investigated based on the concept of Turkism.

The relationship between the functions in state administration

during the discussed period and those in the administrative systems of ancient Turkish states has been analyzed through the inclusion of primary sources.

An investigation has been conducted to determine whether information about Chaghri Beg's expedition to Anatolia is present in the main sources of the Seljuk period, as noted in the historiography of Azerbaijan and Turkey up to recent times.

Sources regarding the history of the formation of the Azerbaijani Atabeg state have been comparatively analyzed alongside national and foreign historiographical works.

Theoretical and practical significance of the research. The dissertation holds scientific-theoretical and practical significance in uncovering new scientific innovations and historical truths through the comparative analysis of data obtained from the examination of primary and fundamental sources. Considering this, it can be stated that the scientific materials and historical truths derived from the dissertation can be utilized in lectures and seminars in university history departments, in specialized courses, and in the preparation of textbooks and teaching aids.

Approval and application of the dissertation. The dissertation titled “The State Administration System in Azerbaijan during the Great Seljuk Empire” was carried out at the Department of Azerbaijani History (Natural Sciences Faculty) of Baku State University. The main assertions of the dissertation have been reflected in the author’s published articles and at international and national scientific conferences.

The name of the institution where the dissertation work was performed. The dissertation was carried out at the Faculty of History of Baku State University.

The total volume of the dissertation. The dissertation consists of an introduction, three chapters, a conclusion, and a bibliography. The total volume of the dissertation consists of 166 pages and 291505 characters, including cover and contents 1030 characters, introduction 27526 characters, chapter I 68536 characters, chapter II 103147 characters, chapter III 84277 characters, conclusion 8019 characters, used literature 24027 characters.

II. MAIN CONTENT OF THE DISSERTATION WORK

The "**Introduction**" section of the dissertation includes facts that demonstrate the relevance of the dissertation topic, as well as an analysis of sources and literature. It also provides information about the aims and objectives of the dissertation, its chronological framework, theoretical and methodological basis, and practical significance, along with a brief summary of the main scientific innovations.

The first chapter of the dissertation is titled "**The Formation of the Great Seljuk Empire, its state structure and administrative system**" and consists of three subsections. The first subsection of the first chapter is titled "**The formation of the Seljuk State.**"

There are two main perspectives on the origin of the Seljuks in medieval sources. One group of sources defends that the Seljuks are of Khazar origin, while another group claims that they are of Oghuz origin.

The victory the Seljuks achieved in Dandanaqan was, unlike previous ones, proof that they had established a new state. Since arriving in Jand, they had succeeded in founding an independent state in Khorasan after enduring difficult struggles. Although the occupation of Nishapur and Toghrul Beg's seating on Sultan Mas'ud's throne in Shadyakh was considered the establishment of a state, at that time, most of the elements that constitute a state were not yet in place. It is a fact that without being the complete owners of the lands they lived on, one could not claim that the Seljuks had established an independent state. In this regard, with the victory at Dandanaqan, the Seljuks conquered Khorasan, gaining possession of one of the most essential elements of a state. Khorasan became their homeland, and the famous city of Nishapur in Khorasan became their capital.

The second subsection of the dissertation, titled "**The first Seljuk invasions into Azerbaijan,**" discusses the Seljuk incursions into Azerbaijan leading up to the establishment of the Seljuk state and the events that occurred during these invasions.

Sources and historical literature indicate that the first Seljuk incursion into Azerbaijan occurred during the campaign of Chaghri Beg in Anatolia. We aimed to clarify this issue based on the sources. We sought answers to questions such as whether such a campaign existed and whether Chaghri Beg entered Azerbaijan during his expedition to Anatolia. Several sources provide information regarding Chaghri Beg's

campaign to Anatolia in 1015-1018 or 1015-1021.⁴¹ Mirkhond writes: “When Elitakin was preparing a large army and getting ready for war, Chaghri Beg said to his brother: ‘The easy way is for you to retreat with your entourage to the steppes, and for me to be allowed to go to the Byzantine lands.’”⁴² Abu'l-Faraj states: “Chaghri Beg gathered a large army from the Turks and devastated Armenia (a small province east of Byzantium) and the city of Khorasan. He then told his brother Toghrul Beg, ‘There are two great governors here: the Khwarezmshah Harun and the grandson of Sabuk Tekin, Sultan Mas'ud. We cannot overcome them. We can go to the lands of Khorasan and Armenia because there is no one there to oppose us.’”⁴³

Researchers who provide information about Chaghri Beg's reconnaissance expedition note that because of this campaign, Chaghri Beg concluded that there were no governments or kingdoms in these regions that could impede their authority. To this end, Chaghri Beg's encouragement of his brother Toghrul Beg, who was in a difficult situation in Transoxiana, to conquer Eastern Anatolia proves that the true goal of this campaign was to seek land and acquire spoils. Other Turkish historians, referencing F. Sumer and M.H. Yinanca, also provide information about Chaghri Beg's campaigns in Anatolia from 1016 to 1021.

Before the establishment of the Seljuk state, there were Oghuz groups known as the Yabqulu, associated with Arslan Yabgu, that conducted military campaigns in Azerbaijan and, in general, the Caucasus. These Oghuz Turks, who did not accept the leadership of Toghrul and Chaghri Beg, stated that they “were oppressed and suffering in Lower Turkestan” and requested permission from Ghaznavid Mahmud to cross into Khorasan. With the sultan's permission, they settled in Nisa,

⁴¹ Gregory Abû'l Farac (Bar Hebraeus), Abû'l Farac tarihi. I cilt, Süryan. ing. çev. Ernest A. Wallis Budge, türk. çev., Ömer Rıza Doğrul. Ankara: Türk Tarih Kurumu Basımevi, 1945, s.293; Mîrhând, M.H. Ravzatu's- Safâ fî Sîreti'l- Enbiyâ ve'l- Mülûk ve'l-Hulefâ (Tabaka-i Selçûkiyye). Tercüme ve notlar : Erkan Göksu, Ankara: Yenimahalle, 2015, s.25.

⁴² Mîrhând, M.H. Ravzatu's- Safâ fî Sîreti'l- Enbiyâ ve'l- Mülûk ve'l-Hulefâ (Tabaka-i Selçûkiyye) / Tercüme ve notlar : Erkan Göksu, Ankara: Yenimahalle, 2015, s.25.

⁴³ Gregory Abû'l Farac (Bar Hebraeus), Abû'l Farac tarihi. I cilt, Süryan. ing. çev. Ernest A. Wallis Budge, türk. çev., Ömer Rıza Doğrul. Ankara: Türk Tarih Kurumu Basımevi, 1945, s.293.

Farawa, and Abivard.

The third subsection of the first chapter is titled **“The initial state organization of the Seljuk Empire”**. This subsection provides detailed information about the organization of the Seljuk state, the kurultai (council), and the divans (administrative councils).

On the path to establishing a state, the Seljuks utilized the organizational systems of previous Turkish Muslim states, creating a well-structured state organization.

In ancient Turkish states, gatherings referred to as "toy," which later became known as "kurultay," were the supreme authority where important state matters were resolved. "Toy" signifies an assembly or meeting in all Turkic dialects and is the equivalent of the term "kurultay" that emerged in subsequent centuries as a state institution. In the Orkhon-Yenisei inscriptions and Chinese sources, the toy was a state assembly where political, military, economic, and cultural issues were addressed in the Göktürk and Uyghur khanates.

The Divan-i Alan (Great Divan), led by the vizier, had four main components: 1) Divan al insha ve'l tugra, sometimes referred to as divan-i rasail and divan-i insha; 2) Divan al zaman ve'l istifa (also known as divan-i istifa-yi memalik); 3) Divan-i ishraf-i memalik; and 4) Divan-i ard.⁴⁴

The second chapter of the dissertation is titled **“The administrative system of Azerbaijani states during the Great Seljuk Empire”** and consists of three subsections. The first subsection of the second chapter is titled **“Relations with vassal states and the role, place, and administrative system of Azerbaijani states in these relations.”**

The concept of vassal states and the vassalage system is known to us from the history of ancient Turkish states. The vassalage system is always not a rigid concept with the same established rules everywhere and. During the time of the Great Seljuk Empire, the responsibilities and powers of vassal states were somewhat like those of ancient Turkish states. In the Seljuk era, the classic characteristics of vassalage included paying annual tribute, having a khutbah recited in the name of the suzerain ruler, minting coins, and maintaining hostages from the ruling lineage, mainly the sons of the subordinate ruler, at the court of the

⁴⁴ Peacock, A.C.S. Nomadic society and the Seljuq Campaigns in Caucasia. Iran and the Caucasus 9/II. 2005, s.257.

suzerain ruler.⁴⁵

When Sultan Alp Arslan was in Azerbaijan in 1067, the emir of Arran and Nakhchivan, II Fazl, and Shirvanshah I Fariburz visited him with gifts. In 1068, the Shirvanshah accompanied him on a military campaign to Anatolia. These actions underscored the vassal dependence of Azerbaijani states on the Seljuk sultan.

Shirvanshah Fariburz sought to assert his independence by intervening in the province of Derbent, Bab al-Abwab, which prompted the sultan to impose reparations on him.⁴⁶ Thus, while the Seljuk sultans were recognized as suzerains of the Azerbaijani states, local dynasties operated autonomously in Azerbaijan, preserving the attributes of their sovereignty, independence, administrative systems, treasury, military, dynastic lineage, and coin minting. Conversely, the tribute and tax payments by the Shirvanshahs, Ravvadids, and Shaddadis to the Seljuk sultan were inconsistent and contingent upon the prevailing military-political situation

It is known that the rulers of Azerbaijan, who accepted the vassal dependency of the Seljuk sultans, governed the state with the title of "melik." The melik simply governed the territory by the sultan's will. A decree issued to the sons of Alp Arslan, indicating that they would hold Gilan and Khwarazm, shows that the melik ruled these areas as if they were his own property. He was tasked with determining the interests of the population in that region and collecting taxes while adhering to the previous rules.⁴⁷

The second subchapter of the second chapter is titled "**City administration and judicial system.**"

We learn about the social strata and positions existing in city administration during the Seljuk period in Azerbaijan from contemporary sources, minted coins, and epigraphic monuments. During the Seljuk era, the urban administration system included positions such as rais, amid, amil, and shaykh, as well as religious titles and ranks like qadi, qadi al-quzzat, muhtasib, naqib, and khatib. In Azerbaijan, cities were governed by emirs—military leaders. Although the rais was a lower official than the governor of the province, he was directly subordinate to the sultan and

⁴⁵ Köymen, M.A. Selçuklu devri Türk tarihi. Ankara: Türk Tarih Kurumu, 2019, s.102.

⁴⁶ Гусейн-заде, Р.А. Кавказ и Сельджуки. Баку: Кавказ, 2010, s.167.

⁴⁷ Lambton, A.K.S. Landlord and Peasant in Persia. London: Oxford University Press, 1953, s.60.

was accountable only to him. He was responsible for finance, internal affairs, and maintaining order in the city.⁴⁸

In Azerbaijan's urban administration, another official was the shaykh (shihnah). There are different interpretations regarding the status of the shihnah. In the medieval Islamic world, the shihnah served various roles, acting as the military governor of a city or province, the commander of the army, and the official responsible for city administration.⁴⁹ Another official in the city administration was the amil, who was a financial officer primarily responsible for collecting taxes. In the urban administration system, officials from the religious class, such as qadi, qadi al-quzzat, muhtasib, khatib, and others, played significant roles.

The ancient Turkish judicial system was based on punitive and customary laws. Like the Turkish judicial system, political and customary matters in Muslim states were resolved through separate courts. With the emergence of Islam in the Muslim East, both religious and customary laws operated within the judicial system. As a result, during the Seljuk period, the judicial system in all Turkish Islamic states was divided into religious and customary courts.

Religious courts were presided over by qadis who were knowledgeable in religious and Sharia matters. Qadis handled issues related to marriage and divorce, inheritance, and claims, as well as providing protection for women without male guardians, and managing institutions and endowments associated with mosques.⁵⁰

The other part of the judicial system, the customary courts, were administered through the mazalim councils, which were common institutions in Islamic states. As the highest secular authority, the ruler held the power to issue judgments in the divan al-mazalim.

The third subsection of the second chapter of the dissertation is titled **“Military organization and the organization of military affairs.”**

Sultan Mahmud of Ghazni was the first to organize a special army

⁴⁸ Köymen, M.A. Selçuklu devri devlet teşkilatına dair yazılmış bir eser münasebetiyle // Selçuklu devri Türk tarihi araştırmaları, Ankara: 1963, I Belleten, XVII/68, s.341.

⁴⁹ Kurpalidis, G.M. Büyük Selçuklu devletinin idari, sosyal ve ekonomik tarihi / Rus. Çev., İlyas Kamalov, İstanbul: Ötüken Neşriyyat, 2020, s.116.

⁵⁰ Sevim A. E. Merchil. Selçuklu devletleri tarihi. Siyaset, teşkilat ve kültür. Ankara: Türk Tarih Kurumu, 1995, s.515.

composed of trained soldiers gathered from various peoples.⁵¹ In the early periods, Seljuk conquests were also carried out with Turkmen forces. Figures such as Toğrul Beg, Çağrı Beg, İbrahim Yınal, and other members of the dynasty were Turkmen warriors. The migrations to Anatolia and the Caucasus were carried out not with the special army but with the armies of the Turkmen.

In the Abbasid, Samanid, and Ghaznavid states, the ghulam army served as paid soldiers. The Ghaznavids made the best use of ghulam soldiers before the Seljuks.

The Seljuk army consisted not only of paid soldiers but also of soldiers who held small and large land grants (iqta). As the empire expanded, land parcels were distributed to commanders and soldiers. İ.H. Uzuncharshili notes that this army was first organized by Nizam al-Mulk.⁵² Soldiers with iqta did not receive a salary from the state at designated times; instead, they met their needs from the income generated by their iqta. In addition to the special army, the Seljuk army included numerous vassal state forces and soldiers from their provinces, who would join the army when called.

The third chapter of the dissertation is titled "**The Azerbaijani Atabey state**" and is divided into three subsections. The first subsection is titled "**The Atabeylik institute.**" The concept of "atabeylik," believed to have Turkic origins, may have been inherited from the Seljuks, ancient Turkic states, or the Oghuz Yabgu state. Recent Russian researchers, particularly N.N. Kozmin, have examined the inscriptions known as the Orkhon inscriptions, created by Yolluq Tigin, which refer to him as "Kül Tiginin atisi," attempting to demonstrate that this title means "atabey."⁵³

The title "atabey" also appeared in the Oghuz Yabgu state. The head of the Oghuz Yabgu state, the son of Ali Khan, appointed Bəkdüz Kuzıcı as "atabey" as both vizier and regent for his heir, Qılınc Arslan.⁵⁴ Thus, it can be concluded from historical sources and literature that although the atabeylik concept was not politically significant in earlier Muslim Turkic states, it gained political meaning during the Seljuk

⁵¹ Güngör, E. Tarihte türkler, İstanbul: Ötüken Neşriyyat, 1990, s.167.

⁵² Uzuncharshılı, İ. H. Osmanlı devleti teşkilâtına medhal. Ankara: Türk Tarih Kurumu, 1988, s.52.

⁵³ Atabeg // İslam Ansiklopedisi. İslam alemi. Tarih, coğrafya, etnografya ve biyografya lugati, İstanbul: Milli Eğitim Basımevi. 1967, s.712.

⁵⁴ Togan, Z.V. Oğuz destanı. İstanbul: Enderun Yayınları, 1982, s.71.

period.

For the first time during the Seljuk period, the institution of atabeylik held significant importance in state governance, with atabeyes managing the state on behalf of the princes they served, thus experiencing their peak development. In Seljuk history, the title of atabey was first held by Nizam al-Mulk.

The second subsection of the third chapter is titled "**The place and role of the Eldeniz Atabeylik in the system of the Iraq Seljuk Sultanate.**"

After the death of Sultan Muhammad, a struggle for power ensued between Malik Shah and Suleiman Shah, who was imprisoned in Mosul, with Arslan Shah under the protection of Eldeniz. Ultimately, the emirs conferred and brought Suleiman Shah from Mosul, enthroning him in Hamadan in March 1160. At the time of Sultan Muhammad's death, Muvafiq Girdbazu was the strongest among all the emirs. Nasir al-Din Aq Qush, Izz al-Din Satmaz, and Atabey Ayaz were notable great emirs. They discussed state affairs among themselves and decided to summon the opinion of a religious figure from Rey city.

Upon arriving from Rey, they chose Sultan Suleiman and went to fetch him.⁵⁵ To gain Atabey Eldeniz's favor, they appointed Malik Arslan as the heir apparent. His name was included in khutbahs and coins. However, Sultan Suleiman was imprudent, reckless, and excessively indulgent in wine. His soldiers did not heed his commands, and the emirs complained about him.⁵⁶ Meanwhile, Girdbazu sent a message to Atabey Eldeniz, urging him to come and bring Malik Arslan. Sultan Suleiman became so intoxicated that he began to avoid people and refused to receive anyone. Consequently, the emirs sent someone to summon Shams al-Din Eldeniz, who was the lord of most of Arran and Azerbaijan, asking him to have the khutbah read in the name of Arslan Shah, who remained with him.

⁵⁵ Zahîru'd-dîn Nişâbüri. Selçuknâme / çev. A. Fidan, İstanbul: Kopernik Kitab, 2018, s.144-145; Muhammed b. Ali b. Süleyman er-Râvendî. Râhat-üs-sudûr ve Âyet-üs-sürûr (Gönüllerin Rahatı ve sevinç alameti) / Çeviri: Ahmed Ateş, Ankara: Türk Tarih Kurumu, 2020, s.263; Sadruddîn Ebu'l-Hasan Ali ibn Nâsir ibn Ali El-Hüseynî. Ahbâr üd-Devlet is-Selçukiyye / Çev., Necati Lügâl, Ankara: Türk Tarih Kurumu, 1943, s.101.

⁵⁶ Kayhan, H. Azerbaycan Atabeyliğinin kuruluşu ve Atabey İldeniz // Türkiyat Mecmuası, 2018. c.28, s.52.

The third section of the dissertation's third chapter is titled "**The administrative system of the Azerbaijani Atabey state.**" In this section, the differences and similarities between the administrative system of the Azerbaijani Atabey State and that of the empire are analyzed.

One of the main governing bodies of the Atabey State was the military administration. The divan al-arz or divan al-jaysh headed the military administration, dealing with the main affairs of the army. The person at the head of this divan was called the sahib divan al-arz or arid. He oversaw the military iqta of military personnel, their revenues and salaries, gathered troops, addressed complaints from military officials, and checked the supply of military units.⁵⁷

Like in other medieval Muslim Turkish states, the vizier in the Azerbaijani Atabey State was the most important official after the ruler, or atabey. He was considered the head of the bureaucratic apparatus and the representative or advisor of the head of state. Another important official in the administrative system of the Azerbaijani Atabey State was the hajib. The chief hajib (hajib-i buzug), or "hajib of the hajibs" (hajib al-hujjib), stood at the head of all the palace staff, being one of the state's first dignitaries.⁵⁸

In the "**Result**" section of the dissertation, the research has been summarized, recommendations have been made, and relevant scientific generalizations have been presented:

1. The analysis of sources and historiographical works proves that the Seljuks were not, as written by European and Soviet historians, plunderers and marauders. The state administrative system created by the Seljuks could not have been established by plundering and marauding tribes. This does not reflect historical reality.

2. In the dissertation, the first arrival of the Seljuks in Azerbaijan, which occurred after Sultan Mahmud drove them out of Khorasan, around 1028-1029, is substantiated with information obtained from the sources we examined. The 1015 campaign of Chaghri Beg, when he passed through Azerbaijan on his way to Anatolia, is analyzed in the

⁵⁷ Sevim A. E. Merçil. Selçuklu devletleri tarihi. Siyaset, teşkilat ve kültür. Ankara: Türk Tarih Kurumu, 1995, s. 509; Bünyadov, Z. Azərbaycan Atabəyləri dövləti (1136-1225). Bakı: Şərq-Qərb, 2007, s.202.

⁵⁸ Бартолд, В.В. Сочинения. Туркестан в эпоху монгольского нашествия. Москва: Восточной литературы, т. 1. 1963, s.286.

dissertation. In none of the "Seljuknames" written about the period did we find any information regarding this campaign. Considering this, we believe that such a campaign did not take place. We recommend that the historical inaccuracies related to this campaign in monographs and university textbooks be re-examined in future research.

3. The formation and development of the vassal state system during the Seljuk rule is one of the topics requiring analysis and research. Through the sources of the period and historical works, we have analyzed the differences and similarities between the central and provincial organizations of this system. We provided information on how the Azerbaijani states fulfilled their vassalage obligations. The dissertation also reflects the military campaigns of the Seljuk sultans during the imperial period and the relations between the Azerbaijani states and the Seljuk sultans.

4. In the dissertation, the Seljuk state administration system is analyzed through a comparative approach with the administration systems of ancient Turkish and Muslim states. The formation of the Seljuk Empire's administrative system because of Arab and Persian influence and its presentation as an integral part of them is disproved through rich source materials. The ancient Turkish tradition is evident in the Seljuk state's administration system. After the establishment of the Seljuk state, the supreme authority of the state was administered through the "divans," which were akin to the kurultays (councils) where major issues were resolved in ancient Turkish tradition. Another issue concerns the title of "vizier." The title of vizier during the Seljuk period does not necessarily mean that this position was rooted in Persian traditions. The question arises: what duties did the "ayguchis" (officials) perform in ancient Turkish states? Although they were not called viziers, their functions were identical to those of a vizier. It is recommended that the state organization of Azerbaijani states during the Seljuk period be presented in future monographs and textbooks as an integral part of the common Turkish state structure.

5. The administrative system of the Seljuk Empire and the atabeg systems that emerged after the empire's fragmentation have been analyzed in a comparative manner. The role and position of the Azerbaijan Atabegs in the Seljuk Sultanate of Iraq, the founding history of the Azerbaijan Atabeg state, and differing opinions on this matter have been analyzed. The dissertation establishes that the founding date of the

Azerbaijan Atabegs state is not 1136, but 1147-1148, based on a comparative analysis of the sources.

6. The struggle of Atabeg Shamseddin Eldeniz to rise from a slave to a state builder has been analyzed based on rich source and historiographical materials. Shamseddin Eldeniz, the head of the Azerbaijan Atabegs state, used his kinship with the Seljuk Sultanate of Iraq and his appointment as the atabeg of Arslan Shah to ensure the state's rapid development.

7. The impact of the Seljuk Empire's administrative system on the Atabegs' governance system has been extensively analyzed through both local and foreign historiographical sources involved in the research.

8. In the dissertation, the transformation of the atabeg institution from the sultanate into a state, gaining the sultan's title and attaining the highest position in the Great Seljuk Empire, is reflected. Specifically, in the Azerbaijan Atabegs state, the acquisition of the title of Seljuk Sultan by Qızıl Arslan, conferred by the Caliph, was the formalization of a long-established real power. Thus, the Azerbaijan Atabegs, under the Eldeniz dynasty, after the title of "Great Atabeg," took the sultan title and established their sultanate.

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

1. Böyük Səlcuqlu imperatorluğu və Azərbaycan (İbn-əl-Əsrin “Əl-Kamil Fi-T-Tarix” əsəri üzrə) // Tarix və onun problemləri, nəzəri, elmi, metodik jurnal. Bakı, 2017, №4, s. 344-351.
2. Böyük Səlcuq imperatorluğunun Azərbaycan dövlətləri ilə siyasi münasibətləri // Azərbaycan Xalq Cümhuriyyəti – 100: Müsəlman şərqində ilk parlamentli respublika, beynəlxalq elmi konfransın xülasələri, 21-23 may 2018. Bakı, 2018, s. 65.
3. Böyük Səlcuq imperatorluğunun Azərbaycan dövlətləri ilə siyasi münasibətləri // Müsəlman Şərqində ilk parlamentli respublika, Azərbaycan Xalq Cümhuriyyətinin 100 illik yubileyinə həsr olunmuş beynəlxalq elmi konfransın materialları, 21-23 may 2018. Bakı, 2018, s. 817-821.
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