

REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

On the rights of the manuscript

ABSTRACT

of the dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

**EARLY MEDIEVAL SETTLEMENTS
IN UTI PROVINCE OF ALBANIA**

Speciality: 5505.02 – Archeology

Field of science: History

Applicant: **Zumrud Nagy kizi Kakhramanova**

NAKHCHIVAN – 2021

The work was performed at department of “Early Medieval Archeology” of the Institute of Archeology and Ethnography of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences.

Scientific supervisor: Doctor of Sciences in history, professor
Arif Mahammad oğlu Mammadov

Official opponents: Doctor of Sciences in history, professor
Gudrat Seyfulla oğlu İsmailzadə

Doctor of Philosophy in history, associate professor
Taleh Vasif oğlu Aliyev

Doctor of Philosophy in history
Saida Kamran kızı Babayeva

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

Chairman of the Dissertation council: Full member of the
Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences
İsmail Mukhtar oğlu Hacıyev

Scientific secretary of the
Dissertation council

Doctor of Philosophy in history,
associate professor
Emin Arif oğlu Şikhaliyev

Chairman of the
scientific seminar:

Corresponding member of ANAS
Vali Bakhshali oğlu Bakhshaliyev



GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DISSERTATION

Relevance and development of the topic. The Caspian-Mediterranean Sea and the Persian Gulf are among the primary centers of the world's most ancient human settlements. The historical lands of Azerbaijan, inhabited by the most ancient generations of our ancestors, are located in the center of this region. From this point of view, the early medieval period of the history and archeology of Azerbaijan covers an important period of Azerbaijan (Caucasus) Albania.

Archaeological research of the first medieval monuments of Uti province is also important in this regard. The studied area was the Albanian lands located on the right bank of the Kura River, with Barda as its center. The region was bordered on the north and northeast by the Kura River (including the Gargar Plain), on the southeast by the Araz River, including the province of Paytakaran (Caspian), and on the west by the province of Arsakh. The north-western lands of the province covered Sakasena and Girdiman provinces.

The results of archeological excavations carried out in the first medieval settlements of the region, both during the Soviet period and during the years of independence, were reflected in reports, lectures, theses and articles, but were not involved in a comprehensive study. According to archeological and written sources, in the early Middle Ages, Caucasian Albania was divided into provinces and regions. There were 12 provinces in Albania. These provinces included (Kabalaka, Sheki, Cambisena, Ajari, Chola, Lipina, Caspiana, Uti, Sakasena, Girdman, Arsakh and Sunik). The territories of Albania on the right bank of the Kura were divided into 4 large nahanga (provinces) and 6 regions. The nahang consisted of Arsakh, Uti,

Paytakaran and Sunik.¹ The province (nahang) of Uti was divided into small areas by the havars. Among them were Sakashena and Girdiman. The territory of Sakashena province covered the lands between Arsakh province and Kura River. Girdiman province covered the north-eastern lands of Albania. According to archeological and written sources, the modern historical and geographical territory of Uti province of Caucasian Albania covered territories of Tartar region, part of the regions Agdara, Goranboy, Aghdam, Agjabadi, Fuzuli, and area of right bank of Kura River of modern Yevlakh region and the areas close to Barda region.

The need for a comprehensive study of the results of archeological research conducted in the early medieval settlements of Uti province, one of the historical territories of the Caucasus Albania in Azerbaijan, is one of the signs of the urgency of the topic. Also, the fact that a part of Uti province is under occupation and the Armenians' baseless territorial claims, falsifications of material cultural monuments and attempts to confuse the international community make it necessary to study the region's early medieval settlements in more depth. One of the reasons for the urgency of the issue is the fact that the first medieval settlements in the territory of Uti province, mentioned in the sources, have not been localized yet.

One of the most important issues in the dissertation is to clarify the names of the first medieval settlements, to study urban and rural settlements for the first time through systematic archeological research, to determine their place in the political, economic and cultural life of Caucasian Albania in the early Middle Ages. When studying the first medieval settlements of Uti province, attention was paid to taking into account the natural-geographical environment of the region and the characteristics of the settlements. The impact of trade caravan routes, rivers and ditches flowing through the region,

¹Piriyev, V.Z. Azərbaycan tarixi-siyasi coğrafiyası / V.Z.Piriyev. – Bakı: Müəllim, – 2006. – s. 148.

political processes in the area, foreign attacks and internal strife in the formation and decline of settlements are also key conditions in the study of the subject.

The development of this topic as a separate dissertation topic also attracts attention in terms of clarifying the place of Uti province in the study of the history and archeology of the early medieval period of Caucasian Albania. Also, the fact that the research covers the early Middle Ages (III-IX centuries) is related to the period of artefacts found during archeological excavations in the area covered by the province of Uti in the Caucasus Albania.

Archaeological monuments of the Uti province of Caucasian Albania have been partially investigated by archaeologists, ethnographers, historians and others separately. The works of Arab authors Al-Istakhri, Al-Masudi, Ibn Hovgal and others contain information about the province of Uti.²

The studies of Azerbaijani archaeologists Gudrat Ismayilzade in Garakopektepe in Fuzuli region, Rahim Vahidov in Govurgala in Aghdam region, Rashid Goyushov in the first medieval settlements of areas where Christian temples of Karabakh are located, Alam Nuriyev, Arif Mammadov in Barda city (in place of Shatal city), Hidayat Jafarov in the first medieval stratum of Tokhmakhtepe in the territory of Tartar region, Tavakkul Aliyev in Beylagan cover the territory of Uti region, its settlements, defense constructions, etc.

R.B.Goyushov's "Journey to the Past of Karabakh"³ contains valuable information about stone idols, temples and other material cultural monuments in the Karabakh region, as well as in the Uti region." Archaeological explorations carried out by A.M.Mammadov in the early medieval monuments during years of independence,

²Əliyeva, N.A. Azərbaycan Yaqut əl-Həməvinin əsərlərində / N.A.Əliyeva. – Bakı: Çəşioğlu, – 1999. – 244 s.

³Göyüşov, R.B. Qarabağın keçmişinə səyahət / R.B.Göyüşov. – Bakı: Azər nəşr, – 1993. – 83 s.

including Nagaratepa, Shortapa, Balatapa, are valuable in terms of studying this period. G.S.Ismayilzade's work "From the archeologist's field diary"⁴ is valuable in terms of research of the region. The researcher's information on Garakopek-tepe settlement, Ahmadalilar tomb, etc. historical, material and cultural monuments and places of residence is noteworthy. Gudrat Ismayilzade started excavations in Garakopektepe in 1964 and large-scale excavations carried out for about thirty years revealed a thick cultural layer covering several millennia in Garakopektepe, constructions of different periods and countless material cultural samples.

Academician Z.M.Bunyadov's book "Azerbaijan in the VII-IX centuries"⁵ is important in terms of studying the history of Karabakh and Azerbaijan as a whole in the VII-IX centuries. The book covers valuable information about the socio-economic and political situation in Azerbaijan, including its part, the Karabakh region, on the eve of the Arab invasion, the struggle of the population against the Arabs, the administrative division of the post-occupation period, the tax system, agriculture, crafts, trade and etc.

Works of "Medieval city of Beylagan"⁶ by G.M.Ahmadov, "Terror against historical and cultural monuments of Karabakh"⁷ by T.R.Aliyev, "Caucasian Albania in the early Middle Ages"⁸ by T.M.Mammadov, "History of glassware and production of Caucasian

⁴Ismayilzadə, Q.S. Arxeoloqun çöl gündəliyindən / Q.S.İsmayilzadə. – Bakı: Xəzər Universiteti, – 2009. – 202 s.

⁵Bünyadov, Z.M. Azərbaycan VII-IX əsrlərdə / Z.M.Bünyadov. – Bakı: Azərbaycan Dövlət Nəşriyyatı, – 1989. – 336 s.

⁶Əhmədov, Q.M. Orta əsr Beyləqan şəhəri / Q.M.Əhmədov. – Bakı: Elm, – 1979. – 197 s.

⁷Əliyev, T.R. Qarabağın tarix və mədəniyyət abidələrinə qarşı terror // – Bakı: "Azərbaycan arxeologiyası" jurnalı, – 2007. №3-4, – s. 105-114.

⁸Məmmədov, T.M. Qafqaz Albaniyası ilk orta əsrlərdə / T.M.Məmmədov. – Bakı: Təhsil, – 2006. – 400 s.

Albania”⁹ by A.B.Nuriyev, “Pottery in Azerbaijan in the early Middle Ages”¹⁰ by A.Sh. Orujov were used.

The monographs, scientific articles and works of R.M. Vahidov’s “Mingachevir in III-VIII centuries”,¹¹ A.M.Mammadov’s “Ganjabasar in IV-XIII centuries”,¹² G.A.Jabiyev’s “History and historical geography of Girdiman”,¹³ H.A.Gasimov’s “Azerbaijani culture in the Middle Ages”¹⁴ and others were used.

Object and subject of research. The object of research of the dissertation is the study of the first medieval settlements, tombs, defense structures, fortifications of the Uti province of Caucasian Albania, as well as the remains of material culture discovered during archeological excavations in them.

The subject of research is to compile a map of archeological monuments of the Uti province of Caucasian Albania in the early Middle Ages, analyze these monuments, create a general idea of material culture, follow the development of economic life (agriculture, livestock, crafts, trade).

Objectives and tasks of the research. The purpose of the study is to study the emergence, development and causes of decline of urban and rural settlements in the Uti region of Caucasian Albania in the early Middle Ages, economic life, religious beliefs, crafts, construc-

⁹Nuriyev A.B. Qafqaz Albaniyasının şüşə məmulatı və istehsalı tarixi. – Bakı: Elm, – 1981, – s. 168

¹⁰Orucov, A.Ş. İlk orta əsrlərdə Azərbaycanca dulusçuluq / A.Ş.Orucov. – Bakı: Elm, – 1989. – 72 s.

¹¹Vahidov, R.M. Mingəçevir III-VIII əsrlərdə. – Bakı: Azərbaycan EA Nəşriyyatı, – 1961. – 158 s.

¹²Məmmədov, A.M. Gəncəbasar IV-XIII əsrlərdə (tarixi arxeoloji tədqiqat) / A.M.Məmmədov. – Bakı: Elm, – 1993. – 203 s.

¹³Cəbiyev, Q.C.Girdiman tarixi (IV-IX əsrlər) / Q.C.Cəbiyev. – Bakı: Şərq-Qərb, – 2010. – 616 s.

¹⁴Qasimov, X.A.Orta əsrlərdə Azərbaycan mədəniyyəti / X.A.Qasimov. – Bakı: Aspoliqraf, – 2008. – 448 s.

tion, architectural monuments, economic and trade relations.

Coordination of the results of archeological excavations with written source data, their comparative analysis and conclusion are also important task of the research.

Research methods. The dissertation is based on the method of typological analysis adopted in modern archeology in the study of the remains of material culture discovered during archeological excavations in the early medieval monuments of the historical Uti region.

The method of comparative analysis was used in the study of different types of settlements of the same period, as well as in the reconciliation of the discovered archeological evidence with the source data.

The main provisions of the defense.

- To clarify the history and geography of the first medieval period of the Uti region of Caucasian Albania;

- To determine the place and role of the province of Uti in the political, economic and cultural life of Albania in the early Middle Ages;

- To carry out historical and archeological research of the first medieval urban and rural settlements of Uti province;

- To study the early medieval tombs, defense structures, fortifications of Uti province and to carry out the study of material culture samples discovered during archeological excavations there;

- To study the economic and cultural relations of the Uti region of Caucasian Albania with other regions of the country in the early Middle Ages on the basis of archeological materials.

Scientific novelty of the research. The dissertation is the first generalized scientific research work devoted to the study of the early medieval material culture of the Uti region of Caucasian Albania. For the first time, the monuments of early medieval settlements of Uti province were grouped and comprehensively and comparatively analyzed, and its crafts, economic life, trade relations, religious monu-

ments, etc. were studied. One of the important innovations of the research is the scientific filtering of the results of archeological excavations carried out by individual archaeologists. While working on the theme, based on the results of archeological excavations in the region, special attention was paid to the development of material culture in the III-IX centuries on the basis of previous traditions, following up the principle of inheritance and the strengthening of the existing features of material culture with new scientific evidence. During the development of the dissertation, comparisons were made with the materials of contemporary monuments of Azerbaijan and neighboring countries.

Theoretical and practical significance of the research. Results of the research may play an important role in the study of the first medieval settlements of Uti province in determining the place of the region in the political, economic and cultural history of Azerbaijan, writing generalizing works on Azerbaijani archeology, tracing Azerbaijan's traditions and heritage in material culture, compiling lectures, preparing textbooks for higher schools, the study of important problems of archeology, history of Azerbaijan, history of architecture and art in a new scientific aspect, creation of historical and ethnographic museums, production of scientific films on Karabakh, promotion and strengthening of patriotism among high school students, protection of historical and architectural monuments, tourism development.

Approbation and application of the dissertation. The dissertation consists of an introduction, three chapters, conclusion, bibliography, abbreviated words, tables and pictures attached to the work. The main results of the research work of the applicant on the problems studied in the dissertation "Settlements of the Uti region of Albania in the early Middle Ages" were discussed in the "Early Medieval Archeology" department of the Institute of Archeology and Ethnography of ANAS and presented to the scientific community. Scientific articles were presented at national and international conferences in

connection with the main results of the research.

Name of the organization where the dissertation work is performed. The dissertation work was carried out in the “Early Medieval Archeology” department of the Institute of Archeology and Ethnography of ANAS, discussed with the participation of invited employees from other departments of the Institute and presented for defense.

The structure and the volume of the dissertation. The volume of the dissertation consists of 14.314 characters in Introduction, 18.857 characters in Chapter I, 183.304 characters in Chapter II, 52.017 characters in Chapter III, and 13.173 characters in the final part, total 281.665 characters.

MAIN CONTENT OF THE DISSERTATION

The **“Introduction”** provides information on the relevance of the topic, the degree of development, research goals and objectives, research methods, main provisions, scientific novelty, theoretical and practical significance of the research, approbation and application of the dissertation, the name of the organization, where the work has been performed, the structure of the dissertation.

Chapter I is entitled **“Historical Geography and Political History of Uti Province”**. The first half of this chapter is called “Historical Geography of Uti Province” and the second half is called “Political History of Uti Province”.

In the first subchapter entitled **“Historical geography of Uti province”** the geography of the territories covered by Caucasian Albania, division of the territory into provinces and regions, archeological map of the territories covered by Uti, one of the largest provinces, was comparatively studied and it was concluded that its modern historical geographical cover the territory of Tartar region, part of the territory of Aghdara, Agdam, Agjabedi, Fuzuli regions and the territory of the modern Yevlakh region on the right bank of the Kura River and areas close to the Barda regions.

The second subchapter, entitled **“Political History of Uti Province”**, examines the historical geography and historical map of Uti Province. There are various biased views on the historical geography of the Uti province of early medieval Caucasian Albania in Arabic, Georgian, Byzantine and Armenian sources. It is very unfortunate that during the Soviet period, no attention was paid to the study of Azerbaijani historiography. Using this skillfully, Armenian and Georgian researchers tried to describe different regions of Azerbaijan as their own lands, falsifying the historical truth. What they say is refuted on the basis of archeological and written sources in this subchapter.

Chapter II is entitled **“Settlements and fortifications”**. In the

first subchapter “Urban settlements”, in the second subchapter “Rural settlements”, in the third subchapter “Fortresses and defense fortifications”, in the fourth subchapter “Grave monuments and memorial buildings”, in the fifth subchapter “Classification of archeological materials” are studied.

The first subchapter of Chapter II is entitled **“Urban settlements”**. This subchapter covers the archaeological study of early medieval settlements in the province of Uti. Urban-type settlements in Uti Province have emerged as a result of the sustainable development of their predecessors.¹⁵ The cities of Uti province, with many large administrative and commercial centers of craftsmanship, date back to antiquity. Some of them were originally built for military purposes, others served as settlements on the trade route, some were the residences of one or another ruler, and some appeared as centers of crafts. Some of the cities, on the other hand, combined all of the above features, that is, they became a residence, a military fortress, a shopping center, and a magnificent center of craftsmanship.¹⁶ Among such urban settlements, the monuments of Barda, Kagankat, Shortepe, Govurgala, Galatepe, Garakopektepe, Yedditepe, Ergi plain attract attention.

In the early Middle Ages, the location of Uti province at the crossroads of international trade routes also had a positive impact on the development of urban settlements. Arab geographers note the trade route from Barda to the south-east - through Beylagan, Ardabil to other cities in South Azerbaijan and Iran.¹⁷

It can be concluded that this trade route passed through the areas

¹⁵ Azərbaycan arxeologiyası: [6 cilddə] / Red.hey. sədri T.M.Dostiyev. – Bakı: Şərq-Qərb, – c. 6. – 2008. – 632 s.

¹⁶ Мамедова, Ф.Д. Кавказская Албания и Албаны / Ф.Д.Мамедова. – Баку: ЦИКА, – 2005. – 818 с.

¹⁷ Ибн Хордадбех, Книга путей и государств. См. / Караулов Н.А. Сведения арабских писателей о Кавказе СМОМПК, вып. XXXII. – Тифлис: – 1903, отд. I, – с. 5, 15.

where settlements such as Barda, Tartar, Aghdara, Aghdam, Fuzuli, Gubadli, Yaziduzu, Gorus, Sham, Urud, Vagudi, Agudi, Shagat (Shalak), Bazarchay, Zangazurchay pass, Daralayaz, Sharur, Sisajan, Dabil were located.

There are some gaps in this area due to the lack of accurate research on the names and locations of the first medieval cities and settlements in Uti province. Thus, researchers have expressed different opinions about the historical name of Govurgala. Armenian researchers unjustifiably noted that Govurgala was the city of Tigranakert, which allegedly existed in the territory of Caucasian Albania. Although S.G.Barkhudaryan based on S.Jalalyan and M.Barkhudaryan stated that the Govurgala monuments belonged to Tigranakert, according to the stone sarcophagus accidentally discovered by the collective farmers, no source he based on, mentions on Tigranakert name.

The inscription on the stone cover of the sarcophagus was read by the epigrapher S. Barkhudaryan and it was concluded that the tomb belonged to the brother of the Albanian tsar Hamam, who restored the Albanian kingdom in the early X century. The fact that an epitaph on the tombstone of the Albanian tsarist family was written in Armenian and in the Armenian alphabet can be explained by the fact that in the VII-VIII centuries the Caliphate defended all forces against Byzantium in the struggle for supremacy in the South Caucasus between the Byzantine Empire and the Arab Caliphate.¹⁸

If we will base on the fact that Armenian scholars themselves admit that the tomb belongs to a representative of the Albanian dynasty, then the opinions of Armenian scholars based on the results of archeological excavations in Agdam in recent years are also considered baseless. Thus, the location of the archeological excavations carried out during the occupation near the village of Tarnaut is called Tigranakert because it is not based on any historical source.

¹⁸Vahidov, R.M. Govurqalada arxoloji qazıntılar // R.M.Vahidov. AMM, VI cild, – Bakı: –1965. – s. 167-180

In recent years, the Armenian researcher H.Petrosyan gave nonsensical information about the discovery of the city of Tigranakert, built by Tigran in the 1st century BC, 10 km north of Aghdam. H.Petrosyan, who called the ruins of the fortress built by Karabakh khan Panahali khan in Shahbulag in 1751 as ancient Tigranakert, seems to be illiterate enough to distinguish between the monument of antiquity and the monument of the late Middle Ages. By liberating our lands from occupiers, Victorious Supreme Commander-in-Chief prevented the destruction of the history of Albania, having a special place in the history of the world and the Caucasus, as a result of illegal archeological excavations carried out by Armenian vandals and put an end to the Armenian Tigranakert myths.

As a result of archeological excavations, the remains of ancient buildings, remains of material culture used in household and economy, a large number of rare examples of material culture related to the field of art and crafts have been found in the best developed cities of Uti province in the early Middle Ages, in Barda, Kagankat, Galatapa, Shortepa, Ergi plain, Andarob settlement, Yedditepe, Garakopektepe, Govurgala. Research has shown that during the early Middle Ages, the inhabitants of the region had close economic and cultural ties with neighboring, as well as distant tribes and peoples. This gives us reason to say that in the early Middle Ages these cities were the developed cities of Uti province. Later it was collapsed at result of attacks by the Sassanids, Arabs, Byzantines and Mongols.

The second subchapter of Chapter II is called **“Rural settlements”**. In this subchapter, a special place is given to the study of the first medieval monuments such as Garatepe, Nagaratepe, Gala, Sov, Amirahmed. In general, in the early Middle Ages, Uti province had more rural settlements. Because the nature of Uti province is fertile black soil, favorable position has created conditions for the existence of many rural settlements here.

They are distinguished by the small size of the territory and the

weakness of the cultural strata. The dissertation provides detailed scientific information about the structure of rural settlements, the thickness of cultural layers, the obtained archeological materials.

The early medieval settlement called Sov or Popov gorge in Uti province is located 2 km west of the village of Janyatag in the Agdara region. Many material and cultural remains and tombstones were discovered in the 80s of the XX century during the construction and plowing of the land.

A large stone was found while the partially destroyed tomb was opened. The stone is 1.5 meters long and 35-40 cm wide. The stylistic man is depicted on the stone. Only the eyes and nose of the human head were made by drilling. His hands are bent at the elbows and folded towards his face, and he is depicted in a convex manner. The stone idol was placed in the Khan's palace in Shusha. This stone was also found in Malikmollali cemetery in Boyahmedli village of Aghdam region and in the place called Dallakli yali in that village.¹⁹

About 5-6 km south-west of the city of Kagankat, which the locals call simply "Gala", there are the remains of a village settlement and a large Albanian Christian cemetery in the forest area called Sarishin.²⁰ 3-4 km above the Kagankat fortress, in the eastern foothills of Murovdagh, the densely forested area is called "Gozlu village" by the locals. There is a thick forest with many walnut and beech trees in that area. 8-10 km above here, in the thick forests towards the foothills of Murovdagh, there are the remains of buildings and fences. The Toragaychay originates from this area, where the Charaberd fortress is located at the confluence of this river with the Tartar.

The Garatepe monument is located southeast of Barda. It con-

¹⁹Göyüşov, R.B. 1971-ci ildə Govurqalada (Ağdam rayonu) aparılmış arxeoloji qazıntıların hesabatı (əlyazma) // Azərbaycan SSR EA Tarix İnstitutu. İnv. № 1-43 20 s mətn, 13 foto və 4 tablo

²⁰Bağırzadə, C.V. "Kaçankat (Kalankatuk) şəhərinin tarixi-arxeoloji öçerki / C.V.Bağırzadə. – Bakı: Elm-təhsil, – 2013. – 83 s.

sists of a flat hill that is not very high. Due to its flat and smooth surroundings, this hill and the modern topographic mark placed on it can be seen from afar. Garatepe is not a mound, but a remnant of an ancient settlement, consisting entirely of a cultural layer.²¹ This shows that people have lived in the area where the monument is located for a long time. Over the centuries, new buildings were erected on top of the old ones, and they were replaced by other buildings.

As a result, an artificial mound was formed on the flat surface from construction debris, ash and coal seams, household and household waste. Remains of buildings made of raw bricks, hearths, tandoors, various household wells were discovered and studied in the upper cultural layer, which is 80 cm thick and belongs to the beginning of the early Middle Ages. Remains of a floor about 3x4 cm covered with clay plaster were also recorded here. These remains are believed to be the remains of a stick wicker house. One of the interesting construction materials found during the excavations is the heel of the door. Archaeological materials found at the site are not very numerous and are mainly represented by glazed and unglazed pottery.

Nagaratapa village type settlement is located in a plain area, 35 km south-east of the center of Babi village of Fizuli region, on the left bank of Araz river. This settlement is on the left side of the road passing through the village of Babi - about 2 km. The monument is also known by its name because of its appearance resembling a drum. No large-scale archeological excavations have been carried out at the monument, except for exploratory works.²² Remains of material culture, especially pottery, show that the monument is a rural settle-

²¹Исмизаде, О.Ш. Раскопки холма Каратепе в Мильской степи. // МИА. – 1965. №125, – с. 72-86.

²²Alməmmədov, X.İ., Quluzadə, N.V. Şeyx Babı Xanəgahında aparılmış arxeoloji qazıntılar // – Bakı: Azərbaycan Arxeologiyası və Etnoqrafiyası, – 2012, – s. 246-256.

ment of the III-IX centuries.

The third subchapter of Chapter II is called “**Fortresses and defense fortifications**”. This subchapter discusses the technical characteristics of the existing castles and fortifications in the province of Uti, the classification of sources of raw materials on the basis of archeological materials and the importance of defense-type buildings in the formation of urban areas. In the early Middle Ages, the reason for the emergence of these fortifications in the province of Uti was the process of concentration of land in the hands of different people. Later, large feudal lords, who could own large plots of land, became extremely wealthy and sought to subjugate their neighboring estates and thus expand their influence. Larger fortifications were also built for defense. Studies show that in the early Middle Ages, in the province of Uti, in addition to the castles belonging to individual feudal lords, larger castles of national importance were built. These fortresses were larger than the feudal fortresses. They housed permanent troops and had workshops for the production of weapons. Wells were drilled to store weapons and food supplies. Along with public buildings, residential houses were also built. Both permanent and hidden water supply wells, etc. were made. As a result of research, it was found out that such fortresses were Kagankat, Hirak, Garakopektepe and Yedditepe with strong defensive walls.

The fourth subchapter of Chapter II is entitled “**Tombstones and memorial buildings**”. Among the monuments of early medieval material culture, the study of tombstones and the observation of burial customs are of great importance. The fact that the region was under the influence of different empires at different times, the spread of several religions in the early Middle Ages, also led to the emergence of various burial customs. This idea is confirmed by the remains of material and cultural samples and tomb types, which reflect different burial customs. Burial customs are also of great importance in the study of the early Middle Ages in the province of Uti. The existence of

various types of tombstones in the province of Uti (Earth Graves, Stone Cases, Stone Boxes, Tombs) proves that the Tartar River Valley has been densely inhabited since ancient times. The reason for the existence of different burial customs in the area is due to the fact that the area was occupied by foreigners at different times. This is evidenced by the remains of material culture and tombstones, which reflect the burial customs found in the area from different periods. Uti province is very rich in various types of archeological monuments of the early Middle Ages. This is due, on the one hand, to the favorable natural and geographical conditions of the province of Uti, and, on the other hand, to a number of economic, socio-political and religious changes that have taken place here, as in all of Albania (ancient Azerbaijan) since the 4th century.²³

It was from the 4th century onwards that feudal relations were formed in the province of Uti, and Christianity became the state religion as the main ideology of feudalism, and religious fragmentation emerged. This led, on the one hand, to the fact that the remnants of the system of primitive religious ideas were still strong among the lower strata of the population, and, on the other hand, to the struggle between the three currents (monophysites, diophysites and Nestorians) within Christianity itself. Finally, after the occupation of Uti province by the Arabs in the 7th century, like all of Azerbaijan, all conditions were created for the spread of Islam among the majority of the population.

The relatively small Christian population living in the mountainous part of Uti province had to tie their religious destiny to the Armenian Gregorian Church. Accordingly, monuments of Islam in the plains and Eastern Christianity in the mountains parts were erected, which manifested itself in memorial buildings. It was during this

²³Халилов М.Дж. Раннесредневековые каменные ящики Хыныслы / Международная научная конференция «Кавказ: археология и этнология», Материалы конференции. – Баку: – 2009, – с. 237-243.

period that due to the widespread spread of Islam in the territory of Azerbaijan, unique structures of religious buildings were formed. One of the rapidly developing types of architecture in Azerbaijan during this period are tower tombs, the influence of Islamic culture is clearly reflected in this type of architectural monuments. Such monuments include the Barda Temple, the Tazakend Temple, the Kagankat Temple, the Great Arran (St. Jacob) Monastery, and the Govurgala Temple.

This monument has been studied at various times. A large part of the tomb complex and several graves have uncovered and studied during archaeological excavations. Research has shown that influential and well-known people of the time are buried here. Historical architectural monuments such as the Ahmadalis tomb and the Mirali tomb also contain the traditions of Muslim architecture.

In the fifth subchapter of Chapter II, **“Classification of archaeological materials”** is reflected. Thus, in this subsection, the samples of material culture found in the territory of Uti province were studied and a comparative analysis was carried out with the monuments of the same period.

Remains of material culture of the early medieval period of Uti province consisted mainly of unglazed pottery. However, near the end of the early Middle Ages, the production of glazed pottery began in the early IX century. In this regard, the pottery of the early Middle Ages is divided into the following types, mainly glazed ceramics. Includes big earthenware pots, sarnij, kheyra, dopu, clay jars, covers, lamps and other utensils.

Clay jugs. In Uti province, the neck of the jugs is long, the mouth is round, the body is slightly sloping, the vertical handle on the side is attached to the mouth of the bowl at the top and to the shoulder at the bottom, the seats are flat. The mouths of medium-sized jugs are large, the trunks are paunchy, the color is black, and the throat is slightly

wider towards the body.

Sarnij. Sarnij samples found in Uti province are mainly of medium size and simple pattern. They have a wide neck, two handles and a flat seat. Single-handed sarnij were also found in the Garakopektepe settlement.

Most of the sarnij are well-formed and smoothed. Due to their external shape, the sarnij have both single-handle and double-handle handles, the handles are adjacent to the edge of the bowl, the bodies are egg-shaped and the seats are flat.²⁴

Big earthenware pot. It is more common in Garakopektepe settlement in Uti province. Most of such pots from the first medieval monuments are elongated, with a paunchy body and a straight seat. Despite the fact that the bodies of the pots are paunchy and large, the seats are very small. The pots were mainly used to store food, wine, water and other liquids. Large pots without handles were buried in the ground, and pots with supports were placed inside the barn, in the corners of the rooms, and relocated if necessary.

Cans. Can is one of the most common clay pottery samples in the early Middle Ages. The small black, well-polished cans used for water are 9-10 cm high, 5-6 cm in diameter and 4-6 cm in the seat. The handles and mouths of some cans are not polished. The seats of this type of container with semicircular handles are flat and the bodies are paunchy.

Dopu. The detected dopu specimens have different shapes according to their appearance. They are mostly handleless, small and medium capacity. Dopu can be divided into two groups according to their appearance. The first group includes the throat with slightly choked, and the trunk should be paunchy. The second group consists of tall, narrow-necked, medium-sized dopu, which are patterned with circular lines parallel to each other by drilling. Their seat is flat.

²⁴Orucov, A.Ş. İlk orta əsrlərdə Azərbaycanca dulusçuluq / A.Ş.Orucov. – Bakı: Elm, – 1989. – 72 s.

Covers. Early medieval boilers, pots and glasses had their own covers. Just as the pottery found in residential and tombstones varies in variety and size, so do their covers.

Glasses. During the researches of Yedditepe and Garakopektepe settlements, various shaped glasses of IV-XIII centuries were found. They are mostly of medium capacity and equipped with a small handle.

Boilers. The boiler samples found in Uti province are mainly hemispherical in shape, most of them have a round flat seat. The boilers of the III-VIII centuries were mostly made by rough hand.²⁵ In the IX-X centuries, the number of single-shaped and glazed boilers increased. They are decorated with patterns consisting of wavy ornaments, beads and small holes. In later times, the boilers found were more embroidered on the shoulder. Chain supports, chain belts are typical for boilers of this period. Such boilers are mostly found in Garakopektepe.²⁶

Salt containers. Archaeological excavations in Uti province have uncovered a large number of well-made glazed and unglazed clay salt containers of various shapes. This widespread and widely used type of household ceramics is more common in the Garakopektepe settlement.

Zoomorphic vessels. Early medieval zoomorphic vessels in the province of Uti differ from other clay products in appearance and technique. Most of the zoomorphic vessels found resembled house animals. Some of them are made in the form of figures of birds and animals, while others have only the handle and mouth resembling an animal. In the Uti region, zoomorphic vessels have been found, albeit infrequently, in pottery from early medieval monuments. This type of

²⁵Ахмедов, Г.М. Неполivная бытовая керамика / Г.М.Ахмедов. Азербайджана. – Баку: АН Азерб. ССР, – 1959, – 189 с.

²⁶Исмаилов, Г.С. Поселение Каракепектере – древний памятник материальной культуры Азербайджана // – Баку: Азәрб.ССР ЕА Хәбәрләри, – 1969. №1, – с. 59-71.

clay pottery was found in Yedditepe settlement of Fizuli region.

This section provides a comparative analysis and analysis of material culture samples obtained during archeological excavations in the early Middle Ages from the lands surrounding the province of Uti.

Chapter III is called **“The early medieval economical life of Uti province”** and is divided into four subchapters. The first subchapter of Chapter III is called **“Agriculture”**. In the early Middle Ages, the natural and geographical conditions of the province of Uti, the availability of fertile land created favorable conditions for the development of agriculture. In the region where various cereals are grown, not only artificially irrigated arable lands, but also arable lands have been distinguished for their productivity.²⁷ Among the sowing and harvesting tools of this period, there are plow, wooden plough sickle, scythe, kavahin etc. Archaeological excavations revealed metal planting and harvesting tools, as well as the remains of wheat, barley, rice, millet, etc. are indicators of the level of agricultural culture in the region.

The second subchapter of the third chapter is called **“Horticulture and gardening”**. The use of plow promoted the development of ancillary industries such as gardening, horticulture and vegetable growing on the fertile lands of Uti province. Various tools used in horticulture and gardening were found in Barda, Kagankat, Shortepa, Yedditepe, Kultepe, Garakopektepe, Nagaratpepa. The expansion of artificial irrigation networks has created conditions for better development of these areas and increased productivity.

The third subchapter of Chapter III is called **“Cattle breeding”**. Osteological remains found during archeological excavations in this sub-chapter also prove that cattle-breeding is one of the main economic areas in this area. Thus, the natural and geographical conditions of Uti province created the basis for the development of pasture-winter cattle breeding here. Osteological remains found during

²⁷Cavadov, Q.C. Əkinçilik mədəniyyətinin sorağı ilə / Q.C.Cavadov. – Bakı: Maarif, – 1990. – 200 s.

archeological excavations show that sheep-breeding was of special importance in cattle breeding. The discovered osteological remains consist mainly of large and small horned animal bones. There were also livestock areas such as horse breeding and camel breeding.

The fourth subchapter of Chapter III is called **“Craftsmanship”**. In this half-chapter, during archeological excavations in the areas covered by Uti province, the production of ferrous and non-ferrous metals, stone grinding and stone carving, the formation of new art forms in the production of clay tableware, the study of fine glassware, woodworking, weaving, jewelry preparation, works with bone, etc. proved to be a significant advance in the fields of art.

The first paragraph of the fourth subchapter of Chapter III is called **“Pottery”**. In the early Middle Ages, pottery was one of the leading crafts in the Uti region. The study of pottery materials gives grounds to comment on the level of development of craftsmanship in the Uti region in the early Middle Ages.

Throughout history, numerous clay products have been produced in Azerbaijan. Products made of clay for carry of water (sahang, jurdak, jug, kuza, jar), water storage (squrgur, dolcha, parch, taygulp), for washing (aftafa, luleyin, fashir), kitchen utensils (cholmaq, small boilers, piti dopu, chilovsusan, halimdan), baking tools (kura, tandir, saj, mangal) differ by the abundance. The importance of studying the art of early medieval pottery in Azerbaijan is also due to the abundance of materials discovered during archeological excavations.

The second paragraph of the fourth subchapter of Chapter III is entitled **“Metal works”**. The partial shortage of metal products obtained during archeological excavations should be attributed to their erosion as they remained underground for a long time. Remains of metal products were obtained from most of the basins, both early medieval and advanced medieval monuments of the basin. Numerous pieces of iron and their origins dating back to the early Middle Ages are one of the main evidences of the development of metallurgy in the

province of Uti.

They consists of mainly household tools, works of art, various types of weapons, household items, numismatic materials, jewelry, livestock products and so on.

Blacksmithing. In the early Middle Ages, the main tools and weapons were made of iron. Iron was also widely used in construction, agriculture and household. Archaeological excavations in Barda, one of the important centers of the Uti region in the early Middle Ages, household utensils, utensils, various types of weapons, remains and numismatic evidence have revealed the development of metal works.²⁸

Coppersmithing. Caucasian Albania has historically been rich in underground and surface resources. In his work, Musa Kalankatuklu also informs about the richness of minerals in this Caucasian Albania. From this point of view, great opportunities were opened for the development of arts in Albania, especially in the province of Uti. During archeological excavations in Karabakh, Nakhchivan, Mingachevir, Gadabay, Gazakh, Ganja, etc. the existence of such works of art made of metal found in places confirms this. These findings prove the high level of craftsmanship in Albania.

The third paragraph of the fourth subchapter of Chapter III is entitled “**Manufacture of glassware**”. In this section, glass products found as a result of archeological excavations in Govurgala, Yedditepe, Barda, Kagankat have been studied. In the early Middle Ages, there was a glass-making sphere in Govurgala. Also, three glass perfume bottles were found in Barda. The surface of two of the pots is decorated with ribbed cones, and the other is plain. In some tombs, along with metal ornaments, natural beads and glass beads were found. The crowns of most of the rings found consist of small seals of various shapes. One of the rings has a double-headed eagle on the

²⁸ Nuriyev, A.B., Babayev Ə.H. Bərdə şəhərinin tarixi-oxeoloji oçerki (antik və orta əsrlərdə) / A.B.Nuriyev, Ə.H.Babayev. – Bakı: Nurlan, – 2001. – 182 s.

glass crown. Glass crowned rings also have images of wild animals.

Thus, the archeological excavations carried out allowed coming to valuable scientific conclusions, to discover scientific innovations on important pages of the history of the Uti region of Caucasian Albania in the early Middle Ages.

The following conclusions of the study are made:

- As a result of the first extensive and comprehensive study of the monuments of the III-IX centuries, the place of the area in the history of Azerbaijani Albania was determined (7).

- For the first time, the author studied the history and geography of Uti province, and its position in domestic and foreign trade. It was found that the location of the region of international importance on the trade route had a positive effect on relations (2; 10).

- In the early Middle Ages, it was concluded that the culture of Uti province developed steadily on the basis of cultural heritage and tradition.

- For the first time, as a result of a comprehensive study of early medieval monuments in the province of Uti, the reasons influencing the development of crafts, architecture and urban planning in the region were revealed. Local features in the field of pottery, metal works and glass production were revealed (4; 6; 9).

- The level of development of agriculture and cattle breeding in the region and the factors that cause it have been studied based on the results of archeological research.

- Based on the scientific analysis of the material and cultural remains found in the early medieval cultural strata of such monuments in Govurgala, Ergi plain, Garakopektepe, Yedditepe, Shortepa, Galatepe and others, the position of these settlements among the settlements of Caucasian Albania was determined (3; 5).

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

1. Qarabağın ilkin Orta əsr tarixinin mənbəşünaslığı // – Bakı: Bakı Dövlət Universiteti, Tarix və onun problemləri, – 2015. №3, – s. 261-267.

2. Bərdə erkən Orta əsrlərdə Qarabağ bölgəsinin inkişaf etmiş mərkəzlərindən biri kimi // – Bakı: Qarabağın Arxeoloji irsi. Beynəlxalq elmi konfransın materialları. – 2016, – s. 76-79.

3. Qafqaz Albaniyasının Uti vilayətinin Qalatəpə yaşayış məskəni // Gənc alimlərin II beynəlxalq elmi konfransı, – Gəncə: Gəncə Dövlət Universiteti, – 2017, – s. 127-128.

4. About research of some main early middle ages christian monuments of Azerbaijan (based on materials of Garabakh territory) // – Philadelphia, USA, Theoretical and Applied Science. – 2017. №12 (56), – p. 10-12.

5. О поселениях «Галатепе и шортепе» раннего средневековья провинции Ути // – Переяслав-Хмельницкий: Актуальные научные исследования в современном мире, – 2017. №11(31), – с. 61-66.

6. İlk Orta əsrlərdə Uti vilayətində dulusçuluq sənəti // – Bakı: AMEA, Tarix İnstitutu, Elmi Əsərlər, – 2018, cild:73, – s. 171-180

7. Историко-географические территории Албанской провинции Ути в раннем средневековье // – Кiyев: Гиля, – 2018. №11, – с. 192-196.

8. Erkən orta əsrlərdə Uti vilayətində yerləşən müdafiə istehkamları haqqında // – Bakı: Bakı Dövlət Universiteti, Tarix və onun problemləri, – 2018. №3, – s. 371-375.

9. Qaraköpəktəpə arxeoloji abidəsi // – Gəncə: Gəncə Dövlət Universitetinin Elmi Xəbərləri, – 2018. №3, – s. 272-276.

10. Источниковедение истории провинции Ути в раннем средневековье (III-IX вв.) // – Scientific Light (Wroclow, Poland). – 2018. №16, – с. 12-15.



The defence will be held on 12 June 2021 at 11⁰⁰ at the meeting of the Dissertation council ED 1.13 of Supreme Attestation Commission under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan operating at Nakhchivan Branch of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences.

Address: AZ 7000, Nakhchivan city, Heydar Aliyev avenue 76, Nakhchivan Branch of ANAS, main building, I floor, conference room.

Dissertation is accessible at the Nakhchivan Branch of ANAS Library.

Electronic versions of dissertation and its abstract are available on the official website of the Nakhchivan Branch of ANAS.

Abstract was sent to the required addresses on 05 may 2021.

Signed for print: 04.05.2021
Paper format: 60/84, 16/1
Volume: 281.665
Number of hard copies: 20