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**ABSTRACT**

of the dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

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

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Field of science: History

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## 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. If we were to consider the historico-geographic, ethnic-political, economic-social, and cultural picture of the Caucasian Albania, we will see that, as the most ancient states of the South Caucasus, the Caucasian Albania was a very strong country occupying the present day Republic of Azerbaijan, ancient Turkic lands – the Zangazur province, southern part of the Republic of Daghestan of the Russian Federation. This state has been recognized as the Caucasian Albania in the scientific literature for over two centuries and the term “Caucasian Albania” was brought into the scientific literature by Russian researcher A.Yanovski in 1846 for the first time.

The first written accounts of Albania are given in the ancient Greek, Latin, Armenian, Georgian, Syrian, and Arabic sources. The most accurate scientific-historical source about the Ancient Albania is the “History of Albania” by Albanian historian Musa Kalankatli.<sup>1</sup> 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

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<sup>1</sup>Kalankatlı, M. Albaniya tarixi / tərc. Z.M.Bünyadov. – Bakı: Elm, – 1993, – s. 235.

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.<sup>2</sup> 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

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<sup>2</sup>Piriyev, V.Z. Azərbaycan tarixi-siyasi coğrafiyası / V.Z.Piriyev. – Bakı: Müəllim, – 2006. – s. 148.

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, 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. Further, the fact that the research covers the medieval ages (III-IX centuries) is associated with the period of material-cultural remnants discovered during the archeological excavations in the territory covered by Uti province of the Caucasian Albania. Archaeological monuments of the Uti province of Caucasian Albania have been partially investigated by archaeologists, ethno-graphers, historians and others separately. The works of Arab authors Al-Istakhri, Al-Masudi, Ibn Hovgal and others contain information about the province of Uti.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup>Əliyeva, N.A. Azərbaycan Yaqut əl-Həməvinin əsərlərində / N.A.Əliyeva. – Bakı: Çarşıoğlu, – 1999. – 244 s.

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"<sup>4</sup> 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, Shortapa, Balatapa, are valuable in terms of studying this period. G.S.Ismayilzade's work "From the archeologist's field diary"<sup>5</sup> is valuable in terms of research of the region. The researcher's information on Garakopektepe 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 Garako-pek-tepe, constructions of different periods and countless material cultural samples.

Academician Z.M.Bunyadov's book "Azerbaijan in the VII-IX centuries"<sup>6</sup> 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

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<sup>4</sup>Göyüşov, R.B. Qarabağın keçmişinə səyahət / R.B.Göyüşov. – Bakı: Azərnəşr, – 1993. – 83 s.

<sup>5</sup>İsmayilzadə, Q.S. Arxeoloqun çöl gündəliyindən / Q.S.İsmayilzadə. – Bakı: Xəzər Universiteti, – 2009. – 202 s.

<sup>6</sup>Bünyadov, Z.M. Azərbaycan VII-IX əsrlərdə / Z.M.Bünyadov. – Bakı: Azərbaycan Dövlət Nəşriyyatı, – 1989. – 336 s.

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”<sup>7</sup> by G.M.Ahmadov, “Terror against historical and cultural monuments of Karabakh”<sup>8</sup> by T.R.Aliyev, “Caucasian Albania in the early Middle Ages”<sup>9</sup> by T.M.Mammadov, “History of glassware and production of Caucasian Albania”<sup>10</sup> by A.B.Nuriyev, “Pottery in Azerbaijan in the early Middle Ages”<sup>11</sup> by A.Sh. Orujov The works by M.J. Khalilov on Albanian residences (IV–X centuries)<sup>12</sup> and the works by K.K.Shukurov on chronological bibliography on the history of Azerbaijani Albanian studies (Caucasus) in the global research context<sup>13</sup> were used. The monographs, scientific articles and works of R.M.Vahidov’s “Mingachevir in III–VIII centuries”,<sup>14</sup> A.M.Mammadov’s “Ganja in IV–XIII centuries”,<sup>15</sup> G.A.Jabiyev’s “History and his-

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<sup>7</sup>Əhmədov, Q.M. Orta əsr Beyləqan şəhəri / Q.M.Əhmədov. – Bakı: Elm, – 1979. – 197 s.

<sup>8</sup>Əliyev, T.R. Qarabağın tarix və mədəniyyət abidələrinə qarşı terror // – Bakı: “Azərbaycan arxeologiyası” jurnalı, – 2007. №3-4, – s. 105-114.

<sup>9</sup>Məmmədov, T.M. Qafqaz Albaniyası ilk orta əsrlərdə / T.M.Məmmədov. – Bakı: Təhsil, – 2006. – 400 s.

<sup>10</sup>Nuriyev A.B. Qafqaz Albaniyasının şüşə məmulatı və istehsalı tarixi / A.B.Nuriyev. – Bakı: Elm, – 1981. – s. 168

<sup>11</sup>Orucov, A.Ş. İlk orta əsrlərdə Azərbaycanda dulusçuluq / A.Ş.Orucov. – Bakı: Elm, – 1989. – 72 s.

<sup>12</sup>Xəlilov, M.C Albaniyanın yaşayış yerləri (IV–X əsrlər) / M.C.Xəlilov. – Bakı: 2010. – 284 s.

<sup>13</sup>Şükürov.K.K.. Azərbaycan Albanşünaslığının (Qafqaz) tarixinə dair (Dünya üzrə tədqiqatlar kontekstində xronoloji bibliografiya ilə / K.K.Şükürov. – Bakı: – 2023. – 388 s.

<sup>14</sup>Vahidov, R.M. Mingəçevir III–VIII əsrlərdə / R.M.Vahidov. – Bakı: Azərbaycan EA Nəşriyyatı, – 1961. – 158 s.

<sup>15</sup>Məmmədov, A.M. Gəncəbasar IV–XIII əsrlərdə (tarixi arxeoloji tədqiqat) / A.M.Məmmədov. – Bakı: Elm, – 1993. – 203 s.

torical geo-graphy of Girdiman”,<sup>16</sup> H.A.Gasimov’s “Azerbaijani culture in the Middle Ages”<sup>17</sup> 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 researched topic of the thesis is made up of the distinct features of the medieval residences, grave monuments, defense structures, strongholds in the Uti province of the Caucasian Albania, including the material-cultural remnants found during the excavation works from other similar samples found in other provinces of Albania.

**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, construction, 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. This research primarily aims at drawing up the map of the archeological monuments of Uti province of the Caucasian Albania dating from the medieval ages, analyze them, give general idea of its material-cultural aspect, and trace development of its economic life (plowing, animal husbandry, craftsman-ship, trade).

**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 archaeological excavations in the early medieval monuments of the historical Uti region.

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<sup>16</sup>Cəbiyev, Q.C.Girdiman tarixi (IV-IX əsrlər) / Q.C.Cəbiyev. – Bakı: Şərq-Qərb, – 2010. – 616 s.

<sup>17</sup>Qasimov, X.A. Orta əsrlərdə Azərbaycan mədəniyyəti / X.A.Qasimov. – Bakı: Aspoliqraf, – 2008. – 448 s.

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.**

- Clarify its chronological or geographic location, objective study of historic events.

- determine the residences and archeological materials by chronological order, archaeology, and historical-ethnographic methods;

- formulate the scientific guidelines providing insight into the historical-geographic, social-economic, business and etc., aspects of labor tools, household items, religious-belief and etc, material-cultural samples available in the Uti province of the Caucasian Albania and carry out their complex investigation:

- research the Uti province first medieval ages town and village type residences from historical-archeological aspect;

- survey the early medieval grave monuments, defense structures, and strongholds in the Uti province and study the material-cultural samples discovered there during the archeological excavations;

- To investigate the economic and cultural relations of the Uti province of Caucasian Albania with other regions of the country in the early medieval period on the basis of archaeological materials;

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 thesis is the first generalized scientific research dedicated to studying the medieval ages cultural monuments of the Uti province of the Caucasian Albania. For the first time in history, the early medieval ages residences of Udi province has been grouped and comparatively analyzed, archeological maps drawn up, the town and village type residences studied, the fortresses, defense strongholds, grave monuments, the occupation of the Uti people, their craftsmanships, trade relations, and the religious monu-

ments have been investigated, and studied against written and archaeological material-cultural samples. The results of the archaeological excavations conducted by different archeologists have been generalized and the scientific scrutiny of all the above is one of the novelties of the research. Comparisons have been made with the materials of other first medieval ages monuments of the province and nearby countries at various times.

**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 key results of the scientific-research work titled "residences of Uti province of Albania in early medieval ages" was put to discussion at the "Medieval ages archaeology of Azerbaijan" of ANAS Archaeology and Anthropology Institute, published and disseminated among 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 thesis was done at "Medieval ages archaeology of Azerbaijan" of ANAS Archaeology, and Anthropology Institute, dis-

cussed 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 30.102 characters in Chapter I, 173.640 characters in Chapter II, 48.616 characters in Chapter III, and 21.692 characters in the final part, total 274.138 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. The territory of the state of Caucasian Albania was very large, starting from the Great Caucasus mountain range in the north, including the current Mil-Mugan plains in the south to the Araz River, Iberia in the west, and the Caspian Sea in the east. In the early Middle Ages, Albania had its own administrative-territorial management system (province-province-district). In the sources, Uti is sometimes mentioned as a province, sometimes as a province. Most likely, as an administrative and political center, Uti was a province.

Uti province, being one of the main provinces of Albania, was bordered by Paytakaran, Arsakh provinces and Kura River, and the province included ancient Ayniana, Khani, Anarika, as well as cities such as Khalkhal, Sogari, and ancient Barda.

The information given about the existence of ancient cities in Uti, which is the ancient territory of Karabakh, is confirmed by archaeological research conducted in Shortep (Barda), Govurgala (Aghdam), Garaköpaktepe (Fuzuli), Ergi settlement (Aghjabedi).

It was concluded that its modern historical geographical cover the territory of Tartar region, part of the territory of Aghdara, Agdam, Agjabedi, Barda, 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. Caucasian Albania - its historical geography and political history, being the object of research of our researchers and scientists from time to time, has been a “battleground” for providing solid answers to the baseless and non-scientific claims of our neighbors, and in the research work, the scientific research and logical conclusions of outstanding scientists are unequivocally supported based on this half-chapter, what they say is refuted based on archaeological and written sources.

These researches and scientific studies clearly prove that the modern Karabakh territory, the historical Uti and Arsak provinces of Albania were within the borders of Albania during the entire historical period. These lands were the historical-ethnic lands of the Azerbaijani Turks, the ancestors of the Azerbaijani people created material culture here for thousands of years and were its bearers. By using the sources cited in the research work, it is once again certain that Uti province occupied one of the main places in Caucasian Albania, both economically and politically.

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 and architectural monuments”, 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. Similar to the first medieval cities of other provinces of Azerbaijan, the first medieval cities of the Karabakh province, as known from archaeological research, mainly consisted of ichgala (naringala) and bayirgala (shehristan). The first medieval cities of Albania, including those located in the Uti province, were usually surrounded by castle walls. The inner gala (naringala) of the cities was also built in a circular form with high, gabled and turreted castle fences. This shows that cities have a double defense system. As a rule, the naringala part of the cities was built in the best place of the city territory, the most favorable from the point of view of defense. The buildings, water supply, and sewage system of the cities' orange groves were fundamentally different from other areas. Craftsmen and merchants lived mainly in the shehristan part of the cities. In addition to residential houses, markets, caravanserais, baths, various art workshops, and public buildings were located in the

county. The fact that the cities had such a structure was due to its administrative and social character. By grouping the first medieval cities of Azerbaijan, Z.Bunyadov mainly divided them into three categories: 1. cities with commercial and industrial centers, located on international transit trade routes. 2. cities with closed craft and trade centers located away from the main trade routes. 3. Village-type, i.e. agricultural cities, which are administrative centers of feudal provinces.<sup>18</sup> The Albanian scholar F.C.Mammadova also divided the first medieval cities into three categories, referring to the information provided by Moisey Kalankatuklu and based on the analysis of Z.M.Bunyadov.<sup>19</sup> T.M.Mammadov, the researcher of the early medieval period of Caucasian Albania, also divided them into three groups when talking about the first medieval cities of Albania.<sup>20</sup> Analyzing the first medieval cities of Albania, M.C. Khalilov divided them into five groups according to their structure.<sup>21</sup> In Albania, urban settlements were formed as a result of the continuous development of previous settlements.<sup>22</sup> Many large administrative and commercial craft centers in the Uti province were founded in ancient times. Some of them were originally built for military purposes, others played the role of an outpost on the trade route, some became the residence of

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<sup>18</sup>Bünyadov, Z.M. Azərbaycan VII-IX əsrlərdə / Z.M.Bünyadov. – Bakı: Azərbaycan Dövlət Nəşriyyatı, – 1989, – 336 s.

<sup>19</sup>Məmmədova F.C. Moisey Kalankatuklının “Alban tarixi” əsəri Qafqaz Albaniyasının ictimai quruluşu üzrə bir mənbə kimi / F.C.Məmmədova. – Bakı: Elm, – 1977. – 198 s.

<sup>20</sup>Məmmədov, T.M. Qafqaz Albaniyası ilk orta əsrlərdə / T.M.Məmmədov. – Bakı: Təhsil, – 2006, – 400 s.

<sup>21</sup>Xəlilov M.C Albaniyanın ilk orta əsrlər şəhər və qalalarının lokallaşdırılması problem / M.C.Xəlilov. – Bakı: – 2006.

<sup>22</sup>Azərbaycan arxeologiyası: [6 cildə] / Red.hey. sədri T.M.Dostiyev. – Bakı: Şərq-Qərb, – c.6. – 2008. – 632 s.

one or another ruler, and some emerged as craft centers.<sup>23</sup> Only one of the oldest cities of Karabakh, the city of Barda, whose foundation was laid in ancient times in the Uti province, continues its life intensively to this day. The city of Barda was formed in antiquity, underwent a certain development during the early and middle ages, reflected the important features of urban culture - the culture of urban planning, the living standards of the city population, the development of all types of art, and also led to the development of material culture.<sup>24</sup> The city of Barda stood at the center of major political events as a capital of the medieval ages country. Location at the intersection of the international trade routes of the Uti province in medieval ages had also positive impact upon the development of city type residences. Arabian geographists point to the trade route south-east from Barda that crossed Beylagan, Ardabil and ran to other cities of the Southern Azerbaijan and Iran.<sup>25</sup> Andarobu, Kagankati may be referred to as city type residences that transpired on such trade routes. 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.

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<sup>23</sup>Мамедова, Ф.Д. Кавказская Албания и Албаны / Ф.Д. Мамедова. – Баку: ЦИКА, – 2005, – 88 с.

<sup>24</sup>Наси́ев Q.Ə. Bərdə şəhəri coğrafi, siyasi və mədəni tarixi / Q.Ə.Наси́ев. – Bakı : Uniprint. – 2008, – 250 s.

<sup>25</sup>Vəlixanlı, N.M. Ərəb Xilafəti və Azərbaycan / N.M. Vəlixanlı. – Bakı: Azərnəşr, – 1993, – 157 s.

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.<sup>26</sup>

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

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<sup>26</sup>Vahidov, R.M. Govurqalada arxeloji qazıntılar / R.M.Vahidov. AMM, VI cild, – Bakı: – 1965. – s. 167-180

Middle Ages these cities were the developed cities of Uti province.

The second subchapter of Chapter II is called **“Rural settlements”**. Each settlement integrates a number of economic, socio-cultural and political regularities. Among the typical historical types of early medieval settlements widespread in Azerbaijan, village-type settlements were the main ones. Topographically, they were represented by riverside, plain, slope and forest village types. Most of the settlements belonging to the riverside villages are located on the high banks of the mountain rivers, while the forest villages are located in the clearings in the forest strips, on low hills. Most of the hillside villages are located on the well-insulated, wind-proof eastern and southern slopes of the mountain. In the early Middle Ages, the favorable location of Uti province with abundant sources of fresh water, as well as fertile and fertile black soil, created conditions for the good development of agriculture here. It is a historically formed settlement with permanent residential houses, farm buildings, courtyards, administrative, socio-cultural, religious centers, common pastures, agricultural fields, drinking water, a separate cemetery and characterized by the generality of the ethnic composition of the population belonging to the rural population. A rural settlement differs from an urban settlement. Thus, it differed according to the size of its territory and the thickness of the cultural layer (up to 1.5-3 m). Large village settlements in the Middle Ages included monuments of more than 3.5 hectares.<sup>27</sup>

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

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<sup>27</sup>Dostiyev, T.M. Şimal-şərqi Azərbaycan IX-XV əsrlərdə / – Bakı: Bakı Universiteti, – 2001, – 293 s.

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.<sup>28</sup> 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.<sup>29</sup> 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 consists 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.<sup>30</sup>

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 archaeological materials and the importance of defense-type buildings

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<sup>28</sup>Göyüşov, 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

<sup>29</sup>Bağırzadə, C.V. "Kaqankat (Kalankatuk) şəhərinin tarixi-arxeoloji öçərki / C.V.Bağırzadə. – Bakı: Elm-təhsil, – 2013. – 83 s.

<sup>30</sup>Исмизadə, О.Ш. Раскопки холма Каратепа в Мильской степи // МИА. – 1965. №125, – с. 72-86.

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. There were other reasons for building fortresses. It is an undeniable fact the most of the mountain passages in Azerbaijan had a gigantic feudal fortress. Namely therefore, there were fortresses of general country significance built alongside the fortresses belonging to different feudals in Uti province. Such fortresses would, as a rule, be built near the capital cities of the country, in a place favorable from military-strategic points<sup>31</sup> 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.<sup>32</sup> 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. there were such defense fortresses with strong defense walls such as Hirak, Hazırəhmədli, II Kurakchay, and Gulustan.

The fourth subchapter of Chapter II is entitled **“Tombstones and architectural monuments”**. Among the monuments of early medieval material culture, the study of tombstones and the observation of burial customs are of great importance. Thus, it is confirmed by the results of archaeological excavations that each historically existing settlement in Uti region has its own cemeteries. The research conduc-

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<sup>31</sup>Məmmədov, A.M. Gəncəbasar IV-XIII əsrlərdə (tarixi arxeoloji tədqiqat) / A.M.Məmmədov. – Bakı: Elm, – 1993, – 203 s.

<sup>32</sup>Göyüşov, R.B. Qarabağın keçmişinə səyahət / R.B.Göyüşov. – Bakı: Azərənşr, 1993, – 83 s.

ted in the graves belonging to residential areas is also of great importance in terms of studying the history of that period. 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. The first excavation works in the grave monuments located in the historical territory of Albania were started in 1880s.<sup>33</sup> R.Goyushov wrote the first special works on the first medieval grave monuments and burial rites of Albania. In 1958, an expedition led by R.Vahidov and R.Goyushov carried out excavations in Govurgala, Agdam area, and discovered pagan grave monuments from the early Middle Ages, as well as a stone sarcophagus in which the brother of the Albanian ruler Grigor Haman was buried.<sup>34</sup> In 1963, excavations were carried out in Zumurkhach village of Barda district and a stone sarcophagus was discovered.<sup>35</sup> In the 1970s, R.Goyushov excavated in the "Temple site" area of Barda city and Christian graves of the VII-VIII centuries were discovered.<sup>36</sup> In 1972-1973, under the leadership of G.S.Ismayilov, as a result of archaeological excavations in Yedditapa in Fuzuli, 25 stone boxes and one earthen grave (from III-VI centuries) were discovered and studied.<sup>37</sup>

Burial customs are also of great importance in the study of the

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<sup>33</sup>Xəlilov, M. Albaniyanın qəbir abidələri: IV–X əsrlər / M.Xəlilov. – Bakı: – 2009, – s. 179

<sup>34</sup>Göyüşov, 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.

<sup>35</sup>Xəlilov, M. Albaniyanın qəbir abidələri: IV–X əsrlər / M.Xəlilov. – Bakı: – 2009. – s. 179.

<sup>36</sup>Геоушев, Р.Б. Христианство в Кавказской Албании / Р.Б.Геоушев. – Баку: ЭЛМ, – 1984. – 192 с.

<sup>37</sup>İsmayılzadə, Q.S. Arxeoloqun çöl gündəliyindən / Q.S.İsmayılzadə. – Bakı: Xəzər Universiteti, – 2009, – 202 s.

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. 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 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.

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. Most of the discoveries comprise Lionless pottery items, stone, metal articles. The lion reflecting pottery items began to be produced beginning from early IV century near the end of the medieval age. In this connection, the pottery items dating from the first medieval ages divide as follows as ceramic materials: jugs, jugs, jars, bottles, lids, lamps and other containers. Zoomorphic containers were also investigated. 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. Such rich examples of material culture were found and analyzed in the settlements of Barda, Shortape, Garaköpaktepe, Yedditepe, Govurgala, Kagankat, etc.

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. The Greek author Starbon also noted that the silt formed when the Kura and other rivers overflowed made the land very fertile and produced abundant crops. S.M.Ghaziyev writes that after the overflowing of Kura and Alazan rivers, people are planting melons, millet and paddy in the silted places.

In agriculture, in addition to drum farming, in the foothills and partly in the mountainous regions, ditches are used, and in the lowland

regions (Mil-Karabakh and Mugan plains) irrigated through canals (Govurax) drawn from the Kura and Araz rivers, i.e., based on artificial irrigation, are also widespread. not the artificially irrigated fields, but also the places where the wheat was planted were selected for their productivity<sup>38</sup>. Among the sowing and harvesting tools of this period were yoke, khish, sickle, dariyaz, kavahin, etc. there is Metal planting and harvesting tools, as well as wheat, barley, rice, millet, etc., were discovered during the archaeological research.<sup>39</sup> Remains 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. This has been reported in many valuable sources. For example, in the notes of the famous Arab traveler Abu Dulaf, it is emphasized that the pomegranate variety grown on the banks of the Araz River does not exist in any country. At the same time, Ibn Havqal mentions the names of garden plants such as “chestnut”, “cranberry” and “fig” grown in the ancient city of Barda.<sup>40</sup> In the historical source “Ajaib ad-dunya”, the author of which is unknown, pomegranates, figs, mulberries, etc. are found in Beylagan and its surrounding areas. it is mentioned that the fruits are grown. In that source, it is mentioned that a large amount of sweet pomegranates were exported from Barda, which is a part of Uti province and one of the main production centers.<sup>41</sup>

Grapes were one of the widely cultivated crops in Albania, as

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<sup>38</sup>Bünyadov, T.Ə. Azərbaycanca əkinçiliyin inkişaf tarixinə dair / T.Ə.Bünyadov. – Bakı: Elm, – 1964, – 447 s.

<sup>39</sup>Cavadov, Q.C. Əkinçilik mədəniyyətinin soracağı ilə / Q.C.Cavadov. – Bakı: Maarif, – 1990, – 200 s.

<sup>40</sup>Hacıyev Q.Ə. Bərdə şəhəri coğrafi, siyasi və mədəni tarixi / Q.Ə.Hacıyev. – Bakı: Uniprint. – 2008, – 250 s.

<sup>41</sup>Əhmədov Q.M. Orta əsr Beyləqan şəhəri / Q.M.Əhmədov. – Bakı: Elm, – 1979, – 197 s.

well as in the Uti region, in the early Middle Ages. Talking about his trip to Azerbaijan in the first quarter of the 13th century, Yagut Hamavi wrote: *"I have never seen as many gardens as here"*.<sup>42</sup> The information provided by the written sources on the development of viticulture in Albania is also confirmed by the material samples discovered during the archaeological excavations conducted at the same time. A lot of grape stones were found from the cultural layers dating from the medieval ages as a result of the archeological excavations in Beylagan territory. Albanian historian M. Kalankatli notes that there were high quality wine of high quality produced in huge amounts in Azerbaijan in medieval ages.<sup>43</sup> Various tools used in horticulture and gardening were found in Barda, Kagankat, Shortepa, Yedditepe, Kultepe, Garakopektepe, Nagaratepa. The expansion of artificial irrigation networks has created conditions for better development of these areas and increased productivity.

The third sunchapter of Chapter III is called **"Cattle breeding"**. The main occupation of the population in the medieval ages was animal husbandry. Animal husbandry was the second most important occupation that emerged and developed on the cultural-historical level of early societies in the territory of Azerbaijan.<sup>44</sup> Development of this field alongside other fields of Azerbaijan organically related to the natural-geographic setting. The factors driving development of animal husbandry in the province was due to major interest of the people to this area. So there was huge demand on meat, wool, leather, milk, butter and etc, animal products among the people.<sup>45</sup>

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<sup>42</sup>Əliyeva, N.A. Azərbaycan Yaqut əl-Həməvinin əsərlərində / N.A.Əliyeva. – Bakı: Çarşıoğlu, – 1999, – 244 s.

<sup>43</sup>Kalankatlı, M. Albaniya tarixi / tərc. Z.M.Bünyadov. – Bakı: Elm, – 1993, – s.235.

<sup>44</sup>Məmmədov, A.M. Gəncəbasar IV-XIII əsrlərdə (tarixi arxeoloji tədqiqat) / – Bakı: Elm, – 1993, – 203 s.

<sup>45</sup>Məmmədov, T.M. Qafqaz Albaniyası ilk orta əsrlərdə / T.M.Məmmədov. – Bakı: Təhsil, – 2006, – 400 s.

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”**. Originating from the Neolithic period, pottery has undergone a development path for thousands of years and has become the most massive production area, changing from one form to another. This field of craftsmanship is closely related to the cultural and domestic life of the people as it serves the broadest daily needs of the city and its surrounding population. The study of the archaeological materials found in the monuments of the early Middle Ages of Azerbaijan allows to study the stage of development of the art of pottery, which occupied a certain place in the economy of the population of Azerbaijan in the early Middle Ages, and its characteristics. Early medieval clay, which is better preserved in its shape and composition than other archaeological materials, is different from the earlier and later clay.<sup>46</sup> Pottery refers to products made from clay. A. Mustafayev divides the production of clay products into such fields as pottery, brick cutting, plastering and tiling.<sup>47</sup> 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,

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<sup>46</sup>Bünyadova, Ş.T. XII-XVI əsrlərdə Azərbaycanda dulusçuluq sənəti haqqında // – Bakı: Azərbaycan arxeologiyası jurnalı, – 2013. c. 16, № 2, – s. 72-81.

<sup>47</sup>Mustafayev A.H. Azərbaycanda sənətkarlıq, (tarixi-etnoqrafik tədqiqat) / A.H.Mustafayev. – Bakı: Altay, – 1999, – 440 s.

jar), water storage (squrgur, dolcha, parch, taygulp), for washing (af-tafa, 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.<sup>48</sup> Pottery obtained from the lower layer during the excavations in Barda city belongs to the III-VIII centuries. Pottery obtained from here consists of household and economic vessels, construction materials, as well as partially zoomorphic vessels and children's toys.<sup>49</sup> Unglazed household and household utensils are the most common in pottery products. Examples of pots found in the Uti region are mainly hemispherical in shape, most of them have a circular flat seat. Such cauldrons were mostly found in Garaköpaktepe.<sup>50</sup> In later times, the pottery craft took a completely new look with the formation of Muslim culture, and became the most obvious and widespread field of applied art.

The second paragraph of the fourth subchapter of Chapter III is entitled "Metal works". They are the main standard tools for clarifying any socio-economic situation of human society. Here, the forms of labor tools used by people do not play such a major role. What matters is what the tools are made of. Human society is divided into the stone, copper-stone, bronze and iron ages according to the materials of which the labor tools are made. 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. Archaeolo-

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<sup>48</sup>İbrahimov, F.Ə. Azərbaycanın orta əsr şəhərlərində metalışləmə sənəti / F.Ə.İbrahimov. – Bakı: Elm, – 1988, – 176 s.

<sup>49</sup>Nuriyev, A.B., Babayev Ə.H. Bərdə şəhərinin tarixi-örxeoloji öçərki (antik və orta əsrlərdə) / A.B.Nuriyev, Ə.H.Babayev. – Bakı: Nurlan, – 2001, – 182 s.

<sup>50</sup>Исмаилов, Г.С. Поселение Каракепектере – древний памятник материальной культуры Азербайджана // – Bakı: Azərb.SSS EA Xəbərləri, – 1969, № 1, – s. 59-71.

gical 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. 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”**. According to R.M.Vahidov, it might be better to relate the glass containment production in Azerbaijan to newly emerging feudal production and it belongs to III-IV centuries.<sup>51</sup> The territory of Albania is rich in quartz sand deposits, refractory clays, fuel for its cooking, and raw materials for obtaining various colors used in glass painting.<sup>52</sup> In the early Middle Ages, there was a glass-making sphere in Govurgala. That is why it can be said that the vessel is only an example of local glass production. At the same time, there are similar examples of the discovered glass containers, which are among the most reliable scientific evidences for local production. Also, three glass perfume containers were found in Barda area. The surface of two of the vessels is decorated with ribbed conelure, and the other is a saya. In 1975, G.Ismayilzade discovered two examples of glass vessels during the archaeological excavations conducted in Yedditape area of Fuzuli region, belonging to the early

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<sup>51</sup>Vahidov, R.M. Mingəçevir III-VIII əsrlərdə / R.M.Vahidov. – Bakı: Azərbaycan EA Nəşriyyatı, – 1961. – 158 s.

<sup>52</sup>Nuriyev, A.B. Qafqaz Albaniyasının şüşə məmulatı və istehsalı tarixi / A.B.Nuriyev. – Bakı: Elm, – 1981. – 168 s.

medieval period. Most of the rings that have been found have seals on their eyebrows. A double-headed eagle was depicted on the glass of one of the rings. Another ring, carved entirely from transparent mountain rock, depicted a priest with a long robe with raised hands.<sup>53</sup> 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. Epigraphic monuments (stone sarcophaguses) were mostly encountered in Karabakh territory. Masters from Kagankat city were skillfull masons and carving masters well-knowlegeable in construction works. One may see from the fortress construction, curved stones and sarcophaguses. The epigraphic monuments in Kagankat city primarily compose grave stones.<sup>54</sup>

As in many other places, emergence and development of weaving in a place where wool, silk, and cotton was produced in Karabakh region was inevitable.<sup>55</sup> Depending on the weaving artistic tradition, raw materials (wool, silk, cotton), decorations and household items are woven in different ways, with different compositional decorations. This is proved by the examples of material culture found as a result of archaeological excavations. The conducted written and archeological researches have made it possible to reach the following important scientific conclusions. Thus, we can say that in the early Middle Ages, the topic of the settlements of the Uti region of Albania was widely studied for the first time, and our material culture was summarized and studied on the basis of archaeological and written sources. For the first time, the monuments of early medieval settlements of Uti provin-

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<sup>53</sup>Исмаилов Г.С., Даниелян О.А. Итоги археологических исследований 1975 года в междуречье Гуручай и Кенделенчай // АЭИА (1975 г.). – Баку: Элм, – 1978, – с. 19-21.

<sup>54</sup>Bağırzadə, C.V. Ağdərə IV–XIII əsrlərdə (tarixi-arxeoloji tədqiqat) / C.V.Bağırzadə. – Bakı: Elm-təhsil, – 2014, –126 s.

<sup>55</sup>Hacıyev Q.Ə. Bərdə şəhəri coğrafi, siyasi və mədəni tarixi / Q.Ə.Hacıyev. – Bakı: Uniprint. – 2008, – 250 s.

ce were grouped and comprehensively analyzed, the history-geography (7), political history of Uti province was investigated, urban-type and village-type settlements were studied (2; 5; 9), fortresses, defense fortifications (8), grave monuments, Uti The economic life, crafts, trade relations, and religious monuments of the population of the province were studied on the basis of written and archeological material culture samples (6).

For the first time, the author prepared a map of the territories covered by the Albanian province of Uti in the early Middle Ages and in modern times. From the study of the settlements of the Uti province of Albania in the early Middle Ages, it can be concluded that the area played an important role in the economic, cultural and political life of the Azerbaijani people in the early Middle Ages, being located on an important trade and caravan route (10).

For the first time, the results of the archaeological research conducted in the first medieval monuments of the region and neighboring areas were summarized and passed through a scientific filter, and the place of Uti in the history of Caucasian Albania was determined.

In the end, it should be noted with a sense of infinite pride that the 44-day Patriotic War conducted on September 27-November 10, 2020 and our local anti-terrorist operation on September 19-20, 2023 under the leadership of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Supreme Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev, as a result of the heroism of our glorious Army, all our occupied territories - including the territories included in the Uti province of historical Caucasian Albania (Azerbaijan) - were freed from occupation. Although many settlements were destroyed during the occupation and serious damage was caused to our material and moral heritage, our victory will allow us to resume research work in the liberated areas and obtain reliable historical facts.

**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) // – Pliladelphia, USA, Theoretical and Applied Sciense. – 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.

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