

REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

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ABSTRACT

of the dissertation for the degree of Doctor of History

**POLITICAL AND MILITARY ACTIVITIES OF NADIR
SHAH AFSHAR AND HIS REFORMS
(BASED ON SOURCES IN PERSIAN LANGUAGE)**

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I. GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DISSERTATION

Relevance and development of the subject. The investigation of the versatile activities of Nadir Shah - the great son of the Azerbaijani people, brilliant commander of the Late Middle Ages, who created a huge empire, the statesman, called “Napoleon of the East” by the English historian L.Lockhart, and who left an indelible trace in the history of Azerbaijan, Iran and the Near East, is of great scientific importance. It should be noted that the great Afshar ruler, among other merits, was a prominent reformer who overtook time in terms of modernization of his ideas. His efforts to change radically the spiritual situation in the Muslim world, or in a broader context, to reform the Islamic religion, as well as his efforts to establish interreligious communication, were truly innovative and unparalleled in the medieval history of the Muslim peoples; in fact, if these efforts were realized they would have presented a kind of Muslim Reformation. Nadir Shah is one of those historical personalities who, sometimes at the level of intuition, having caught the logic of historical processes, rise to the summit of his time. Thanks to such figures, history sometimes makes incredible zigzags, revealing unprecedented opportunities to move forward.

Nadir Shah’s personality and his versatile activities as we have noted, attracted the interest of researchers, historians, diplomats and writers from different countries. In the first half of the 18th century, rich literature was devoted to the history of Iran and Azerbaijan as a whole, as well as to the activities of Nadir Shah, a key figure of that era. Conditionally, the English- language, Iranian, Soviet (hereinafter - Russian) and Turkish historiography can be distinguished on this issue. Before the examination of foreign historiographic literature, first of all, we would like to deal with the achievements of national historiography on this problem.

As it is known, the scientist of encyclopedic knowledge of the first half of the 19th century Abbasgulu Aga Bakikhanov is the founder of Azerbaijan scientific historiography, and his work “Gulistan-i Iram”, as the academician Z.M.Bunyadov neatly pointed,

is the first academic monograph¹. The fourth chapter of this work touches on the course of events during both the decline and the collapse of the Safavi State, and the reign of Nadir Shah. Despite some inaccuracies, this work is still of historiographic and source significance.

In V.N.Leviatov's monograph² on the history of Azerbaijan in the 18th century, the years of Nadir Shah's reign is considered separately, in Chapter IV. Since this work is of an essay nature, and certain historical plots are presented in a rather generalized way, the period of the Afshar ruler is also given only in general terms. Leviatov strictly follows the canons of the characterization of Nadir Shah by Soviet historical science. The latter is presented to the readers as a cruel tyrant of the Middle Ages, who, in spite of the circumstances, seeks to establish his unlimited power.

A great contribution to the study of the history of Azerbaijan during the period under study was made by Azerbaijani scientists in the 1950s-80s. In this regard, special mention should be made to the monographic researches of F.M.Aliyev,³ H.Abdullayev,⁴ A.Abdurahmanov.⁵ These works are distinguished by a comprehensive approach to the history of not only Azerbaijan, but also other countries in the South Caucasus. In these works, the authors considered the activities of Nadir Shah from the viewpoint of historical processes taking place in Azerbaijan, which helped us to better understand some issues of the history of Nadir Shah's State. At the same time, it should be noted that the works of Azerbaijani

¹ Бакиханов А.А. Гюлистан-и-Ирам / Ред., коммент., прим. и указ. акад. З.М. Буниятова. Баку: ЭЛМ, 1991, 305с.

² Левиатов В.И. Очерки из истории Азербайджана в XVIII в. Баку: Изд-во АН Аз.ССР, 1948, 227 с.

³ Алиев Ф. Антииранские выступления и борьба против турецкой оккупации в Азербайджане в первой половине XVIII века. Баку: ЭЛМ, 1975, 231с.; его же, Азербайджано-русские отношения (XV-XIX вв). Ч. 1. Баку: ЭЛМ, 1985, 173 с.

⁴ Абдуллаев Г.Б. Из истории Северо-Восточного Азербайджана в 60-80-х гг. XVIII в. Баку: Изд-во АН АССР, 1958, 211с.

⁵ Абдурахманов А. Азербайджан во взаимоотношениях России, Турции и Ирана в первой половине XVIII в. Баку: Изд-во АН Азерб. ССР, 1964, 97 с.

authors of the Soviet period also have a negative assessment of Nadir Shah. This was due to the general ideological orientation of Soviet historiography. In such studies, the focus has been on glorifying Russia's more advanced mission in the region, and this often opposed to historical facts. Also in these works, Nadir Shah was presented as the ruler of Iran, which meant that he was removed from the list of the personalities in the history of Azerbaijan.

L.I.Yunusova's work⁶ provides us with valuable information about Britain's policy in the Caspian Sea basin in the 30-40s of the 18th century. This monograph is notable for the fact that in many cases, for the first time in the history of Azerbaijan, the works of English authors are analyzed in detail.

T.T.Mustafazadeh's⁷ works represent a new stage in the development of certain problems of the period under consideration. The author's research, free from the ideological orientations of previous (Soviet) historical science, sheds light on the geopolitical competition of the great powers in the region in the first half of the 18th century, the domestic and foreign political situation on the eve and during the collapse of the Safavi State, military political processes taking place in the South Caucasus and Azerbaijan. In the author's last monograph dedicated to the personality of Nadir Shah, the great commander appears before the eyes of readers as an ardent patriot of his country.

⁶Юнусова Л. И. Торговая экспансия Англии в бассейне Каспия в первой половине XVIII века. Баку: ЭЛМ, 1988, 158 с.

⁷ Мустафазаде Т.Т. Азербайджан и русско-турецкие отношения в первой трети XVIII века / Т.Мустафазаде. Баку: ЭЛМ, 1993, 240с.; Mustafazadə T.T. XVIII yüzillik – XIX yüzilliyin əvvəllərində Osmanlı-Azərbaycan münasibətləri. Bakı: Elm, 2002, 372 s.; Yenə onun (Y. Mahmudovla həmmüəlliflikdə). Nadir Şah Əfşar [Mətn] : tarixin gedişini dəyişdirən dahi sərkərdə / Y. Mahmudlu [layihə rəhbəri], T. Mustafazadə. – Bakı: [Turxan NPB], – 2019. – 247 s.; Yenə onun, XVIII əsrin II rübündə Xəzəryanı regionda beynəlxalq münasibətlər və Nadir şah Əfşarın diplomatiyası. Bakı: Optimist MMC, - 2022. – 311 s.

Among the young researchers, first of all, the works of N.R.Ghozalova should be mentioned. In her monograph⁸ and articles⁹, the author, based on the English-language historiography, examines in detail various aspects of the Afshar ruler's activities, including Nadir Shah's attempts to create a navy in the Caspian Sea, his relations with neighboring countries, the policy of the British Empire in Azerbaijan during the reign of Nadir Shah, etc. E.I.Husseinov's monograph¹⁰ describes the socio-economic policy of Nadir Shah, which caused a number of uprisings in Azerbaijan.

In 2010, a rather voluminous monograph by military historian M. Suleymanov about Nadir Shah, written with reference to a wide range of works by Persian-speaking authors, was published in Tehran¹¹. M.Fizuli Institute of Manuscripts of ANAS published Nadir Shah's¹² correspondence in 2007. It includes correspondence of Nadir Shah with various rulers (the Ottoman sultan, Indian Padishah, ruler of Khwarazm), as well as with his officials. In 2015, this book was republished with significant additions¹³.

European sources – diaries, travel notes, descriptions of travelers and merchants from Europe, works of Christian missionaries - are of great importance¹⁴ to disclose our research subject. Despite the

⁸ Гезалова Н.Р. Вопросы истории Азербайджана XVIII в. (на основе сведений англоязычных источников и историографии). Баку - Москва : ИРИС Групп, 2010, 241, с.

⁹ Гезалова Н.Р. Попытки Надир Шаха Афшара по созданию военно-морского флота на Каспийском море// Известия Азербайджанского Государственного Педагогического Университета, №3, 2006, с. 183-194; Политика Британской империи в Азербайджане во время правления Надир Шаха Афшара // Вестник Дагестанского Государственного Университета, Серия: история, педагогика, психология, 4 выпуск, 2013, с.33-38

¹⁰Hüseynov E. İ. Azərbaycan Nadir şah Əfşarın hakimiyyəti dövründə. Bakı: Elm, 2013, 223 s.

¹¹Süleymanov M. S. Nadir şah. [Tehran]: [Neqare Endişe], 2010, 740 s.

¹² Nadir şah Əfşarın məktublaşması. Nəşrə hazırlayan, ön sözün müəllifi və şərhlərin müəllifi R. Şeyxzamanlı. Bakı: Nurlan, 2007, 62 s.

¹³Nadir şah Əfşar: diplomatik yazışmalar. Bakı: Sərq-Qərb nəşriyyat evi, 2015, 224 s.

¹⁴ Fraser, James. The History of Nadir Shah, Formerly Called Thamas Kuli Khan, the Present Emperor of Persia / J. Fraser. – London: Printed by W. Strahan, – 1742.

known political commitment and some bias, these works provide comprehensive information about the socio-economic and political life of Iran and Azerbaijan in the first half of the 18th century, the internal structure of the Afshar State, and Nadir Shah's foreign policy. These sources significantly reveal the political motives and economic goals of European circles in their relations with the government of Nadir Shah.

Volume 2 of Sir John Malcolm's work on the history of Iran ("The History of Persia from the Most Early period to the Present Time")¹⁵, which we use when studying Nadir Shah's relations with Mughal India, is of great importance. J.Malcolm (1768-1833), who served as an officer in armed forces of the East India Company in India and Iran, published his work in 1815.

L.Lockhart's "Nadir Shah: A Critical Study Based Mainly upon Contemporary Sources"¹⁶, published in London in 1938, is still considered a fundamental research. It was the first monographic research to comprehensively study the reign of Nadir Shah, based on the author's modern documentary and narrative sources. Lockhart's next study, "The Fall of the Safavi Dynasty and the Afghan Occupation of Persia"¹⁷ was published in 1958. It is appropriate to mention here that the scientist devoted 20 years of research work to

– 234, [6], 48 p.; Hanway J. An Historical Account of the British Trade over the Caspian Sea: with the Author's Journal of Travels from England through Russia into Persia and Back Through Russia, Germany and Holland. Vol. I-IV. London: 1762; A Cronicle of the Carmelits in Persia and the Papal Mission of the XVIIth and XVIIIth Centuries, in 2 Volumes, Eyre & Spottiswoode, London 1939; Krusinsky, J.Th. The History of the Late Revolutions in Persia: taken from Memoirs of Father Krusinski, Procurator of the Jesuits at Ispahan, - Vol. 2, - London: Golden Back. - 1740 – 199 p.

¹⁵Malcolm J. The History of Persia from the Most Early period to the Present Time, vol. II, London: John Murray, 1815. 589 p.

¹⁶ Lockhart L.L., Nadir Shah. A Critical Study Based Mainly upon Contemporary Sources. London, Luzac & Co, 1938, 344 p.

¹⁷ Lockhart L, The Fall of the Safavi Dynasty and the Afghan Occupation of Persia, - Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1958. – 584 p.

this subject. This monograph is chronologically precedes his previous work dedicated to Nadir Shah.

Volume 7 of the famous multi-volume “The Cambridge History of Iran”, covering the years 1722-1979 (from Nadir Shah to the Islamic Revolution)¹⁸ is of particular interest in terms of disclosure our subject.

Among the contemporary researches we should mention the work of the American historian E.Tucker “Nadir Shah’s Quest for Legitimacy in Post-Safavid Iran” (2006)¹⁹. There, Nadir Shah’s policy for achieving the legitimacy of his power was elucidated in detail. Many subjects of this monograph are continued in E.Tucker’s articles²⁰.

The researches of the British scholar M.Axworthy, and first of all, his monograph “The Sword of Persia Nader Shah, From Tribal Warrior to Conquering Tyrant” dedicated to Nadir Shah, is of great interest²¹. The author presents a new interpretation of the image of Nadir Shah, referring to the materials and sources of modern Persian-language and European authors of the time. He tries to reveal Nadir Shah as a man with all his weaknesses. The above-mentioned monograph of M.Axworthy was translated into Azerbaijani and published in 2018²². In his article dedicated to Nadir’s army, M.Axworthy examines the military reforms of the Afshar ruler as

¹⁸ The Cambridge History of Iran from Nadir Shah to the Islamic Republic, vol. 7, ed. P.Avery, G. Hambly, Ch. Melville, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2003, 1072 p.

¹⁹ Tucker E., Nadir Shah’s Quest for Legitimacy in Post-Safavid Iran, University Press of Florida, 2006, 150 p.

²⁰ Tucker E., Nadir Shah and Ja’fari Madhab Reconsidered, in Iranian Studies vol. 27, 1-4, (1994), pp. 163-79; The Peace Negotiations of 1736: A Conceptual Turning Point in Ottoman-Iranian Relations, Turkish Studies Association Bulletin, Vol. 20, No. 1, Spring 1996, pp. 16-36

²¹ Axworthy M. The Sword of Persia Nader Shah, From Tribal Warrior to Conquering Tyrant, London-New York: I.B. Tauris, 2006, 348 p.

²² Aksvörtlü, M. İranın qılınıcı. Nadir şah: qədayfa döyüşçüsündən fəth müstəbidi qədər. – Bakı: Şərq-Qərb, - 2018. – 400 s.

reforms that could potentially lead to broader social and economic changes²³.

The monographs of the Dutch historian W.Floor²⁴ contain useful material for our work. Based on a wide range of primary sources, these studies provide a rigorous analysis of Iran's economic life over a long period of time, as well as its tax and financial systems.

While working on the essence of Nadir Shah's religious policy, H.Enayat's article "Shi'ism and Sunnism" in the book "Shi'ism. Doctrines, Thoughts and Spirituality" (1988)²⁵ was of great help. Undoubtedly, H.Algar's article "Shi'ism and Iran in the Eighteenth Century"²⁶.contributed to the disclosure of the issue of the Ja'fari Madhab, which was proposed by Nadir Shah when he came to power in 1736.

Summing up the review of the English-language historiography, we would like to note that in the works of many Western historians, the state and army created by Nadir Shah are classified as Persian, which is fundamentally contrary to historical truth.

There is relevant Turkish historical literature on issues we are interested in. Numerous aspects of relations between the State of Nadir Shah and the Ottoman Empire were considered in the works of I.Kh.Uzuncharshily²⁷, A.Jafar Pour²⁸, S.Ari²⁹, A.Atesh³⁰,

²³Axworthy M. The Army of Nader Shah // Iranian Studies, volume 40, Number 5, December 2007, pp. 635-646

²⁴Floor, Willem, ed. and trans. The Afghan Occupation of Safavid Persia, 1721–1729. Paris: Association pour l'Avancement des Études Iraniennes, 1998; Floor, W. A Fiscal History of Iran in the Safavid and Qajar Periods 1500-1925, - New York: Bibliotheca Persica Press, – 1999. – 573 p.; Floor W. The Rise and Fall of Nader Shah, Dutch east India Company Reports, 1730-1747. Washington, 2009

²⁵ Enayat, H. Shi'ism and Sunnism in Seyyed Hossein Nasr, Hamid Dadashi, Seyyed Vali Reza Nasr, Shi'ism. Doctrines, Thoughts and Spirituality, Albany: State University of N-Y Press, 1988, p. 65-84

²⁶ Algar Hamid, Shi'ism and Iran in the Eighteenth Century, in Studies in Eighteenth Century Islamic History, ed. Thomas Naff and Roger Owen, Carbondale and Edwarswille, 1977, pp. 288-302

²⁷Uzunçarşılı İ.H. Osmanlı Tarihi. 4. Bölüm. Karlofça Anlaşmasından XVIII Yüzyılın Sonlarına Kadar. – 1978. – 687 s.

²⁸ Djafar-Pour, A. Nadir şah Devrinde Osmanlı-İran munasebetleri, Ph.D. diss, İstanbul

I.Kulbilge³¹, M.Aktepe³² and others. Turkish historiography studies military operations between the two countries for obvious reasons, as well as religious reforms, which are of great value to us.

A considerable layer of research on the last Safavi period and the reign of Nadir Shah is the works of Russian (Soviet) authors.

Among the pre-revolutionary Russian researches the works of S.R.Kishmishev, P.G.Butkov, P.L.Yudin should be noted. The importance of S.R.Kishmishev's work,³³ in our opinion, lies in the fact that, firstly, the author makes reference to a wide range of sources, including Persian-language sources, and secondly, at the end of the monograph various archival materials - reports of Russian consuls, etc. are cited.

P.G.Butkov, who served in the Caucasus for many years, wrote a three-volume fundamental work. There he comments on the main events of the region in 1722-1803. We are interested in the chapters of the work describing the reign of Nadir Shah. It contains very valuable information about Nadir's campaigns to Daghestan³⁴.

P.L.Yudin's article, referred to the reports of the Russian resident V.V.Bratishchev from 1742, elucidates some aspects of Iranian-

Universitesi, Edebiyat Fakültesi, 1977.

²⁹ Ari. S. Osmanlı arşiv kaynakları ışığında Nadir şah – I Mehmet dönemi ehli sünnet – şii diyalogu. Doktora tezi. TC. Harran üniversitesi, 2001, 188 s.

³⁰ Ateş A. Avşarlı Nadir Şah ve Döneminde Osmanlı – İran Mücadeleleri. Doktora tezi. S. Demirel Üniversitesi. Isparta, 2001, 177 s.

³¹ Külbilge İ. 18-ci Yüzyılın İlk Yarısında Osmanlı –İran İlişkileri. Doktora tezi. TC. Ege üniversitesi. İzmir, 2010, 419 s.

³² Aktepe M. İranda Nadir Şah ve Beşinci Mezheb Meselesi // - Erciyes: tarihsiz 3, - sayı: 27, - s. 14-21; 1720-1724 Osmanlı – İran Münasibetleri ve Silahsör Kemani Mustafa Ağa'nın Revan Fetih-namesi. - İstanbul: İstanbul Üniversitesi, - 1970. 90+55 s.

³³ Кишмишев С.Р. Походы Надир-шаха в Герат, Кандагар, Индию и события в Персии после его смерти. Тифлис: Типография А.А.Михельсона, 1889, 304 с.

³⁴ Бутков П.Г. Материалы для новой истории Кавказа с 1722 по 1803 г. Часть I. СПб.: Тип.имп. АН, 1869, 548 с.

Russian relations in the context of Nadir Shah's campaign to Daghestan³⁵.

The history of Iran during the reign of Nadir Shah, and, first of all, his military and political activities, was not studied in detail during the Soviet era. Although I.P.Petrushevsky somewhat generalizes in his work, he speaks about the aggressive and tax policy of Nadir Shah³⁶. Chapter IX of the collective monograph³⁷, published in 1958 and covering the history of Iran from ancient times to the end of the 18th century deals with Nadir Shah and the state he created. This monograph provides only general information about Nadir, since the work does not pursue the goal of a thorough study of the period which we are interested in. The same can be said about the academic work published in 1977 under the editorship of M.S.Ivanov³⁸.

The authors of the fundamental work "The State of Nadir Shah Afshar"³⁹ (1958) M.Arunova and K.Ashrafian, while studying the history of the formation of the State of Nadir Shah, consider mainly the social and economic policy of Nadir Shah. In our opinion, this work is quite biased. Thus, in their research the authors sometimes ignoring more valuable local primary sources, as well as European materials of the period studied refer mainly to Armenian sources.

O.Markova's monographic research "Russia, Transcaucasia and International relations in the 18th century", written basing on the materials of the state archives of the Russian Federation, is of great

³⁵ Юдин П.Л. Россия и Персия в конце 1742 г. (из писем переводчика В. Братищева канцлеру князю А. Черкасскому) // Русский архив. М., 1899. Кн. 1. Ч. 3. с. 369-390

³⁶ Петрушевский И. П. Очерки по истории феодальных отношений в Азербайджане и Армении в XVI-XIX вв. - Л.: Издательство ЛГУ, 1949, 382 с.

³⁷ История Ирана с древнейших времен до конца XVIII века / ред. Н. В. Пигулевская, А.Ю. Якубовский, И.П. Петрушевский [и др.] Ленинград: Изд-во ЛГУ, - 1958. - 391 с.

³⁸ История Ирана / ред. М.С. Иванова. - Москва: Изд-во МГУ, - 1977. - 497 с.

³⁹ Арунова М.Р., Ашрафян К.З. Государство Надир-шаха Афшара. Очерки общ. Отношений в Иране 30-40 годов XVIII века. Изд-во восточной лит-ры, М., 1958, 283 с.

interest in the study of Iran's diplomatic relations with Russia⁴⁰. In this work, the author tries to consider historical processes in the broad geopolitical panorama of the time under study. A.N.Kozlova's articles⁴¹ are undoubtedly important, as they provide the historical outline of the campaigns of Ibrahim Khan in 1738 and Nadir Shah in 1741.

Various issues in the history of the Afshar State, as well as geopolitical competition in the region in the first half of the 18th century, remain the subject of research in modern Russian and post-Soviet historiography as a whole.

The works of Daghestan researchers on the subject we interested in Soviet and Russian historiography are, in fact, a separate direction. And taken into account the military and socio-political consequences of the famous campaigns of the Afshar ruler to Daghestan, this should not be surprising. In the first volume of the academic trilogy on the history of Daghestan, we find many conceptual trends on the political situation in Daghestan in the first half of the 18th century, as well as on the campaigns of Nadir Shah⁴². Among the significant researches of Daghestan scientists should be mentioned the monographs of Kh.Kh.Ramazanov and A.R.Shikhsaidov⁴³, V.G.Hajiyeu⁴⁴, N.A.Sotavov⁴⁵, T.M.Aitberov⁴⁶, articles of

⁴⁰Маркова О.П. Россия, Закавказье и международные отношения в XVIII в. М.: Наука, 1966, 323 с.

⁴¹ Козлова А.Н. Страница истории освободительной борьбы народов Дагестана // Страны и народы Востока. М., 1976. Вып. XXVIII, с. 125–134; ее же, Козлова А.Н. «Наме-йи Аламара-йи Надири» Мухаммад-Казима о первом этапе похода Надир-шаха на Табасаран // Освободительная борьба народов Дагестана в эпоху средневековья. Махачкала, 1986, с. 71–82

⁴² История Дагестана: [в 4-х томах] / ред. Г.Д. Даниялов. – Москва: Наука, – том 1. – 1967. – 431с.

⁴³ Рамазанов Х.Х., Шихсаидов А.Р. Очерки истории Южного Дагестана: Материалы к истории народов Дагестана с древнейших времен до начала XX в. Махачкала: Типография ДФАН СССР, 1964, 278с.

⁴⁴ Гаджиев В.Г. Роль России в истории Дагестана. М.: Наука, 1965, 389 с. ;его же, Разгром Надир шаха в Дагестане. Махачкала: Институт истории, археологии и этнографии Дагестанского науч. центра РАН, 1996, 264 с.

A.I.Tamay⁴⁷, M.R.Hassanov⁴⁸, G.A.Magomedov⁴⁹, A.O.Murtazayev⁵⁰, P.M.Alibekova⁵¹. Of course, in these works more attention is paid to Nadir Shah's invasive plans and military campaigns against Daghestan. In these researches the great commander is presented as an exceptional tyrant and aggressor who came to Daghestan only to subjugate the freedom-loving mountain peoples. Thus, the complex motives that prompted Nadir Shah to embark on this extremely risky endeavor are explained in a fairly simplified way in terms of psychology or military considerations.

Thus, the history of Azerbaijan and Iran in the second quarter of the 18th century, during the reign of Nadir Shah has been sufficiently studied both in Azerbaijan and abroad. However, there are many issues in the history of the period that need to be studied more precisely. This concerns, first of all, the foreign policy of Nadir Shah Afshar, the establishment and development of diplomatic relations with neighboring countries, his military campaigns of the great commander using mainly materials from Persian-language sources. An in-depth analysis of the latter allows, firstly, to study on a broader

⁴⁵ Сотавов Н. А. Крах «Грозы Вселенной» в Дагестане. Махачкала: Эпоха, 2013, 350 с.

⁴⁶ Айтберов Т.М. Надир-шах Афшар и дагестанцы в 1741 году. Махачкала: Ваше дело, 2011, 200 с.

⁴⁷ Тамай А.И. К вопросу о провале Дагестанской кампании шаха Надира (1741-1743 гг.) // Ученые записки ИИЯЛ Дагестанского филиала АН СССР. Т.5., Махачкала, 1958. с. 108-131

⁴⁸ Гасанов М.Р. Из истории героической борьбы народов Дагестана против иранских завоевателей // Известия Дагестанского государственного педагогического университета. Общественные и гуманитарные науки, 2008, №2, с.30-37

⁴⁹ Магомедов Г.А. Создание Надир-шахом укрепленного лагеря «Иран-хараб» на территории Южного Дагестана (первая половина XVIII века) // Известия вузов. Северо-Кавказский регион. Общественные науки. 2010, № 6, с. 55-58

⁵⁰ Муртазаев А.О. Роль Кайтага в разгроме войск Надир-шаха в Дагестане в 1734-1747 гг. // Вестник Института ИАЭ, 2009, №3, с. 29-46

⁵¹ Алибекова П.М. Второй поход Надир-шаха в Дагестан (по материалам «Аламара-йе Надери» Мухаммада Казима Мерви) // История, археология и этнография Кавказа. Т. 14, № 2, 2018, с. 83–92

factual basis the military-political and reform activities of Nadir Shah, and secondly, to achieve its conceptual rethinking, revealing the essential moments of certain actions of the Afshar ruler in the light of new theoretical knowledge.

The object and the subject of the research. The object of the current research is the investigation of Nadir Shah Afshar's military-political activity on the basis of a detailed analysis of Persian-language and other sources, and his reformist steps in the context of the international situation in the region at the time. The subject of the research is the characteristics of Nadir Shah's administrative, military and religious reforms, their strategic orientation, innovative nature and the content of modernization. In this case, the activity itself is taken as a dynamic process, modeling the alternative results it can produce. The main battles of Nadir Shah were also analyzed, where his extraordinary military abilities were evidently manifested.

Goals and objectives of the research. The main goal of the dissertation research is a detailed and complex study of the main directions of Nadir Shah's military and political activities and his transformations, including religious reforms, based, first of all, on information from Persian-language sources. At the same time, the primary sources have been accurately developed and classified. The involvement of works - both of foreign and domestic authors on various aspects of the subject of interest to us in the research, made it possible to reveal certain subject lines more deeply.

Proceeding from the above-mentioned purpose of the dissertation, the author set the following scientific goals in the course of research:

- to determine the place and significance of the works of Persian-speaking authors and documents among other sources;
- to determine the scientific and historical significance of the information provided by Persian-language sources;
- to analyze the domestic and foreign political situation of the Safavi State on the eve and during the invasion of the Afghan tribes, to find out the reasons for the fall of this State;
- to consider the geopolitical situation in the region in the context of the Russian-Ottoman rivalry in the first quarter of the 18th

century, to reveal the results of this rivalry in terms of the fate of Azerbaijan;

- to determine the details of Nadir Afshar's appearance on the military-political scene, to clarify some episodes of his early biography;

- to analyze the conditions for Nadir Shah's coming to power and his activities aimed at liberating the country from foreign invaders;

- to conduct an in-depth analysis of the reasons, course and consequences of Nadir Shah's religious reform, to clarify its essence;

- to investigate the military reforms and transformations in the field of state administration and to reveal their strategic importance;

- to characterize the internal situation in the Afshar State, to clarify the reasons for failures in the field of creating stable state institutions;

- to study the foreign policy activities of Nadir Shah in connection with his modernization strategy;

- to illuminate his military campaigns, showing the reasons for both successful and unsuccessful campaigns

Methods of research. The presented work is of source study and historical nature. Therefore, first of all, the sources were analyzed, their external features were defined, the texts were read and interpreted, their authenticity, completeness, representation, scientific significance were determined.

Further, when studying Nadir Shah's own activity, a chronological and problematic approach, the principle of objectivity and sufficiency of grounds, as well as a number of historical principles (analytical, historical-systemic, historical-comparative) were used. Along with the methods traditional for historical science, interdisciplinary approaches have been applied. These should include the methods of a hermeneutic, narratological and semiological nature, which, through discourse-analysis and the study of narratives, they made it possible to put forward a number of hypotheses regarding the motives and intentions of the Afshar ruler and allowed us to go deeper and to understand his strategic plans..At the same time, the attraction of theoretical knowledge in the fields of political science, geopolitics, Culturology and historical sociology provided

an opportunity for a more holistic recreation of the historical background under study and the circumstances that contributed to it.

The main provisions of the defense The following results of the research work were submitted to the defense:

- the information contained in primary sources makes it possible to recreate both the essential features of religious reforms and transformations in the military sphere and state governance;

- analysis of Persian-language sources helps to identify economic measures that allowed Nadir Shah to regulate the situation within the state and to conduct military campaigns to neighboring countries;

- the religious reform of Nadir Shah (a kind of Muslim Reformation) was to create the conditions for a cardinal spiritual revolution in the entire Afshar Empire, which would lead to the formation of the necessary moral and spiritual conditions for the total socio-cultural modernization of society;

- the military campaigns of Nadir Shah, associated with a more fundamental empire-building strategy, were ultimately aimed at solving the necessary geopolitical tasks, which, in the opinion of the Afshar ruler, would ultimately lead to the formation of his own globally important space;

- starting the Daghestan campaign, Nadir Shah acted quite consciously, guided by geopolitical and military-strategic considerations;

- the main goals of Nadir Shah's ruling practices were first of all, to build a powerful empire, to establish a regional foreign political hierarchical system of its dependent states, to determine the ideological content that would spiritually strengthen the political and socio-cultural existence of the empire, and only then to form the necessary institutions;

- Nadir Shah's reformist activity served a strategic goal, which we designated as "autocratic pre-modernization". If the tasks were successfully implemented, the Afshar State would become a competitive state of its time and a dynamically developing center of the Muslim world;

- Among other reasons for the final failure of Nadir Shah subjective reasons were important. First of all, they found their

expression in the miscalculation of the ratio between the real opportunities and the goals. The main mistake of Nadir Shah, in our opinion, was that although he first correctly focused on the solution of military tasks, he could not (or the situation did not allow) to solve the purely civil problems of the country, which later became an urgent need.

Scientific novelty of the dissertation. It should be noted that there is no work in domestic historiography which comprehensively studies the military-political and reformist activities of Nadir Shah on the basis of reliable primary sources. This dissertation aims to fill this gap. We consider the following to be the most significant innovations of this work:

- For the first time in Azerbaijani source studies, Persian-language sources, as well as literature on the subject of our interest were classified and characterized;

- The political, military, socio-economic and spiritual reasons for the decline of the Safavi State were revealed; it was established that it was the inability to respond to the demands of the time that in many respects led the to the destruction;

- The geopolitical context of the 1720s-1930s events is stated, when the Russian and Ottoman Empires took advantage of the collapse of the Safavi State; and if military operations in the East to seize lands of the Safavi territories was an ordinary case for the Ottoman authorities, then Russia was making its claims to the South Caucasus for the first time;

- The details of Nadir Qulu Khan Afshar's rise in the conditions of general catastrophe and increasing chaos were clarified;

- It was revealed the connection between the accession of Nadir to the throne and the religious reform, aimed to legitimize his power;

- In the dissertation, for the first time, Nadir Shah's reforms were analyzed in detail in the context of his strategic goals; the essence of the reforms, especially in the confessional sphere is revealed;

- both military innovations of Nadir Shah and his tactical inventions that enriched the world military art, were thoroughly analyzed in the work; our conclusions regarding army building and tactical innovations were summarized and explained punctually;

- The reasons for the military successes of Nadir Shah, directly related to his military reforms, were analyzed in detail;
- Nadir Shah's military campaigns were analyzed in the work in connection with his empire-building, the relation between these campaigns and the strategic tasks were revealed;
- an important novelty of the dissertation is that our characterization of the political-state regime established by Nadir Shah as "militocratic"; which implied the subordinate dependence of measures taken in the civilian sphere on military duties;
- Nadir Shah's economic policy, including the creation of an extensive land fund, the regulation of fiscal affairs, etc., was studied in the context of his course aimed at strengthening of a centralized state;
- For the first time, we introduced into scientific circulation the concept of "autocratic pre-modernization" (by analogy with "authoritarian modernization") to characterize the strategic course of Nadir Shah;

The theoretical and practical significance of the dissertation. The theoretical significance of the research lies in the fact that, Nadir Shah's military-political and spiritual activity was studied based on a detailed analysis of Persian-language and other primary sources, as well as the existing scientific literature; theoretical conclusions about the deep foundations of the military-political and spiritual activities of Nadir Shah were studied, theoretical conclusions about their deep foundations, as well as guesses and hypotheses were suggested on the most pressing issues of that era. The scientific conclusions and generalizations of the dissertation give reason to refute the incorrect conclusions and judgments sometimes found in the literature on the history of Nadir Shah and the Afshar State.

The dissertation materials and conclusions of the dissertation can be used in the writing of generalizing works on the history of Azerbaijan, the Caucasus, Iran, in conducting research on the military-political history of Azerbaijan in the first half of the 18th century, in studying certain aspects of Nadir Shah's activity, as well

as in giving lectures and special courses, in writing degree theses and yearly projects.

Approbation and application of the work. The main provisions of the research are reflected in the monograph “Foreign policy of Nadir Shah Afshar” being prepared for publication, as well as in articles published in scientific publications recommended by the Higher Attestation Commission under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan. A number of issues of the studied problem were presented in the form of reports and scientific publications published in the Republic of Azerbaijan and abroad, as well as were heard at international conferences and congresses.

The name of the organization the dissertation work was carried out. The dissertation work was carried out in the department “Multidisciplinary manuscripts and printed books” of M.Fizuli Institute of Manuscripts of ANAS.

The structure of the dissertation. The dissertation consists of an introduction, four chapters, a conclusion and a list of references.

II. THE GENERAL CONTENT OF THE DISSERTATION

In the “Introduction” of the dissertation, the relevance of the subject is substantiated, the historiographic literature is analyzed, the subject, object, goals and objectives of the research are formulated, the main propositions for defense are highlighted, the methodological basis, scientific novelty, theoretical and practical significance of the research, also approbation of the work are defined.

Chapter I entitled “**The Review of Sources and Literature**” consists of two semi-chapters. The first semi-chapter - “**Sources**” analyzes the Persian-language sources which constitute the main source base of the current research. It is noted that the sources on the subject we are developing are quite extensive and diverse. First of all, we have studied such documentary sources as collections of diplomatic correspondence, which contain a large number of factual materials on the military-political and socio-economic history of Azerbaijan and neighboring countries.

The value of the collection of documents “Insha” or “Munsha’at” by Mirza Mahdi khan Astarabadi as a historical source lies in the fact that the official correspondence contained in this collection allows to gain information not found in the chronicles, biographies of rulers, regional histories and geographies. The messages from various collections of M.Astarabadi’s “Insha” kept at the Institute of Manuscripts of ANAS focused not only on Nadir Shah’s diplomatic relations with the Ottoman Empire, Russia, the Mughal India, but also on the solution of conflict situations and the ways of their peaceful settlement, military and economic assistance. Here one can also find valuable information about the general situation in these countries, their socio-economic life, the state of cities, trade, as well as about relations with other states. In this work, we used a list of 21 manuscripts from the collection of the Azerbaijan Institute of Manuscripts. Each of these lists contains a different number of documents and letters.

The documents and letters included in the collection of “Insha” under consideration can be classified as state and private. In its turn, state documents are divided into official and diplomatic messages⁵².

Another work, according to which we examined Nadir Shah’s diplomatic correspondence with the Ottoman court, is “The correspondence of Mahmud I and Nadir Shah. Defter “Name-yi Humayun (Imperial Letters) No. 3”⁵³. This is a collective work of the staff of the State Archives of the Prime Minister of Turkey ((Başbakanlık Osmanlı Arşivleri) (Ottoman Archives of the Prime Ministry), published in Istanbul in 2014.

We have also made extensive use of narrative sources in Persian. First of all, it should be mentioned the chronicle by Mirza Mahdi

⁵²Мамедова Р., Сочинение «Инша» Мирза Мехди хана Астарабади и его бакинские списки, BDU-nun “Tarix və onun problemləri, № 3, Bakı, 2008, с. 40-48

⁵³Birinci Mahmut-Nadir Şah Mektublaşmaları, 3 Numaralı Name-i Hümayun Defterleri, haz. İ.Kürelî, İ.Türe, Dr. Ali Kaya, Y.Karaca, Dr. Ersin Kırca, R.Köse, V.Atik, Bion Matbaacılık, İstanbul, - 2014. - 367 s.

Khan Astarabadi's "Tarikh-i Jahangusha-i Nadiri"⁵⁴ (The Story of World-Beautiful Nadir), mostly known as "Tarikh-i Nadiri" (hereinafter "Tarikh-i Nadiri"). This is the official history of Nadir Shah, narrated in a strictly chronological order, and is the most complete and detailed work that accurately reflects all the important political events during the reign of Nadir Shah.

We have used the list of 39 manuscripts from the fund of the Institute of Manuscripts of ANAS (all are of first edition). The earliest manuscript from the collection of our Institute, copied shortly after Nadir's death, is the manuscript coded as B-5027. According to the colophon, this manuscript was rewritten on 26th Zu-l-ka'da 1179/7 May 1765 by Murtaza Qulu bin Ali Maragayi. The most valuable manuscript from the artistic viewpoint is the list of works coded M-139. It was a gift copy made by order of a high-ranking official.

We should also mention the third composition of Mirza Mahdi Khan Astarabadi - "Durrey-i Nadire"⁵⁵ (Rare pearl). Although "Durre-i Nadire" written in an extremely complex and difficult language and its content is almost identical to "Tarikh-i Nadiri", it is of historical value, which lies in the uniqueness of the materials contained in it.

The three-volume work "Alam aray-i Nadiri"⁵⁶ by Muhammad Kazim Marvi (born in 1133 / 1720-21 in Marv, belonged to the Qajars, resettled in Khorasan by Shah Abbas I), covering the life of Nadir Shah Afshar from his birth to death is a valuable source. This work has reached us in a single copy and is kept at the Institute of Oriental Manuscripts of the Russian Academy of Sciences in St.Petersburg (code D-430)⁵⁷. According to the author himself, this

⁵⁴ استرآبادی، میرزا مهدی خان. جهانگشای نادری. به اهتمام سید عبدالله انوار، تهران، ۱۳۷۷، ۸۶۸ ص.

⁵⁵ استرآبادی، میرزا مهدی خان. دره نادره. به اهتمام سید جعفر شهیدی. تهران: شرکت انتشارات علمی و فرهنگی، ۱۳۸۴، ۱۰۴۹ ص.

⁵⁶ محمد کاظم مروی. عالم آرای نادری، به تصحیح دکتر محمدمبین ریاحی، ۳ مجلد، تهران، ۱۳۵۸

⁵⁷ Миклухо-Маклай, Н.Д. Описание персидских и таджикских рукописей Института востоковедения, вып.3 / Н.Д.Миклухо-Маклай. – Москва: Наука, – Гл.ред вост. лит-ры, – 1975. – с. 209-214

work was compiled based on his personal observations and stories he heard from witnesses to the described events.

Muhammad Kazim's work also contains a great deal of factual materials from the political, economic and social life of Azerbaijan, Iran and neighboring countries. For instance, information about the situation in the administrative and financial bodies of the country during the last Safavis, as well as about the changes made by Nadir Shah⁵⁸ in these areas is not found in other sources of the period.

Information provided by Muhammad Kazim about the army of Nadir Shah: its structure, types of weapons, different types of troops, military ranks and positions, military customs of the time, about the measures taken by the latter to strengthen and increase the fighting ability of his troops, about the military strategy of Nadir and ability to conduct battle operations⁵⁹ also must be studied thoroughly.

Among the sources on the history of Azerbaijan and Iran from the end of the Safavi reign until the rise of Nadir, we should mention "Tarikh-I Hazin"⁶⁰ - the memoirs of Sheikh Muhammad Ali, nicknamed "Hazin". We have used both the edition printed in Iran in 1332/1953 and the English translation of F.S.Belfor published in London in 1830, under the title "Life of Sheikh Mohammed Ali Hazin Written by Himself"⁶¹.

Among the modern sources we have used, we should mention the work "Zubdat at-tavarikh" by Muhammad Muhsin bin Muhammad Karim. This work, compiled in the form of a general history, describes the reign of the last Safavis, which ended with the

محمد کاظم مروی. عالم آرای نادری، به تصحیح دکتر محمدامین ریاحی، جلد ۲، تهران، ۱۳۵۸، ص ۴۵۷.⁵⁸

محمد کاظم مروی. عالم آرای نادری، به تصحیح دکتر محمدامین ریاحی، جلد ۳، تهران، ص. ۱۰۷۲ - ۱۰۷۲.⁵⁹

حزین. شیخ محمد علی. تاریخ حزین. شامل: اواخر صفویه - فتنه افغان - سلطنت نادر شاه، اصفهان: انتشارات تأیید، ۱۳۳۲.⁶⁰

⁶¹ Sheikh Mohammad Ali Hazin, Life of Sheikh Mohammad Hazin, trans. from two Pesian Manuscripts by I.C.Belfour, London, 1830, A.J.Valpy, 316 pages

accession of Nadir Qulu Khan to the throne in 1736. According to the author, he received the order for the compilation of this history from Reza Qulu Mirza⁶².

A special place among the narrative sources occupies “Bayan-i vaqe” by Haji Abdul Karim Kashmiri⁶³. In the work, two chapters are dedicated to the reign of Nadir Shah. It deals with Nadir’s ascension to power, his campaigns to India and Turan, and his return to Iran - Khorasan, Mazandaran, and Qazvin. Here, we come across valuable information that is not found in other contemporary sources: about the population of the areas that the Iranian army met along the route in India, about the lifestyle and customs of the local population and the tribes that joined Nadir’s army, and so on.

Among the sources for the study of issues related to the economic situation in Iran in the second half of the 18th century an important place is occupied by “Ruzname-i Mirza Muhammad kalantar-i Fars” (Diary of Mirza Muhammad, kalantar of Fars)⁶⁴. It contains valuable information about the political and economic situation in the country, mainly about the tax system during the reign of Nadir Shah and his successors.

One of the little-studied sources dedicated to the reign of the last Safavis, Afshars, Zands and the first Qajars is the history of Muhammad Hashim “Rustam at-tavarikh”⁶⁵. Despite its general panegyric nature, this work contains valuable information about the economic and social life during the reign of Nadir Shah, his personality and domestic policy.

Among the modern works we used, we should mention Muhammad Shafi’ Tehrani’s “Tarikh-e Nader Shahi”⁶⁶, which describes the events, starting with the rise of Nadir, his joining to

محمد محسن مستوفی، زبدت التواریخ، به کوشش بهروز ودرزی، تهران، ۱۳۷۵

کشمیری، عبدالکریم، بیان واقع. سرگذشت احوال نادر شاه، به تصحیح و تحقیق کی.بی.نسیم، اداره تحقیقات پاکستان، لاهور، ۱۹۷۰.

میرزا محمد کلنر فارس. روزنامه میرزا محمد، به اهتمام عباس اقبال. تهران، ۱۳۶۲

محمد هاشم، رستم التواریخ، به تصحیح میثرا مهرآبادی، دنیای کتاب، تهران، ۱۳۸۲.

تهرانی، محمد شفیع. تاریخ نادرشاهی، به اهتمام رضا شعبانی، تهران انتشارات بنیاد فرهنگ ایران، ۱۳۴۹

Tahmasib Mirza, the wars with Ashraf Afghan, his accession to the throne, his campaign to India, and return to Iran.

Among the works used, we would like to mention “Mujmal at-tavarikh pas az Nadir” (“Creams of History after Nadir”) by Mirza Abulhassan Gulistani⁶⁷. The most important for us is the first part of the work, which deals with the last days of Nadir Shah’s life, moments of hardships and the struggle for power that started after his death.

Sources in Turkish written by Nadir Shah’s contemporaries significantly complement the source base of our subject. Among such works the following should be mentioned: the book published by K.Erkan in Istanbul in 2011 - “Mühimme Defteri. Ottoman-Iranian war of 1734-1735”⁶⁸, which was compiled basing on materials from the archives of Turkey; the work “Tahkik va Tevfik”⁶⁹ (“Investigation and Success”) written in 1737 by Koja Ragib Mehmed Pasha, which deals with the political situation in the Safavi State, the appearance of Nadir in the political arena and his ascension to the throne; the work “Hücec-i Katiyya” (Absolute Evidence)⁷⁰ by the Sunni scholar and poet Sheikh Abul-Barakat Jamaladdin Abdullah Suwaydi bin Hussein (1104/1693 - 1174/1760), which provides valuable information about the meeting of Sunni and Shi’ite scholars, held on the initiative of Nadir Shah in 1743 in Najaf; “Risaletü’t-Tarih-i Nadir Şah ve Makali-i Muhasara-iKal’a-i Kars” (The Book of Nadir Shah’s History” or “The Story on the Siege of the Fortress of Kars”) by Sirri Efendi⁷¹, which contains important information on military history and the history of diplomatic relations between the Ottoman Empire and the Afsharid State;

گلستانه، ابولحسن بن محمد امين. مجمل التواريخ، به اهتمام مدرس رضوى، تهران: اين سينا، ۱۳۴۴

⁶⁸Mühimme defteri. 1734-1735 Osmanlı-İran Savaşı (Ramazan 1146-Zilhicce) / haz. Kemal Erkan. – İstanbul: Çamlıca, – 2011. – 228 s.

⁶⁹ Rağip Paşa, Koca Mehmet. Tahkik ve Tevfik / K. M. Rağip Paşa, haz. Ahmet Zeki İzgöer. – İstanbul: Kitaevi, – 2003. – 282 s.

⁷⁰Süveydi, A. Hücec-i Kat’iyya (Kelime-I Tevhid), Hak Sözü’n Vesikalarında / A.Süveydi. – İstanbul: Hakikat Kitabevi, – 2014. – 44 s.

⁷¹Sırrı Efendi, Risaletü’t-Tarih-i Nadir Şah ve Makali-i Muhasara-iKal’a-i Kars, haz. Mehmet Yaşar Ertaş. – İstanbul: Kitabevi, – 2012. – 88 s.

“Subhi Tarihi. Sami ve Şakir Tarihleri ile birlikte.1730-1744” (The History of Subhi. With the histories of Sami and Shakir. 1730-1744)⁷² written by Subhi Mehmed Efendi, describing the history of 1730-1744 and others.

The second semi-chapter entitled “**Literature**” deals with the works of Iranian authors, which constitute a separate direction in historiography about Nadir Shah and his time.

An attempt for a comprehensive study of the time of Nadir Shah’s reign was made in the monograph by Dr. R.Shabani in his 2-volume monograph “The social history of Nadir Shah Afshar”⁷³ published in Tehran in 1994 and 1996. The work was devoted to the life and activity of Nadir Shah and the last Afshars, the study of the state, social and economic system, as well as relations with neighboring countries and foreign trade companies during the Afsharid epoch. The article “Religious policy of Nadir Shah”⁷⁴ and the monograph “Nadir Shah Afshar”⁷⁵ published in 2002, belong to the pen of the same author.

An attempt to study the position of Shi’ism during the reign of Nadir Shah was made by P.Fathollahpour in the article “Shi’ism during the reign of Nadir Shah Afshar”⁷⁶, published in the Iranian magazine “Shi’ite Studies” in 2006. This article is remarkable in that it reflects the actual viewpoint of the modern official historiography of Iran, directly related to the Islamist nature of the country’s state system, on the spiritual practices of Nadir Shah. An article by the Iranian scholar A.Abdini, the author of a number of works on the above-mentioned subject – “Unification in the Islamic world in the Safavi and Afshar periods”⁷⁷ (2008), can be cited as an opposite

⁷² Subhi, Mehmed Efendi. Subhi Tarihi. Sami ve Şakir Tarihleri ile birlikte: 1730-1744 / haz. Mesut Aydinler. – İstanbul: Kitabevi, – 2007. – 927 s.

⁷³ شعبانی، رضا. تاریخ اجتماعی ایران در عصر افشاریه. ۲ جلد. تهران، ۱۳۷۷

⁷⁴ شعبانی، رضا. سیاست مذهبی نادرشاه افشار. وحید، ۱۳۴۹، ص. ۱۱۳۲-۱۱۵۶

⁷⁵ شعبانی، رضا. نادرشاه افشار. تهران: دفتر پژوهشهای فرهنگی، ۱۳۸۱

⁷⁶ فتح الله پورپرویز، تشیع در دوره نادر شاه افشار. فصلنامه تخصصی شیعه شناسی/ سال چهارم/ شماره ۱۶/ ۱۳۸۵، ص. ۵۷ – ۹۵

⁷⁷ عابدینی، ابوالفضل. اتحاد جهان اسلام. نامه تاریخ پژوهان، شماره ۱۲، زمستان، تهران، ۱۳۸۷

opinion to the policy of religious reform. He believes that the ground for reforms was laid as long ago as in the Safavi period.

The book "The Military-Political History During the Reign of Nadir Shah Afshar" by General of the Shah's army A.Sardadvar⁷⁸ contains interesting materials on the military history of the period under study. Studying the military art of Nadir the author comprehensively analyzing the composition of his army, provides valuable information about the tactics of military operations, the training of soldiers, discipline and the battle arts. The monograph "Nadir-name" by the Iranian historian Dr. M.H.Guddusi⁷⁹ is no less importance for the investigation of the period under study. In our opinion, this is one of the most important researches of Iranian historiography on the period under study in terms of the completeness of the collected material.

The monograph "Embassies to Iran. Works of travelers and business trips of Ottoman ambassadors to Iran"⁸⁰ by Dr. M.A.Riyahi significantly expands the documentary base on foreign policy issues of the period under review. Certain aspects of the foreign policy realities of the period under review were studied in the book "History of Diplomatic Relations of Iran. From the Beginning of the Safavi rule until the end of World War II" by Abdul Reza Hushang Mehdavi⁸¹. The Monograph "The Past. The History of Iran from the Beginning to the Fall of the Pahlavi dynasty" by Dr. Abdul Hussein Zarrinkub,⁸² one of the most authoritative historians of Iran, is distinguished by the originality of its conclusions, although they are not always sufficiently well-grounded. The monograph "Nadir - the Son of the Sword" by N.Larudi⁸³ (1384/2005) should be mentioned

78 سردادور، ابوتراب. تاریخ نظامی و سیاسی دوران نادرشاه افشار. تهران، ۱۳۸۰

79 قدوسی، محمد حسین، نادر نامه، خراسان، نشریبت انجمن آثار ملی خراسان، ۱۳۳۹ .

80 ریاحی محمد امین، سفارتنامه های ایران. گزارشهای مسافرت و ماموریت سفیران عثمانی در ایران، تهران، ۱۳۶۸ .

81 مهدوی، عبدالرضا هوشنگ. تاریخ روابط خارجی ایران از ابتدای دوران صفوی تا پایان جنگ دوم جهانی (۱۵۰۰-۱۹۳۵) تهران: امیرکبیر ، ۱۳۸۱ .

82 زرین کوب، عبدالحسین، روزگاران: تاریخ ایران از آغاز تا سقوط سلطنت پهلوی، تهران: سخن ۱۳۷۸

83 لارودی، نورالله. زندگانی نادرشاه پسر شمشیر، تهران: د نیای کتاب ، ۱۳۸۴

as well. The author has studied certain aspects of the history of the Safavi and Afsharid States on the basis of the sources of the period.

In this paragraph, the monograph “Iran and the world. From the Mongols to the Qajars ”(2 volumes) by Dr. Abdul Hussein Navai⁸⁴, one of the Iranian authors, in which some issues of Nadir Shah’s military construction are considered; “Futuhāt-i Irāniyan be farmandehi-i Nadir shah Afshar” (“Victories of the Iranians under the command of Nadir shah Afshar”) (1385) by Zulfugar Jalair⁸⁵, dedicated to the military history of Nadir Shah and the events during the reign of the last Afshars; “Nadir shah. Reflection of the National Valor of the Tragedy”(1375/1996) by Panahi Semnani ⁸⁶ and others are analyzed. A review and analysis of Persian-language sources and literature gave us reason to conclude that there are certain gaps in this regard.

Chapter II, “The Fall of the Safavi State and the Emergence of Nadir Afshar in the Political Arena”, covers six paragraphs. The first paragraph is named **“The Internal Political Situation in Iran Before the Invasion of the Ghilzai Afghan Tribes”**. The paragraph gives a general picture of the devastation and decline of the Safavi State in the late 17th - early 18th centuries. It is emphasized that Shah’s government could not cope with the feudal decentralization by the time when Shah Sultan Hussein came to power (1694-1722). The feudal top misappropriating most of the taxes collected had deprived the Shah’s treasury of revenues from the provinces. If the religious leaders did not hold a leading position before Shah Sultan Hussein, the role and authority of Shi’ite clerics increased during the latter’s reign, which negatively affected the position of religious minorities⁸⁷. We have come to the conclusion that such a rise of the clergy was due to the further institutionalization of the mentioned

⁸⁴ نوایی عبدالحسین، ایران و جهان از مغول تا قاجاریه. جلد ۱. تهران ۱۳۶۶

⁸⁵ جلایر، ذوالفقار. فتوحات ایرانیان به فرماندهی نادرشاه افشار، تهران: انتشارات سخن گستر، ۱۳۸۵

⁸⁶ پناهی سمنانی، محمد احمد. نادر شاه باز تاب حماسه و فاجعه ملی، تهران: کتاب نمونه، جلد ۱، ۱۲۴۳. تهران،

⁸⁷ سیوری، راجر. ایران عصر صفوی، ترجمه کامبیز عزیزی. تهران، ۱۳۶۶، ص. ۲۱۴

class in the Safavi state Religious persecution led to the disintegration and disruption of the state mechanism.

The second paragraph is entitled **“Invasion of the Afghan tribes and the Fall of the Safavi State.”** By the end of the second decade of the 17th century, the Safavi State entered the phase of a systemic crisis, which intensified the disintegration of the country. This was also facilitated by the increase in the activity of the Afghan tribes, which since 1709 had separated from the state. As early as 1719, they made their first, however, unfinished campaign against the Safavi State. The second campaign against the Safavi State they launched in October 1721, which became fatal in the fate of the latter. Analysis of primary sources suggests that the process of decay of the entire state mechanism has worked very deeply so far. The decline manifested itself clearly during the Battle of Gulnabad on March 8, 1722. In the battle, the Safavi army was defeated by the technically incomparably small and purely equipped Afghan military force. Soon the Afghans approached Isfahan and besieged it. During the 8-month siege, the Shah's court was completely demoralized⁸⁸. Shah Sultan Hussein went to the camp of Mahmud on October 22, 1722 in order to end the siege of the city, and abdicated from the crown in favor of the latter.⁸⁹ On October 25 Mahmud-Ghilzai entered Isfahan as the winner. Immediately, after receiving the news on the surrender of Isfahan at the end of November 1722, Tahmasib Mirza, who had fled from the Afghans, was proclaimed shah in Qazvin.⁹⁰

The third paragraph is entitled **“The Russian-Ottoman Rivalry in the Safavi State”**. It provides a general overview of the struggle between Russia and the Ottoman Empire for the division of the Safavi possessions in the Caucasus. It is noted that Russia's claims to

⁸⁸ محمد محسن مستوفی، زبدت التواریخ، تهران، ۱۳۷۵، ص ۱۳۴.

⁸⁹ استرآبادی، میرزا مهدی خان، جهانگشای نادری، به اهتمام سید عبدالله انوار، تهران، ۱۳۷۷، ص ۱۵؛ محمد کاظم مروی، عالم آرای نادری، به تصحیح دکتر محمد امین ریاحی، جلد ۱، تهران ۱۳۵۸، ص. ۱، ۳۰.

⁹⁰ استرآبادی، میرزا مهدی خان، جهانگشای نادری، به اهتمام سید عبدالله انوار، تهران، ۱۳۷۷، ص ۱۵؛ محمد محسن مستوفی، زبدت التواریخ، به کوشش بهروز گودرزی، تهران، ۱۳۷۵، ص ۱۴۱؛ حزین، تاریخ حزین، ۱۳۳۲، ۵۶. مرعشی، خلیل میرزا محمد، مجمع التواریخ، ۱۳۶۸، ص. ۵۹.

the Caucasus, which had emerged quite clearly by this time, had both economic and geopolitical reasons. Peter I planned to direct all Indo-European trade to the Caspian Sea, to which he attached paramount importance. He tried to turn the Caspian into a Russian lake, since the development of trade with the East along the Caspian Sea could bring great benefits to Russia and stimulate the development of all industrial sectors⁹¹.

In 1715, Peter I sent Colonel A. Volinsky to the Safavi State. It was Volinsky who having realized that the Safavi dynasty was on the verge of collapse encouraged Peter to invade its lands as soon as possible. But Peter succeeded in realizing his plans only after the conclusion of peace with Sweden in August 1721. In its turn, the Ottoman government tried to prevent the advance of the Russians in the north-west of the Safavi state. In August 1720, the Ottoman government sent Durri Ahmed Efendi to the Shah's court to get acquainted with the situation in the country, which pursued goals similar to Volinsky's mission. Porta (Babi-Ali) was seriously afraid that after the fall of Isfahan, other cities of the country would fall into the hands of the Afghans, who will threaten the eastern borders of the Ottoman Empire. On August 22, 1722, war was declared against the Safavi State.⁹²

The fourth paragraph, entitled **“The Campaign of Peter the Great to the Safavi State, the Capture of the Caspian Regions by Him and the Ottoman Invasion”** provides a panorama of foreign political conflicts that accompanied by the collapse of the Safavi state. As a result of military operations in 1722-1723, the Caspian littoral provinces of the Safavi State came under Russian rule. The campaign of Peter I greatly aggravated relations between Russia and Turkey. Immediately after the capture of Baku by Russian troops led by General Matyushkin on July 26, 1723, the Turkish forces which set out from Kars and Diyarbakir, in July 1723 quite easily took Tiflis and marched on Ganja, Iravan and Nakhchivan.

⁹¹ Персидская война 1722-1725 гг., Русский вестник LXVIII, с. 603-6

⁹²Uzunçarşılı İ.H. Osmanlı tarihi. 4. Bölüm. S. 173; Aktepe M., 1720-1734 Osmanlı-İran Münasibetleri, s. 12-13

On June 24, 1724, a treaty was signed between the Ottoman Empire and Russia in Istanbul. According to it, the Safavi State was divided into three parts. Under the Treaty, Russia gained control over the north – the Caspian littoral regions. Georgia, Shirvan and Azerbaijan - 3 miles from the junction of the Kur (Kura) and Araz (Araxes) Rivers in a straight line to Ardabil, then to Tabriz, Hamadan and Kermanshah, as well as all the cities and regions along this line passed to the Ottoman Empire.⁹³. But, Shah Tahmasib refused to recognize the Istanbul Treaty. Meanwhile, by the end of 1725, the Ottoman troops had actually completed the occupation of the northern and southern territories of Azerbaijan, except the Caspian regions.

On October 2, 1727, the Treaty of Hamadan was signed between the Ottomans and the Afghans. According to this treaty, Ashraf, recognizing the superiority of the Sultan in the Muslim world, confirmed the eternal control of the Ottoman Empire over the Safavi lands, including Hamadan, Kermanshah, Ardalan, Luristan, Maraga, Nehavand, Tabriz, Khoy, Zanjan, Ganja, Garabagh, Tiflis, Nakhchivan, Shirvan captured within 1722-1724. The Turks, in turn, recognized the authority of the Afghans in the Safavi territories occupied by them. Thus, Ashraf, officially recognized as the Shah of Iran, gained legitimacy.

In February 1729, an agreement was concluded between Ashraf and the Russians in Rasht, confirming the treaty signed by the ambassador of Shah Tahmasib in St. Petersburg in 1723 by Shah Tahmasib's ambassador, only with the replacement of Mazandaran and Astarabad by Shamakhy.

The fifth paragraph is entitled **“The Emergence of Nadir Afshar and the Expulsion of Afghans from the Safavi State”**. It was noted that the agreement between Ashraf and Russia failed to come into force in time. According to Persian-language sources, in 1726-1727, the ruler of Abiverd, Nadir Qulu khan from the Afshar tribe, joined with his troops to Shah Tahmasib who was in flight and

⁹³ Aktepe M., 1720-1734 Osmanlı-İran Münasibetleri, s.30

led the liberation movement against foreigners⁹⁴. In September-November 1729, after Nadir Qulu Khan succeeded to defeat the Afghan invaders in three decisive battles, the reign of Ashraf finally came to the end. With his direct participation, at the end of 1729, the rule of Shah Tahmasib II was restored.

The sixth paragraph entitled **“Liberation of the Safavi State from the Ottoman and Russian Occupation and the Coronation of Nadir Shah”** illuminates the process of elimination of the consequences of the occupation in Safavi possessions. Having liberated the country from the Afghans, Nadir first of all, focused on the western regions occupied by the Turks. The dissertation describes the course of Nadir’s military operations against the Ottoman troops in the summer-autumn of 1730. As a result of these operations he succeeded to liberate Luristan, Kurdistan, Kermanshah, and partly Azerbaijan from the Ottoman forces.

At the same time, steps were taken to get back the territories seized by Russia. In our opinion, there were two strategies in relation with Russia during this period. The first strategy, represented by Shah Tahmasib, was that he saw in the face of Russia guarantee against the aggressive intentions of the Ottomans and Afghans. Therefore, the official court agreed to make maximum concessions in relations with Russia. Another line pursued by Nadir, was the complete liberation of the territories occupied by the Russians.

In 1730, Nadir sent his ambassador, Mirza Ibrahim Khan, to Moscow to negotiate with the Russian government on the liberation of the Caspian littoral regions. However, this ambassador returned from Moscow with nothing. Nadir had to alternate his efforts simultaneously fighting in three directions. In November 1730, Shah Tahmasib, in order to get out of the influence of Nadir, began independent operations against the Ottoman troops, but after being

استرآبادی، میرزا مهدی خان، جهانگشای نادری، به اهتمام سید عبدالله انوار، تهران، ۱۳۷۷، ص ۵۶-۹۴
۵۷؛ استرآبادی میرزا مهدی خان. دره نادره. به اهتمام صیاد جعفر شهیدی. تهران: شرکت انتشارات علمی و فرهنگی، ۱۳۸۴، ص ۱۸۶-۱۸۷؛ قزوینی عبدالحسین، فواعد الصوفیه، به تصحیح مریم میر احمدی، تهران، ۱۳۲۲، ص. ۱۴۹؛ محمد محسن مستوفی، زبدت التواریخ، به کوشش بهروز گودرزی، ۱۴۵-۱۴۴؛ محمد هاشم رستم التواریخ، به تصحیح محمد مشیری، تهران، ۱۳۴۸.

defeated in the battle of Kuriyan (Kurdikhan), he was forced to retreat to Isfahan⁹⁵. Continuing peace negotiations with the Turks, in September 1731 he made another unsuccessful attempt to attack the Ottoman army, but lost Hamadan, Urmia, and Tabriz. The defeat of Shah Tahmasib and the signing of a fettering treaty with the Turks led to the fact that negotiations with representatives of the Russian court on the withdrawal of troops from the Caspian provinces went for naught. This campaign actually led to the elimination of diarchy in the Safavi state: Nadir, who took the initiative into his own hands, annulled the afore-said treaty and overthrew Tahmasib in August 1732, enthroning the young son of the last Shah Abbas III, declared himself a regent under him.⁹⁶

The dissertation elucidates in detail the course of Nadir's military operations against the Ottoman army in 1733-1734. Nadir alternately fought against the Ottomans in the Caucasus and Mesopotamia. As a result, by October 1735, Ganja, Tiflis and Iravan passed into the hands of Nadir.⁹⁷ The Ottoman Empire promised to return in good time all the lands it had occupied in the last 10 years. The borders between the states were determined on the basis of the provisions of the Treaty of Zuhab (also called the Treaty of Qasr-e Shirin), (1639), according to which Ganja, Shirvan, Iravan, and Tiflis passed to Iran.

Simultaneously with military operations against the Ottomans, Nadir was negotiating with the Russians. As a result of brilliant diplomatic moves, a peace agreement was concluded on March 20, 1735 between Iran and Russia in Ganja. This agreement formalized the final withdrawal of Russian troops from the Safavi possessions. Thus, by the mid-1730s, Nadir had managed to return the territories torn from the Safavi state in the 1720s by Russia and the Ottoman Empire.

⁹⁵ محمد محسن مستوفی، زبدت التواریخ، به کوشش بهروز گودرزی، تهران، ۱۳۷۵، ص ۱۵۶

⁹⁶ مینورسکی، ولادیمیر. تاریخچه نادرشاه، ترجمه رشید یاسمین: تران: امیر کبیر، ۱۳۱۳، ص ۳۵؛ هدايت، رضاقلی خان، روضه الصفاي نسیری، جلد ۸، تهران: مرکزی / قیام، پیروز، ۱۳۳۹، ص ۵۳۴.

⁹⁷ Гюлистан-е Ирам, 146; Uzunçarşılı, Osmanlı Tarihi, s. 854; عالم محمد کاظم مروی. آرای نادری، به تصحیح دکتر محمدامین ریاحی، جلد ۱، ص ۴۰۱؛ محمد کاظم، عالم آرای نادری نامه، دفتر ۱، مقدمه بقلم میکلوخو ماکلای، مسکو، ۱۹۶۵، ص ۱، ۳۰.

Thus, by the mid-1730s, Nadir managed to return the territories that had been seized from the Safavids in the 1720s by the Russian and Ottoman Empires, and thereby eliminate all obstacles on the way to the Shah's throne: at the *qurultay*, arranged according to ancient Turkic custom in the Mughan steppe, on Thursday 24 Shawwal 1148/8 March 1736 Nadir was solemnly elected Shah.

Chapter III, entitled “Religious, Military and Administrative Reforms of Nadir Shah”, covers four paragraphs. The first paragraph **“Search by Nadir the Legitimacy of his Coming to Power and the Declaration of Madhab-i Jafari as the New State Religion of the Afsharid State”** examines the circumstances under which Nadir began to reign in the context of defining the spiritual and ideological foundations of the legitimacy of his claim to power. Prior to his coronation, Nadir had managed to restore the country within its previous borders. We have noted that the dual power, although fictitious, threatened to bring confusion and discord into state administration, since in a traditional society it was the absolute power of the shah that possessed the necessary legitimacy. From this viewpoint, Nadir's coming to power was perceived as a coup and his actions as usurpation. Secondly, as there were a significant number of supporters of the former ruling dynasty, the Safavi Shah could become a puppet in the hands of external forces in case of their intervention in the country.

As it is known, Nadir confirmed his power as the only one by convening a *qurultay* (congress) - a kind of large assembly with the participation of representatives of different tribes and social strata of the population. As is well known, the rule of the Safavis, in some respect, was based on sacred principles. Therefore, Nadir hoped that he would legitimize his aspirations for power through a kind of vote of broad social strata.

The analysis of the conditions set by Nadir before the participants of the congress for his accession to the throne allowed us to draw the following conclusions: 1) Nadir intended to deprive the Safavis of any chance to restore their reign; 2) He set himself the task of weakening of the confessional schism in Islam by achieving the recognition of the Ja'fari Madhab on the part of the Sunni spiritual

circles. This, in turn, would help both to mitigate confessional enmity within the country, to reduce the role of the clerical top, and would also reduce the heat of the hostility between the Ottoman Empire and the Afsharid State. After the demands were accepted at the congress held in the Mughan steppe on March 7, 1736, Nadir was solemnly elected shah⁹⁸. After that, according to one of Nadir's conditions, the people of the state had to become followers of the Ja'far as-Sadiq Madhab and renounce the Shi'ite practices of "sabb" and "rafd", which were insulting for the Sunnis.

This subject finds its development in the second paragraph under the title **"The Religious Concept of Nadir Shah"**. First of all, it is noted that, contrary to the opinions of L.Lockhart and some other researchers, with the introduction of a new state ideology – Ja'fari Madhab, Nadir had never strived for the establishment of the Sunni State. In order to better understand the religious reform envisaged by Nadir Shah, we have focused in detail on the Ja'fari Madhab, or rather the content that Nadir himself gave to this teaching. At the same time, it is noted that there was a fundamental contradiction in the religious concept of Nadir Shah - the rejection of the Imamology of Shi'ism, which predetermined the failure of his doctrine. Indeed, if Ja'far as -Sadiq was considered equal to such founders of Sunni legal schools as Abu Hanifa or Ash-Shafi'i, and one of the recognized compilers of the Furu'at, then the function of the 12 Imams as the sole legal guardians and interpreters who conveyed the esoteric dimension of Islam would have been denied. This was a serious concession to the Sunni doctrine. However, such a concession was associated with the implementation of Nadir's ambitious plans to rule a huge empire, where the majority of the population was Sunni.

استرآبادی، میرزا مهدی خان، جهانگشای نادری، به اهتمام سید عبدالله انوار، تهران، ۱۳۷۷، ص. ۹۸
 ۲۷۱؛ استرآبادی میرزا مهدی خان. دره نادره. به اهتمام صیاد جعفر شهیدی. تهران: شرکت انتشارات علمی و فرهنگی، ۱۳۸۴، ص ۳۷۰؛ تهرانی، محمد شفیع. تاریخ نادرشاهی، به اهتمام رضا شعبانی، تهران انتشارات بنیاد فرهنگ ایران، ۱۳۴۹، ص ۴۳-۴۴؛ محمد محسن مستوفی، زبدت التواریخ، به کوشش بهروز گودرزی، تهران، ۱۳۷۵، ص ۱۶۶؛ محمد کاظم مروی. عالم آرای نادری، به تصحیح دکتر محمدمبین ریاحی، جلد ۲، تهران، ۱۳۵۸، ص ۴۴۶.

Nadir Shah demanded the Ottoman Sultan, as the head of Sunni Islam, to recognize Shi'ism in its new form - the Madhab-i Ja'fari. As proof of this recognition, he made other demands: the construction of a fifth Maqam for the Ja'faris in the Ka'aba as an external symbol of recognition of the school of Imam Jafar as-Sadiq along with 4 Sunni schools; the appointment of an Iranian leader - "Amir al-Hajj" to accompany pilgrims from the Safavi state through Damascus to Mecca, the release of Iranian prisoners of war and the exchange of ambassadors.⁹⁹ As a result of negotiations in 1736, Nadir Shah was able to achieve certain concessions from the Turks and the acceptance of some conditions, including the demand for the allocation of places of worship for the followers of the Ja'fari Madhab within the Kaaba: from now on, the Ja'faris could pray with the Shafi'is. Also, under certain conditions, the request to appoint an Iranian as the leader of the caravan of Iranian pilgrims for the annual pilgrimage (Amir al-Hajj) was accepted.

The course of a religious dispute that took place in 1743 in Najaf with the participation of Shi'ite and Sunni theologians at Nadir Shah is described in detail in the dissertation. In fact, it was a council of authoritative religious figures, such as the Ecumenical Councils in the Christian Church. On December 11, 1743, the participants of the meeting signed a document - "wesiqe-name", compiled by Mirza Mahdi Khan Astarabadi. It was accepted by 41 Shi'ite figures from Iran and 27 Sunni and Shi'ite alims (scholars) from Iraq, Mavarannahr, Afghanistan. The document emphasized the acceptance of the legitimacy of the rule of all four caliphs by Shi'ite scholars, as well as the prohibition of Shi'ite practices - "sabb" and "rafd". Sunni scholars, in turn, announced that the guarantees of the Iranian Shi'ite clergy were accepted and that they refused to consider Iranian Shi'ites as infidels. However, as a result of the Ottoman government's resistance, the main religious task - the restoration of relations between the Shi'ism and Sunnism - failed. The Ottoman

استرابادی، میرزا مهدی خان، جهانگشای نادری، به اهتمام سید عبدالله انوار، تهران، ۱۳۷۷، ص ۲۷۰⁹⁹

authorities were well aware of the ideological threat posed by Nadir's religious initiatives, therefore actively opposed them.

The third paragraph is called **“The Military Reforms of Nadir Shah”**. As it is known, any action related to the military sphere to a greater or lesser extent, was the core of Nadir Shah's whole life. After joining Tahmasib in 1726, Nadir began to reorganize the Safavi army, based on the beginnings of the previous structural and component principles, but relying on new management decisions and the highest discipline.

Like the Safavis, Nadir Shah's army consisted mainly of cavalry recruited from nomadic pastoral tribes, lightly armored and armed with spears and broadswords. Besides, these were riflemen (tufangchi) - infantrymen armed with fuse muskets, assembled from the peasants; jazayerchi, harquebusiers - usually on horseback armed with a large musket (jazayir or jazail) and firing on the move; artillerymen, who used mainly zamburak - a rotating cannon with the size of a falconet, mounted on a special camel saddle and using small-caliber cannons fired from the animal's back. They were mainly gunners, mounted on a special camel saddle and using small-caliber cannons fired from the animal's back. The development of this system, which had powerful infantry firearms to provide a stable base around which artillery could be placed and cavalry could maneuver, enabled Nadir to defeat the Abdali cavalry.

In the dissertation, we focused on some of the most important battles in which remarkable military abilities of Nadir Shah, as well as the fruits of his reforms, were particularly evident.

Analysis of these battles gives reason to say that Nadir's army was gaining the upper hand due to the following circumstances: 1) The Afsharid army gained incredible discipline and coordination through long training and exercises; 2) Nadir instilled in his troops a high degree of tactical literacy and competence - a quality that favorably distinguished his army from the enemy armies; 3) The troops were distinguished by great mobility and maneuverability, which allowed them to act more agile and skillfully in the battlefield; 4) The existing system for the selection of the command staff provided high mobility for the rise in career; 5) The initiative was

encouraged in the army, which contributed to the development of ability in the lower command staff in making independent tactical decisions; 6) Military intelligence was perfectly organized.

Some features of Nadir's battle tactics can be summarized as follows: 1) Maximum use of relief features for reconnaissance and the optimal positioning of troops; 2) Constant maneuvering of troops during the battle. Just due to planned and purposeful moving of his units Nadir achieved the desired configuration during the battle; 3) Coordinated actions of artillery, infantry and cavalry brought to automatism. Maneuvering artillery performed a more independent and important function than in enemy armies; 4) Nadir skillfully created the so-called flank superiority, thereby extending the enemy's defensive line and creating conditions for its breakthrough; 5) One of the important tactical subtleties was the skillful masking of the main forces; 6) Competent management of reserves. Nadir tactfully considered the moment when new reserves had to be entered to the battle.

Some of Nadir's military decisions – the advancement of light cavalry and riflemen, the increase of maneuverability of troops, a strong artillery corps to defeat the enemy until a decisive tactical moment, a strong reserve of heavy cavalry, to a some extent his know-how overtook its time. Nadir Shah did not consider tactical tasks outside the framework of strategic goals, adopted in the context of empire-building and the intentions appropriate to this process.

However, as noted in the dissertation, Nadir's military revolution did not lead to a substantial economic reconstruction and production relations, as happened in Europe.

The fourth paragraph, entitled **“The System of State Governance and the Military Economy under Nadir Shah”**, elucidates issues related to the state and economic reforms of Nadir Shah. We used the term “militocracy” in a broad sense to characterize the political regime of Nadir Shah. In our opinion, the absolute dominance of military considerations, which penetrated the entire mechanism of government, from the adoption of any decision to socio-economic measures, had a decisive impact on the nature of the political system of the Afsharid State.

Although Nadir Shah made significant changes in administrative matters, he continued the practice of the Safavis. Four vilayets (provinces) were established: Azerbaijan (except for Azerbaijan itself, all the territories of the South Caucasus controlled by the Afsharid State, and Georgia were included to this province), Iraq (Iran), Khorasan and Fars. The central government existed in the person of “defterkhane-ye humayun”.

From the very beginning, Nadir pursued a decisive line of strengthening the power structure, which resulted in the increasing the influence of the central government in places. Nadir had certain skepticism about the old (Safavi) bureaucracy. That is why during this period we observe the phenomenon called by L.Lambton “the Tribal Resurgence”¹⁰⁰.

According to “Alam aray-i Nadiri”, all taxes were divided into permanent and non-permanent, which were recorded in the tax books.¹⁰¹ As already mentioned, the army held a special place in society, so it is not surprising that in the Afsharid State the “lion’s share” of taxes and duties was spent to the maintenance of a huge army.

Until a certain period, the fiscal and tax policies of Nadir Shah had a favorable effect on the financial situation of the state. The strictest control over income and expenditures made it possible to redirect to the state treasury large extent of revenues that were previously plundered by local feudal lords and officials.

During the reign of Nadir, a significant part of the vaqhf lands was transferred to the management that was responsible for state lands. The confiscated lands were included into a special “Land Register book” known as “Rakabat-i-Nadiri”¹⁰². The fund of state lands was also replenished through the purchase of privately owned lands.

¹⁰⁰ Lambton, Ann K. S., ‘The Tribal Resurgence and the Decline of the Bureaucracy in the Eighteenth Century’, p. 108-109

¹⁰¹ محمد کاظم مروی. عالم آرای نادری، به تصحیح دکتر محمدامین ریاحی، جلد ۳، تهران، ۱۳۵۸، ص. ۱۰۵۱.

¹⁰² Lambton, Ann K. S. Landlord and Peasant in Persia, p. 131

Thus, Nadir Shah's administrative and economic measures in the 30s of the 18th Century in general were progressive in nature. To a certain extent, we can characterize these measures as manifestations of the phenomenon that we refer to as "autocratic pre-modernization."

Analyzing Nadir Shah's economic policy, we concluded that, firstly, following the political regime, it could be characterized as militocratic, since it generally served to military issues. Secondly, economic measures were closely related to the general strategic course aimed at strengthening the centralized state, which meant the fight against any manifestation of particularism. Thirdly, special attention was paid to the regulation of financial affairs: the measures taken in this area were aimed at increasing tax revenues. Nadir Shah's economic policy as a rational and purposeful activity ended with Daghestan campaign. After that, Nadir resorted to extremely repressive measures, which fundamentally undermined the productive forces and plunged the population into extreme poverty.

Chapter IV entitled "**Foreign Policy Relations of Nadir Shah with the Ottoman Empire, the Mughal Empire, and Campaigns to Central Asia and Daghestan**" covers four paragraphs. The first paragraph, entitled "**Relations with the Ottomans**", illuminates the course of negotiations on a peace treaty in 1736, when fundamental differences between the parties emerged. The solution of spiritual and religious issues was top-priority for Nadir. However, the Ottomans had focused on property issues, as they saw the discussion of religious issues as an attempt on their spiritual and political dominance in the Muslim (Sunni) world.

At peace negotiations in 1736, the borders were confirmed on the basis of the Treaty of Zuhab (Treaty of Qasr Shirin) of 1639. Also, decisions were made according to which the Ottomans provided for the passage of Iranian pilgrims to Mecca via al-Hasa (Lahas) and Najaf under the leadership of Amir al-Hajj; representations were opened in the capitals of both states; prisoners of war were released, and from now on their sale into slavery was banned.

However, Nadir Shah was dissatisfied with the results of the negotiations and the fact that the Turks accepted not all but only

three of the five proposals. A new embassy, sent by Nadir to continue discussions on unresolved issues arrived in Istanbul in early 1739. In his letter, Nadir stated that he would agree to the conditionally relative religious leadership of the Ottoman Sultan only if the latter agrees to accept him as an equal-status party. In the letter, the Afsharid ruler once again emphasized the paramount importance of religious issues for him.

Nadir Shah's actions in India and Central Asia greatly alarmed the Ottoman court. In the light of Nadir's new campaign to Daghestan, the rulers of the Ottoman border regions were ordered not only to keep an eye on the movements of Nadir Shah in Daghestan. Reports about the demoralization of Nadir's army and his constant demands for reinforcements, which came from the Daghestan front, further intensified Porta's (Babi-Ali's) preparations for war. On April 30, 1742, a fatwa was issued by the Ottoman Sheikh-ul-Islam regarding the war with Iran in case of Nadir Shah's attack¹⁰³.

In June, Nadir Shah's troops invaded Ottoman Iraq.¹⁰⁴ Having besieged Baghdad, Nadir again put forward a demand for the recognition of the Ja'fari Madhab as the fifth one. But the Ottoman government again refused referring to the contradictions of the new teaching with Shari'a. By the end of 1743, a draft peace treaty was drawn up near Baghdad.¹⁰⁵

The Ottoman government, closely watching the escalation of unrests in the Afsharid State, relying on the impostor Safi Mirza was preparing for a new war. In the summer of 1744, military operations began in the Kars region. As it is known, in August 1745 Nadir Shah twice defeated the Ottoman army near Kars.

In January and February 1746, Nadir Shah sent Fathali Khan Turkmen with letters to the ruler of Baghdad, Ahmed Pasha, with proposals for peace. This time, he refused to put forward religious demands as a precondition. Nadir's concession in the recognition of

¹⁰³ Uzunçarşılı, İ.H. Osmanlı Tarihi, – c. 4, bölüm 2: XVIII Yüzyıl. – 1988, s. 301

¹⁰⁴ محمد کاظم، نامه عالم آرای نادری، دفتر ۱، مقدمه بقلم میکلوخو ماکلای، مسکو، ۱۹۶۵، ص ۷۷۸.

¹⁰⁵ Hurewitz J.C., Diplomacy in the Near and Middle East: a Documentary Record: 1535-1914, vol. 1, Princeton: D. Van Nostrand Co., 1956, 21-3

the Ja'fari Madhab and the establishment of rukn in Mecca meant a de facto abandonment of claims to the role and status of the second leading spiritual center of the Islamic world. Due to the growth of unrests and protests in different regions of the Afsharid State, as well as the economic devastation circumstances changed radically, and in these conditions Nadir's insistence on the previous demands was completely senseless. On September 4, 1746, a peace treaty was concluded in Kurdan, drawn up on the basis of the provisions of the Treaty of Zuhab of 1639.

In relation to his formidable neighbor, Nadir did not pursue serious expansionist goals. Nadir's main goal was to achieve lasting peace, between the two states based on stable and long-term mutually beneficial interests, as well as the recognition of the Afsharid State as an equally important center of the Muslim world.

The second paragraph is called **"The Relations with the Mughal Empire"**. After his rise, Nadir began to take steps to restore relations with the Mughals. As early as January-February 1730, he sent an embassy on behalf of Shah Tahmasib II to Delhi, who was instructed to "convince the Mughal emperor to unite his forces to destroy the Afghans of Kandahar"¹⁰⁶. However, Muhammad Shah did not respond to requests of the Iranian side, but detained the Safavi ambassador in the Mughal court for a long time, who returned to his homeland only 2 years later.

After the removal of Tahmasib II from the power, Nadir sent a second mission to Delhi, which he supplied with a letter. There, Nadir reiterated his call for a joint struggle with the Afghans. In response, Muhammad Shah stated that a great Mughal army had already quartered in Kabul, and that Afghans could not cross the Mughal border.

After accession to the throne, Nadir began to attach great importance to Afghanistan and Central Asia: due to their geopolitical positions, these regions had to become a strong frontier (border region) of the emerging Afsharid Empire. Therefore, in November

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استرآبادی، میرزا مهدی خان، جهانگشای نادری، به اهتمام سید عبدالله انوار، ص. ۱۱۴

1736, Nadir Shah started a new campaign to Afghanistan, which led to serious military-political and geopolitical changes in a vast area.

By April 1737, Nadir's troops had begun to siege Kandahar, during which they were revealed the inconsistency of the assurances of the Mughal court about their control of the situation at the border. After the conquest of Kandahar in March 1738, Nadir Shah, not receiving an answer from the emperor to any of his letters, moved towards the Mughal province of Kabul, and soon captured it. He sent letters to the emperor from Kabul, reproaching the latter for actually helping the rebellious Afghan tribes. Reports about the state of affairs at the Mughal court, delay of Nadir's ambassadors in Delhi for more than a year, silence in response to the latter's requests to close the Indian border, also the fact that during the Afghan invasion the Mughal government did not lend a helping hand to Iran, which actually was advantageous for Afghans, displeased Nadir.

In the autumn of 1738, the Afsharid troops moved to the borders of the Mughal Empire. On November 18, Peshawar declined, and on November 26, in the battle for the Khaiber Pass, which led directly to the Mughal possessions, Nadir demonstrated astonishing tactical agility, and put the Afghans to rout. In January, an important strategic point, Lahore surrendered to Nadir. It was in Lahore that Nadir received information about the preparations of Muhammad Shah and his ministers for military operations against the Afsharid army.

Near Karnal on the road to Delhi, on February 24, 1739, Nadir Shah confronted the Mughal army led by Muhammad Shah.¹⁰⁷ The victory in the Battle of Karnal helped Nadir to capture Delhi. He stayed in the city until May 15-16, 1739.

According to the agreement between Nadir and Muhammad Shah, "*all territories of the Empire in the west of the Attok and Indus rivers, from the borders of Tibet and Kashmir to the place where the Indus flows into the sea, including the province of Tatta (Tette), as well as its ports and fortresses*", were given to Nadir Shah in

¹⁰⁷ کشمیری، عبدالکریم، بیان واقع. سرگذشت احوال نادر شاه، به تصحیح و تحقیق کی.بی. نسیم، ادارہ تحقیقات پاکستان، لاہور، ۱۹۷۰، ص ۲۶.

gratitude for the return of Muhammad Shah's power.¹⁰⁸ On his way to Iran Nadir Shah successfully carried out his Turkestan campaign and conquered Turan and Khwarazm. The Indian campaign brought tremendous wealth to Nadir: the jewels seized in Delhi were so many that Nadir Shah stopped collecting taxes in Iran for three years after his return. As a result of the Indian campaign, the Afghan feudal lords were subdued, and their force was greatly weakened.

In the following years, the exchange of embassies and correspondence between the rulers of the two countries continued. Moreover, the nobles of the Mughal court corresponded with Nadir Shah and sent him gifts.¹⁰⁹ The main goal of Nadir Shah's diplomatic relations with Delhi was to force the Mughal government to pay him large sums of money from time to time.

In our opinion, Nadir Shah hoped for creating his own imperial space, in which India would have a significant place. India had to play roughly similar roles in its imperial project that were performed, for example, by the Crimean Khanate in the Ottoman geopolitical system.

The third paragraph, entitled **“Nadir Shah's Campaign to Central Asia”**, elucidates the mentioned expedition of this great commander. It should be noted that the rulers of Central Asia always took advantage of the internal disorder in the Safavi state, and made inroads at the first opportunity. One of such rulers was Ilbars khan, the ruler of Khiva. Nadir Shah planned to campaign to Turkestan and Mavarannahr still being in India, when he received news about the next raid of Ilbars Khan to Khorasan. The campaign began in August 1740. On September 6, Nadir had already crossed the Jeyhun River, (also called the Amu Darya), where he defeated the troops of the Bukhara ruler, Abulfaz khan, who had to obey him. All the lands of

¹⁰⁸ استرآبادی، میرزا مهدی خان، جهانگشای نادری، به اهتمام سید عبدالله انوار، تهران، ۱۳۷۷، ص ۳۳۴؛ نسیری محمد رضا، اسناد و مکاتبات تاریخی ایران دوره افشاریه، جلد ۱، گیلان، ۱۳۶۴، ص ۱۰۹.

¹⁰⁹ Islam, R. Indo-Persian Relations. A Study of the Political and Diplomatic Relations Between the Mughul Empire and Iran / R. Islam. – Tehran: Iranian Culture Foundation, – 1970. – 287 p., 154

Mavarannahr from the east to the northeast, from Bukhara to Samarkand passed into the hands of Nadir Shah.¹¹⁰ On the advice of Abulfaz khan, Nadir wrote a letter to Ilbars¹¹¹, in which he demanded obedience in an ultimatum tone, threatening otherwise to march through his possessions. But, Ilbars demonstratively dealt with the envoys of Nadir Shah. In October 1740, Nadir moved to Khwarazm. During the march, he routed Ilbars' troops several times. Ilbars managed to hide in the Khangah fortress¹¹². Unsure about the support of his troops, Ilbars was forced to admit the defeat. But despite this, he and 20 of his commanders were executed by Nadir Shah.¹¹³

Then Nadir Shah picked his way towards Khiva, where he managed to break the resistance of the population. Having left Khiva, on December 7, 1740, he headed towards Charju, then passed through Marv and Kelat, and arrived in Mashhad on January 17, 1741.¹¹⁴

So, Nadir Shah, having made a campaign to Mavarannahr and Kharazm and conquering these regions, subjugated the disobedient khans and eliminated the threat of an attack by the Uzbek raiders, who for centuries had been tormenting the population of Khorasan with their raids. Nadir, just like with Muhammad Shah in India, left the Uzbek ruler Abulfaz Khan in power and promoted him to the rank of shah. In Central Asia, through a system of local loyal rulers, the dreaded Afsharid ruler had established his own hierarchy of power relations. But he could not complete the work he had begun. After his death, following the collapse of the empire, the Central Asian rulers restored their independence.

محمد کاظم، نامہ عالم آرای نادری، دفتر ۳، مقدمہ بقلم میکلوخو ماکلائی، مسکو، ۱۹۶۵، ص ۷۹۹. ¹¹⁰

استرآبادی، میرزا مهدی خان، جهانگشای نادری، به اهتمام سید عبدالله انوار، تهران، ۱۳۷۷، ص ۳۵۳. ¹¹¹

استرآبادی، میرزا مهدی خان، جهانگشای نادری، به اهتمام سید عبدالله انوار، تهران، ۱۳۷۷، ص ۳۵۵؛ محمد کاظم، نامہ عالم آرای نادری، دفتر ۳، مقدمہ بقلم میکلوخو ماکلائی، مسکو، ۱۹۶۵، ص ۸۱۱؛ کشمیری، عبدالکریم، بیان واقعہ سرگزشت احوال نادر شاه، به تصحیح و تحقیق کی.بی. نسیم، ادارہ تحقیقات پاکستان، لاہور، ۱۹۷۰، ص ۸۷. ¹¹²

استرآبادی، میرزا مهدی خان، جهانگشای نادری، به اهتمام سید عبدالله انوار، تهران، ۱۳۷۷، ص ۳۵۷. ¹¹³

استرآبادی، میرزا مهدی خان، جهانگشای نادری، به اهتمام سید عبدالله انوار، تهران، ۱۳۷۷، ص ۳۵۰. ¹¹⁴

The fourth paragraph, entitled “**Nadir Shah’s Campaign to Daghestan**”, illuminates the peripetia of Nadir Shah’s expedition to Daghestan. In the dissertation, Nadir Shah’s actions against Surkhay Khan and other Daghestan rulers in 1734 and 1735 are described in general terms, sometimes given in historiography as the first and second campaigns of Nadir to Daghestan.

As is well known, since 1737, Nadir was involved in military operations in Afghanistan, India and Central Asia. His absence was perceived as a signal for uprisings in Daghestan and the adjacent regions of Northern Azerbaijan. The brother of Nadir Shah, Ibrahim Khan, to whom virtually the entire South Caucasus was transferred as the ruler of Azerbaijan, decided to launch a campaign against the rebellious Daghestani peoples. The Jar campaign of Ibrahim Khan in the autumn of 1738, which was a punitive expedition of Ibrahim Khan, despite some successes, ended in disaster. It was noted that the main military forces of the Afsharid State participated at that time in the campaign against the Central Asian Khanates and India. The troops under the command of Ibrahim Khan were significantly inferior from the main military forces in terms of their quality. On the other hand, Ibrahim Khan faced not by a small group of Jar volunteers, but a powerful armed group assembled from all over Daghestan.¹¹⁵

The defeat of Ibrahim Khan actually threatened the collapse of the entire power structure erected in the South Caucasus. The rebels seized territories outside their homeland and raised the Sunni population against the central government. Therefore Nadir had an urgent need to pacify the mountaineers.

While still in Afghanistan, Nadir Shah equipped his cavalry under the command of Qani khan Abdali for sending to Shirvan,. This cavalry quickly coped with the resistance of the Jar people. And Nadir himself left Mashhad for the Daghestan campaign on March 14, 1741.¹¹⁶ In early August 1741, Nadir Shah was engaged in two operations. A group of troops led by Heydar bey moved through

محمد کاظم، عالم آرای نادری نامه، دفتر ۱، مقدمه بقلم میکلوخو ماکلای، مسکو، ۱۹۶۵، ص ۱۱۷۳
محمد کاظم، عالم آرای نادری نامه، دفتر ۳، مقدمه بقلم میکلوخو ماکلای، مسکو، ۱۹۶۵، ص ۸۳۳.

Qaytag to the territory of Mehtuli khanate. Nadir himself with the main forces headed for the possessions of Surkhay Khan. The resistance of the Qaytag people was broken at the expense of serious losses, only with the help of the 24-thousandth detachment of Lutfali Khan sent by the shah. Then these detachments went through the possessions of Khasbulat Tarkovsky to the Mehtuli khanate, and after a small skirmish stopped in the Aymaki gorge.¹¹⁷

By the end of the summer, it became clear that without the occupation of Avaristan, there could be no question of any lasting hold on Daghestan. The Afsharid troops operating in the area of the Aymaki gorge were unable to fulfill the task they were charged with. Most of the 20.000-strong army under the command of Lutfali Khan was actually destroyed. The detachments of Heydar bey and Jalil bey shared the same fate. Another grouping of troops under the command of Nadir himself went to Andalal in order to continue their way to Khunzakh. The decisive battles in Avaristan took place for 5 days. The selfless heroism of the Daghestanis, the difficult mountainous terrain, the harsh weather conditions - each of these factors played a role in the defeat of Nadir Shah's troops. In addition to all these misfortunes, the match guns of the Afsharid army did not work due to the rains. On September 28, realizing his failure, Nadir began to withdraw from the Avar Mountains. But the retreat was accompanied with unprecedented losses. Nadir's troops had never suffered losses on such a scale before, about 27.000 survived from 52.000-strong army of Nadir by the end of the Avar expedition.¹¹⁸

In 1742, Nadir made a number of marches to Tabasaran and Qaytag, but failed to fully achieve his goals. In the spring and summer of the same year, he tried to somehow establish his own system of dependent rulers. However, the attempts to win over the rulers and elders of Daghestan did not yield the expected results,

¹¹⁷Тамай А.И. К вопросу о провале Дагестанской кампании шаха Надира (1741-1743 гг.) // Ученые записки ИИЯЛ Дагестанского филиала АН СССР Т.5., Махачкала, 1958. С. 115

¹¹⁸История Дагестана: [в 4-х томах] / ред. Г.Д. Даниялов. – Москва: Наука, – том 1. – 1967. с. 367

although Nadir generously gifted the nobles of the tribes who laid down their arms.

By the end of 1742, Nadir had gradually expanded the territories in Qumuk, Qaytag, Tabasaran controlled by him.¹¹⁹ But the inhabitants of the conquered lands moved to Avaristan to continue their struggle. Moreover, Nadir, experiencing a severe shortage of food due to the actions of the Russian government, in February 1743 marched to the Qumuk villages of Endirey, Kostek and Aksai. However, Nadir, shortly after moving north, learned that the Ottomans were sending troops to the Caucasus. On February 10, 1743, finally realizing the impracticality of attacking the Russians, while the old enemy, the Ottomans, was strengthening in his rear, Nadir again moved south to the Mughan Plain, leaving a significant garrison in Derbent.

In our opinion, Nadir's march to Daghestan did not stem from his voluntaristic motives, but only from military-strategic and geopolitical goals. First, by this time, Daghestan and the adjacent Azerbaijani territories with a predominantly Sunni population had turned into stable centers of opposition to the centralist attempts of the Safavis, and later the Afsharid government. Secondly, without the possession of the mountainous part, it was impossible to control the entire Daghestan, and Daghestan was of interest to Nadir as the northern natural borders of his state, as a kind of buffer between it and Russia which was gaining strength. Thirdly, in all likelihood, even if Nadir was content with the plain and did not strive for the mountains, he would still have to deal with the mountainous part of Daghestan, as the mountains were, for natural reasons, was the refuge of all the dissatisfied elements of the region.

Thus, there is no doubt about the rational grounds for Nadir's march to Daghestan. But, from the viewpoint of the campaign itself, the methods and techniques of military service were extremely unreasonable.

¹¹⁹ Арунова, М.Р. Государство Надир-шаха Афшара. Очерки общ. Отношений в Иране 30-40 годов XVIII века – Москва: Изд-во восточной лит-ры, – 1958, с.201

At the **Conclusion** of the dissertation after a thorough analysis and classification of documentary and narrative Persian-language sources of the period being under review made on the basis of source studies and historiographical research there summed up the results of Nadir Shah's military and political activities in the liberation of the Safavid state from foreign invaders and in search for the legitimacy of his power, the reforms carried out in the religious and military fields and in the sphere of government and military economy, as well as filled in the gaps in foreign policy and diplomatic relations of The Afsharid state with neighboring countries – the Ottoman, Russian, and Mughal Empires.

In the first quarter of the XVIII century The Safavid state, experiencing an acute economic and political crisis, was on the verge of collapse. In 1722, the Afghans of Gilzai captured the central part of the country along with the capital Isfahan. Peter I, in order to prevent the Ottoman Empire from reaching the Caspian Sea, began his campaign to the Safavid state and seized the Caspian regions. In response, the Turks occupied the western and northwestern parts of the country. But the accession of Nadir Kuli Khan Afshar to Shah Tahmasib II, who led the struggle against foreigners, changed the course of events. By the end of 1729, Nadir's army defeated the Afghans in three battles and won back Isfahan from the Afghans and restored Tahmasib's power. Nadir managed to expel the Ottoman Turks and force Russian troops to leave the Caspian provinces. By this time, Nadir himself was ready to lead the country and in the qurultay he organized in the Mugan steppe on March 8, 1736, he was elected Shah.

At the coronation, Nadir announced the adoption of a new state religion of the Jafari Madhhab, that is, the integration of Shiism into Orthodox Islam as the fifth Madhhab along with four Sunni schools. He suggested calling Imamite Shiism the Jafarid Madhhab named after the sixth Imam Jafar al-Sadiq, the founder of the law school, thereby making it clear that this is not just a change of one dynasty to another, but also a change in the ideological vector of the state.

Throughout his reign, Nadir Shah, using both diplomatic means and military pressure, tried to force the Turks to accept their

demands and admit the Jafarid Madhhab, but they were adamant. The long-awaited peace with the Turks was concluded only when Nadir Shah, having failed to achieve success in resolving the issue of confessional reconciliation, lifted the terms been set for the recognition of the new madhhab.

The campaign in Mongolian India and Central Asia was largely due to the strategic calculus of Nadir Shah. Firstly, they were caused by the desire to obtain the necessary funds for the planned peculiar modernization of the country. Secondly, Nadir, in our opinion, dreamed of building his Empire, in which India had to perform approximately the same functions that, say, the Crimean Khanate performed in the Ottoman geopolitical system.

The thesis also reviewed the Dagestan campaign, which led to the conclusion that, firstly, in Nadir Shah's plans to build his own empire, Dagestan was given strategic importance due to its important geopolitical location. Secondly, there are motivations to achieve strategic advantages in a future confrontation with Russia. Thirdly, the logic of owning the region (or its key points) dictated the necessity to conquer mountainous areas, because without mountains it was impossible to control the plain.

At the same time, the violent ways and methods of the Nadir of carrying out military tasks turned out to be extremely unreasonable and even fatal. Having studied various aspects of military reforms in the context of social processes, we came to the conclusion that the actual establishment of the new army presupposed the creation of an appropriate industrial base capable to provide regularly the army with equipment and weapons, which, in turn, could later serve as a prerequisite for pre-industrialization in other words the forerunner of the industrial revolution.

The study of Nadir Shah's administrative and economic measures in the 30s of the XVIII century allowed us to conclude that, on the whole, they were progressive in nature. To a certain extent, we can characterize them as a manifestation of the phenomenon we have called "autocratic premodernization."

Nadir established the production of weapons and heavy artillery, put the country's finances in significant order, increased the size of

the state land fund, successfully pursued a policy of centralizing the state apparatus, and fought particularism. In our opinion, the experience gained in the military field, if necessary, could be in demand in the civilian sphere. The so-called Nadir military revolution did not lead to an essential restructuring of the economy and industrial relations, as happened in Europe.

**The main Content of the Dissertation is Reflected in the
Following Scientific Works of the Author:**

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