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THE STUDY OF THE HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY OF NAKHCHIVAN IN THE 19TH-20TH CENTURIES IN THE PERIOD OF INDEPENDENCE IN AZERBAIJANI HISTORIOGRAPHY

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ABSTRACT

The main goal of writing the article is to systematically analyze the research conducted in the historiography of Azerbaijan during the period of independence, related to the historical geography of Nakhchivan in the 19th and 20th centuries. One of the main issues is related to the points highlighted by the authors from Azerbaijan in the researches related to the historical geography of Nakhchivan. During the writing of the article, both general research methods and methods of a special nature for historical science were used. However, the main methods were systematic analysis and content analysis. A systematic analysis of numerous research works written in this direction was carried out and they were grouped. Later, content analysis and comparative analysis of the works were carried out separately. The conclusion is that the claims made against the territories of the country such as Karabakh and Nakhchivan were one of the main factors determining the relevance of these studies.

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Introduction.

The 19th-20th centuries are a period rich in political, administrative, and economic changes in the history of Azerbaijan. The Russian-Qajar wars that took place at the beginning of the 19th century completely changed the historical-administrative division of the region, which had been formed for centuries, and the concepts of North and South Azerbaijan appeared. The administrative structure of Northern Azerbaijan, including its Nakhchivan region, was changed several times in accordance with the colonial policy of Tsarist Russia. The military and political processes that took place at the beginning of the 20th century, especially during the First World War, had a serious impact on the historical geography of the Caucasus region in general. During that period, as well as after the fall of tsarist Russia, Nakhchivan became one of the main centers of the struggle for national independence in Northern Azerbaijan, a strategic area for which great powers fought. Local governments such as the Araz-Turkic Republic and the South-West Caucasian Turkic Republic emerged here, Dashnak Armenia made attempts to occupy these territories, and finally the power of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic was established over Nakhchivan. On the eve of the fall of the People's Republic, the processes in the region became tense again, the issues related to the region's affiliation and borders became the subject of interstate discussions, and the Moscow and Kars agreements signed in 1921 reflected these issues. After the establishment of the Soviet power in Azerbaijan and the creation of the USSR, there were changes in the administrative-territorial structure and borders of the autonomous republic. The study of the

historical geography of Nakhchivan in the 19th-20th centuries, distinguished by the variability and richness of military and political processes, has attracted the attention of researchers in this regard.

The relevance of the topic and the first studies.

After the Republic of Azerbaijan regained its state independence, comprehensive research and study of many problems of the Motherland's history became a necessity and opportunities arose. Ideological barriers and threats faced by researchers during the Soviet era did not allow them to present historical truths as they were in many cases. On January 31, 1997, prominent statesman Heydar Aliyev said at a meeting with the employees of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences: "I think that one of the tasks facing the academy now is to write the history of the Azerbaijani people in the 19th and 20th centuries" (Aliyev, 1998, pp. 186-187).

On the other hand, since the historical processes in the Soviet Union were studied in the context of interclass relations in accordance with the requirements of the official ideological concept, the influence of geographical factors on historical processes was not given serious importance in the early days. The issues of studying the historical geography of Nakhchivan, which occupies an important place in the centuries-old history of Azerbaijan's statehood, became relevant during the period of independence. One of the reasons for the expansion of research on the historical geography of Nakhchivan was the groundless territorial claims made by Armenia and Armenians against the region.

Problems of grouping works on the historical geography of Nakhchivan.

So far, there have been no initiatives in the direction of grouping works that reflect information on the history and geography of Azerbaijan, including Nakhchivan. In the research works and monographs written on the historical geography of Nakhchivan, the authors mainly analyzed the works on the topic they were studying. In some cases, the authors did not even pay attention to the systematization of sources in the context of primary and additional sources. However, this is one of the necessary issues for research. Research works and books written on the historical geography of Nakhchivan in the 19th-20th centuries during the period of independence can be divided into three groups:

1. Collective and generalized works written on the history and geography of Nakhchivan - These types of works were written by a collective of authors in scientific centers and research institutes based on the state order. Such books and publications not only summarized the results of the latest research on various problems of history, but also reflected the country's official history concept.

2. Research works that are not directly dedicated to the study of the historical geography of Nakhchivan, but in which certain issues are reflected - In such research works, the research of the historical geography of Nakhchivan in the 19th-20th centuries has not been determined as a direct goal. They are devoted to the study of various issues related to the history or historical geography of Nakhchivan. However, in order to reveal the essence of the topic in those works, issues related to the historical geography of the region in the 19th-20th centuries were touched upon;

3. Works dedicated directly to the study of the history and geography of Nakhchivan - These works are such research works that the direct purpose of their writing was the study of various stages of the chronological framework covering the 19th-20th centuries. Such studies are considered the main historiographical works for studying the historical geography of the region in the XIX-XX centuries. Such works were written either directly by experts specializing in research in the field of historical geography, or by prominent historical scholars who have been engaged in the study of the history of Nakhchivan for many years.

Collective and generalized works written on the history and geography of Nakhchivan.

As mentioned above, the study of the historical geography of Azerbaijan started mainly in the 80s of the 20th century. During these years, the first collective work dedicated to the historical geography of Azerbaijan, the collection "Historical Geography of Azerbaijan" was published in Russian. It was made in a very short period of time, within a few years. Of course, the work produced in the area for two years could not be considered a deep fundamental research work. The collection also contained some information about the historical geography of Nakhchivan (Historical Geography of Azerbaijan, 1987).

The establishment of the Nakhchivan Department of ANAS by the decree of the national leader Heydar Aliyev on August 7, 2002 has opened wide opportunities for carrying out certain works in the direction of researching the historical geography of the land, in addition to all areas of the history of Nakhchivan. "Encyclopedia of Nakhchivan", "Encyclopedia of Nakhchivan Monuments", "Historical Atlas of Nakhchivan", "History of Nakhchivan" etc. summarized collective works were published. Two of them attract attention from the point of view of the study of the historical geography of Nakhchivan in the 19th - 20th centuries. The first of them is the "Historical Atlas of Nakhchivan" prepared and published in 2010. More than 40 maps reflecting the changes in the historical geography of the region were presented in the atlas. 14 of these maps directly reflect the historical geography of Nakhchivan region in the 19th-20th centuries (Historical Atlas of Nakhchivan, 2010, pp. 30-44). Another work of the collective, which reflects the results of research on the historical geography of Nakhchivan in the 19th and 20th centuries, is the three-volume "History of Nakhchivan" published in 2013-2015. Volume II of the collective work also contains information on the history and geography of the region from the 40s of the 18th century to the end of the 30s of the 20th century (History of Nakhchivan, 2014). Volume III describes the history of the region after 1930, where special attention was paid to the issues of territorial changes (History of Nakhchivan, 2015).

Research works that are not directly devoted to the study of the historical geography of Nakhchivan, but reflect certain issues about it.

As already mentioned, the direct goal of the research works included in this group was not the study of the historical geography of Nakhchivan in the 19th-20th centuries. In one part of the works of this category, issues related to the historical geography of Azerbaijan were discussed in general, and in the other part, other chronological periods of the historical geography of Nakhchivan region were studied. There are also works in which talking about issues related to historical geography is a means to achieve the main goal. For example, in research works reflecting military-political processes, a detailed explanation of the processes is possible together with the analysis of historical geographical processes.

Among the works of this category, the book "Historical-Political Geography of Azerbaijan" by Dr. Vagif Piriyevev should be mentioned first. The book, which talks about the historical and political geography of Azerbaijan from the earliest times to the end of the 20th century and its teaching issues, also mentions certain changes that took place in the historical geography of Nakhchivan in the 19th and 20th centuries. From this point of view, the sections called "Historic-political geography of Azerbaijan in the early 19th-20th centuries", "People's Republic of Azerbaijan: territory, borders, administrative territorial division", "Territory of Azerbaijan in the 20s-90s of the 20th century" attract special attention (Piriyevev, 2002).

At the end of the book "Geography of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic" published in 1999 by Doctor of Geography, Professor Safarali Babayev, a number of articles written by the author in different periods were presented. Some of these articles are about historical geographical processes in the 19th-20th centuries. In the article "Our Lost Lands" there is information about the transfer of the lands belonging to the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic of Azerbaijan to the Armenian SSR by the empire after Sovietization (Babayev S. Y., 1999, p. 191), and in another article, issues related to the geography of the population in the region in the 19th and 20th centuries are discussed. (Babayev S. Y., 1999, pp. 196-201).

In the monograph dedicated to the history of the 19th-20th century Nakhchivan region by the correspondent member of ANAS, Zahmat Shahverdiyev, the changes in the administrative-territorial structure and management system of the Nakhchivan region in the early 19th-20th centuries, the transfer of Armenians to Nakhchivan and the genocide against Azerbaijanis were studied. In addition to following the historical-geographical changes that took place during the 19th century, the author presented historical maps reflecting these changes (Shahverdiyev, Nakhchivan region at the beginning of the 19th-20th centuries, 2008, pp. 26-37). Issues related to the historical geography of the region in the 19th century were touched upon in a number of articles by the same author, in particular, the issues of Armenian claims to Nakhchivan and Dardalyaz region were mentioned (Shahverdiyev, "The Main Purpose and Bitter Consequences of the Deportation of 1948-1953", 2001, pp. 38-41; Shahverdiyev, "Demographic situation in the Nakhchivan region at the beginning of the 19th-20th centuries", 2008, pp. 96-105).

In a number of books and articles of Dr. Ibrahim Kazymbeyli, issues related to ethnodemography and population geography of the region in the 19th and 20th centuries have been touched upon. A distinctive feature of the author's works is that here Nakhchivan is studied not as a separate area, but together with the Iravan region (Kazimbeyli, "Iravan region of Azerbaijan at the beginning of the 19th-20th centuries" / doctor of science diss./, 2017). In the author's monograph "Nakhchivan: population, socio-economic and political history (1828-1920)" published by the author in 2007, changes related to the geography of the population in the region were studied and analyzed based on reliable sources (Kazimbeyli, "Nakhchivan: population, socio-economic and political history (1828-1920 years)", 2007).

In the monograph "Military-political position and relations of the Nakhchivan Khanate in the Caucasus" by the historian scholar Musa Guliyev (Rahimoglu), the history of a state that played an original role in the history of Azerbaijan in the 18th-19th centuries - the Nakhchivan Khanate - was comprehensively studied for the first time based on the comparison of new archival materials and research works. In the second paragraph of the first chapter of the work, the author talked about the political-administrative units and management system of the Nakhchivan Khanate. For the first time, Musa Guliyev revealed the differences related to the administrative division of the territory during the Khanate period (Guliyev, 2013).

Doctor of Philosophy in History, Associate Professor Elnur Kalbizade's monograph entitled "Historical Geography of Nakhchivan (1st half of 12th-18th centuries)" is the first fundamental research work in Azerbaijani historiography dedicated to the study of the historical geography of the region of 12th-18th centuries. Although the monograph does not cover the 19th-20th centuries in terms of the chronological framework, the author describes the historical-political and historical-geographical processes that took place in the first half of the 18th century in comparison with the processes that took place in the 1st half of the 19th century in Chapter III of the work. (Kalbizadeh, "Historical geography of Nakhchivan (1st half of XII-XVIII centuries)", 2016, pp. 125-158).

In Aydin Hajiyeu's monograph on the history of the Kars and Araz-Turk republics, he explained the continuous attacks of Armenia and Armenian bandits on the borders of the Araz-Turk Republic, including Nakhchivan, on the basis of the geographical proximity factor (A. Hajiyeu, 1994, p. 39).

Arzu Abdullayev's monograph "History of the city of Nakhchivan (19th century)" is devoted to the study of the city's history, the author also studied the historical geography and urban structure of the city in the second chapter entitled "The social political and economic life of the city of Nakhchivan during the period after the Russian occupation". Research works dedicated to the historical geography of Nakhchivan and sources providing information about the city have been effectively used here. In this chapter, the natural-geographical conditions of the city in the 19th century are described, its geographical coordinates and borders are determined. In accordance with the plan prepared in 1827, detailed information about the schematic structure of the city, ruined castle walls, and mosques was given. (Abdullayev, History of the city of Nakhchivan (19th century), 2023).

Works dedicated directly to the study of the history and geography of Nakhchivan.

The works included in the third group are works that are directly dedicated to the study of one or another problem of the historical geography of Nakhchivan in the 19th-20th centuries. From this point of view, academician Ismayil Hajiyeu's research is particularly noteworthy. In the works of the author - "Territorial claims and bloody crimes of Armenians against Azerbaijan" (I.M. Hajiyeu, Territorial claims and bloody crimes of Armenians against Azerbaijan, 2012), "Nakhchivan accident" (I.M. Hajiyeu, Nakhchivan accident, 2019, pp. 221- 228), "Araz-Turkish Republic" (I.M. Hajiyeu, Araz-Turkish Republic, 2016, pp. 46-60), "About the lost lands of Nakhchivan and a map related to Nakhchivan" (I.M. Hajiyeu, Lost lands of Nakhchivan lands and a map related to Nakhchivan, 2008) etc., he set the research of the historical geography of the region as one of the main goals, based on archival documents and historical maps, he provided information about the borders, administrative-territorial structure, and regionalization of Nakhchivan in this period.

In the monograph "Territorial claims and bloody crimes of Armenians against Azerbaijan", the causes of the groundless claims of Armenians to the territories of Azerbaijan, the struggle for these lands and their consequences were analyzed, and the essence of the genocide committed against the people of Azerbaijan and the deportation policy was studied. Thus, the academician managed to show the changes and processes occurring in both political geography and population geography in parallel.

In the article "About the lost lands of Nakhchivan and a map related to Nakhchivan", the author made extensive analyzes of the map of Nakhchivan MSSR drawn by N. Rybakov in 1924. I. Hajiyeu specifically touched on the issue of "disputed territories" between Nakhchivan and Armenia on the map. The academic writes in the article that these disputed territories are a part of the 279-hectare territory between the current Sharur, Kangarli, Babek, Shahbuz districts and the Armenian SSR, and the Zangezur territory, an ancient Azerbaijani land between Ordubad district and Zangilan. In his article, Ismayil Hajiyeu paid special attention to the issue of how the author of the map reflected the processes of the era. In the article, based on archival documents and reliable sources, he accurately described the processes of the period (I.M. Hajiyeu, "About the lost lands of Nakhchivan and a map related to Nakhchivan", 2008).

Fakhreddin Safarli's article "On the historical geography of Nakhchivan region" published in 2014 describes the changes in the historical geography of the region from the earliest times to the modern era in a historical-chronological context. He writes that after being annexed by the Russian Empire, the territory of the Nakhchivan Khanate was included in the so-called "Armenian region" created in 1828. In accordance with the law signed by Emperor Nicholas I on April 10, 1840, Nakhchivan district was established in 1849 as part of the newly created Iravan governorate. As a result of the research, Haji Fakhreddin Safarli came to the conclusion that after the region became part of Russia, a tendency to reduce the area of administrative-territorial units, with Nakhchivan as the center, was observed (Safarli, 2014, p. 14).

Doctor of Philosophy in History Sahiba Budagova's monograph entitled "Historical geography of Nakhchivan region (2nd half of 18th century – 1st beginning of 19th century)" is one of the important works directly dedicated to the topic, and at the same time, it is the first large-scale monograph on the historical geography of Nakhchivan written during the period of independence. In this work, S. Budagova studied the issues related to the political and economic geography of Nakhchivan in the first half of the 19th century. In the first chapter, the author touched on the issues of the influence of political events on the change of the territory of Nakhchivan land and came to the conclusion that the management method and territory of Nakhchivan land either before the period of khanate (1747), or during the years of independent khanate (1797) and dependent on the Qajar Empire (1797-1813)) during its existence (1813-1828), as well as during its entry into Russia (1828), always changed as a result of international political relations and political issues within the country. Except for the reforms carried out after the occupation by Tsarist Russia, the administrative-territorial division of the territory of Nakhchivan until 1828 was a result of devastating wars and conflicts within the country. These, in turn, had a negative impact not only on the change of the territory and population structure of Nakhchivan, but also on its economy, especially agriculture (Budagova, 1995, pp. 27-28).

A number of articles by Elnur Kalbizadeh are directly devoted to the issues of the 20th century history-geography of the region. In the article of the mentioned author "The issue of Nakhchivan in international relations in 1920-1924" (Kalbizade, The issue of Nakhchivan in international relations in 1920-1924, 2013, pp. 23-26), the territory, borders, affiliation of Nakhchivan in the 20s of the 20th century attention was paid to the discussions between Turkey and Russia.

The researcher came to the conclusion in his article "Issue of disputed territories between the Nakhchivan MSSR (Azerbaijan) and the Armenian SSR in the 20s of the 20th century and the solution to the problem", in the period after 1921, the partial separation of the territories belonging to the Nakhchivan Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic of Azerbaijan and their transfer to the Armenian SSR was not only against the interests of the Azerbaijani people, but also against international law and the Moscow and Kars agreements. (Kalbizade, The issue of disputed territories between the Nakhchivan MSSR (Azerbaijan) and the Armenian SSR in the 20s of the 20th century and the solution to the problem", 2017, p. 133).

Again, in the same author's article entitled "Administrative-territorial structure of Nakhchivan region in the 20s of the 20th century (historical-geographical research)" based on archival documents, the administrative structure - zoning of the region at that time was accurately described and the settlements included in each district were noted. (Kalbizade, Administrative-territorial structure of Nakhchivan region in the 20s of the 20th century (historical-geographic research), 2017, pp. 160-172).

Arzu Abdullayev, Doctor of Philosophy in History, has researched the historical geography of the region in the 19th century, especially the historical geography of cities, in a number of articles. The aforementioned author's "Historical geography of the city of Nakhchivan in the 19th century"

(Abdullayev, Historical geography of the city of Nakhchivan in the 19th century, 2018, pp. 33-37) and "On some issues of the historical geography of the city of Nakhchivan in the 19th century" (Abdullayev, "On some issues of the historical geography of the city of Nakhchivan in the 19th century", 2018) talks about issues related to the location of the city of Nakhchivan, the structure of its neighborhoods, their names, and the history of their formation. In another article, the same author studied the historical geography of crafts in the region from the second half of the 18th century to the first half of the 19th century (Abdullayev, Historical geography of crafts in Nakhchivan (second half of XVIII century - first half of XIX century), 2015, pp. 72-74).

In 2012, Khazar Babayev published an article entitled "Administrative territorial division and demographic situation of Nakhchivan MSSR (based on 1926 All-Union population census materials)". Although the results of the 1926 all-Union population census, which is the main research object of this article, are not completely finished and accurate, they are very important in terms of studying the population geography of Nakhchivan at that time. In the article, the author concluded from the analysis of statistical materials that in 1926, the population of Nakhchivan MSSR was approximately 104 thousand 909 people, and most of them were Turkic-speaking Azerbaijanis. The author writes in the article that the territory of Nakhchivan has shrunk as a result of the biased policy of the USSR leadership. Thus, the territory of Nakhchivan MSSR was 5979 km² in 1926, 5988 km² in 1931, and 5329.6 km² on January 1, 1933, which shows that the territory is gradually decreasing (Babayev Kh., 2012, p.105).

Result.

As it is clear from the analyzes conducted, after the restoration of the state independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the researches related to the historical geography of the country in the historiography of Azerbaijan have expanded, and the interest in this field has increased significantly. The claims made against the territories of the country such as Karabakh and Nakhchivan were one of the main factors determining the relevance of these studies. During the years of independence, numerous articles, books and monographs were written in Azerbaijani historiography on the historical geography of Nakhchivan in the 19th and 20th centuries. Among these works, the works of Ismayil Hajiyeve, Haji Fakhreddin Safarli, Zahmat Shahverdiyev, Safarli Babayev, Vagif Piriyeve, Musa Guliyev and others attract attention. Evaluating history in a chronological framework, the first large-scale fundamental research work on the historical geography of Nakhchivan in the period of independence in Azerbaijani historiography was the work "Historical geography of Nakhchivan region (second half of the 18th century - first impression of the 19th century)" written by S. Budagova in 1995. E. Kalbizadeh, the author of the second large-scale research work, studied the historical geography of the region in the first half of the XII-XVIII centuries. As mentioned above, in the last chapter of this work, some demographic and ethno-demographic changes in the region at the beginning of the 19th century were also mentioned. It is clear from the conducted analyzes that in the first period, the main attention was focused on the historical political geography of the region in the articles and books written in this direction, but as the research expanded, the interest in historical-economic and historical-demographic geography also increased. One of the main areas of attention in recent years is related to the historical geography of cities.

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