

FAKE “ARMENIAN PROVINCE” IN THE AZERBAIJANI TERRITORIES

Ismayil HAJIYEV*

Özet

Makalede Azerbaycan topraklarında oluşturulan yapay Ermeni Vilayeti hakkında bahsedilmektedir. Bilindiği üzere, yıllardır Ermeniler “Büyük Ermenistan” düşüncesini gerçekleştirmek için bütün araçlara baş vurmuşlar. Amaçlarına ulaşmak için asırlar boyunca büyük güçlerin yardımına mazhar olmuşlar. Onlar için en önemli fırsat XIX. yüzyılın ilk çeyreğinde Güney Kafkasya'nın, özellikle Azerbaycan topraklarının Çarlık Rusyası tarafından işgali sonucu ortaya çıkmış, sonuçta Nahçıvan ve Erivan hanlıkları ilhak edildikten sonra bu topraklar üzerinde yapay Ermeni Vilayeti oluşturuldu. Makalede Ermeni Vilayeti'nin oluşturulması, yönetim sistemi ve akıbeti hakkında geniş bilgi verilmektedir.

Anahtar kelmeler: Azerbaycan, Ermeni Vilayeti, Nahçıvan, Erivan, Rusya.

Introduction

Leap years Armenian chauvinists resort to everything to gain their “Great Armenia” wishes. For to gain their wishes they are fawning on to some greatest and powerful states of the world. In the IV century the Armenian state is known to be rubbed out the stage of history. It was divided between Iran and Byzantium in 387. And in 428 the Iranian Armenian tsardom was put an end.¹ In the XI-XIV centuries there only existed Kilikiya, the Armenian tsardom in the Turkish territories. No real Armenian state existed till the beginning of the XX century. Because they have lived in the territories of various states. From the beginning of the XVIII century Armenians endeavour to form their state in the territories of Azerbaijan.² Russia has always supported those Armenian intentions and directed them to their own actions. Still beginning from the period of Peter I, Russia used his “Armenian card” to weaken its rival in the region-the Ottoman and Safavid Empires from inside. Tsarina Ekaterina II had also tried to profit from Armenians to realize this policy.

Occupation of Azerbaijani lands by Russia and Creating of the Armenian Province

From the beginning of the XIX century the capture of Southern Caucasus had an important role in the aggressive policy of the Russian Empire. Till 1813, some Northern Azerbaijan khanates were occupied by Russia. During the latest wars the Azerbaijanian states-Nakhchivan (1827, June) and Iravan (1827, October) khanates were invaded.

Nakhchivan khanate was occupied by Russia, in principal peacefully. But unlike Karabagh, Shaki, Shirvan khanates, the Tsar government didn't sign a treaty with Nakhchivan khanate. Besides it, Nakhchivan khanate was given certain privileges within Russia. Ehsan

* Chairman of Nakhchivan Branch of ANAS, academician E-mail: ismayil_haciyev@yahoo.com

¹Kocharli T. Nakshi-jahan Nakhchivan. Baku, 1998, p. 262.

²Najafli E. The intentions of establishing the Armenian state in the Azerbaijani territory in the XVIII century. Baku, “Nurlan”, 2007, p. 248.



khan and Shikhalibey-sons of Kalbali khan were appointed naibs to Nakhchivan and Ordubad, whose “services” in the occupation of those lands were highly appreciated.³

After the decline of Iravan khanate, the Khanate Administrative Manner was abolished. We must note that “Till Gulustan Treaty the Khanate Administrative Manner wasn’t promptly abrogated in all invaded Azerbaijan khanates, but except Ganja”.⁴ The abrogation of the khanate was connected with two main facts. The first, the would be dangerous results of preserving the khanate administrative manner, the other side it was connected with the plans of changing the ethnical content in the territory of Iravan khanate.

Only a few days later after the invasion of Iravan fortress, still the war hadn’t finished, Paskevich, the commander-in-chief of the Russian troops serving military operations in Caucasus established Iravan Provisory Administration Committee on October 6, 1827. The committee consisted of three members: lieutenant general Krasovsky (chairman), the commandant of the Iravan castle, lieutenant colonel Borodin and the Armenian bishop Nerses Ashtaraketsi.⁵ Though the Azerbaijanis were the majority in the khanate population, no Azerbaijani representative was included to Provisory Administration Committee. The Committee was to do the following duties:

1. The accomplishment of the governmental affair within the khanate and determination of the rights in the favour of Russia.
2. The resolution of problems of the assurance and facility of Russian troops existing in the area and the protection of khanate borders, Iravan and Sardarabad castles within the khanate.
3. Forming the Armenian infantry and cavalry drujinas for the repletion of safety and the establishment of guard service in the khanate territory.
4. The provision of the industrious relations with Georgia, their realization by passing over Dilijan and Aparan.
5. The renovation of the trade relations with Georgia, the cultivation of cotton production and the increment of salt production in salt mines.
6. The census of all the Iravan khan’s possession and its condemn in the favour of government.⁶

Ehsan khan and Shikhalibey were serving as naibs in Nakhchivan and Ordubad and the pristavs of Russian officials were appointed to them. All the administrative issues had to be solved according to their mutual agreement.⁷

The invasion of Nakhchivan and Iravan khanates and their annexation to Russia intensified the Armenian desire which was establishing the Armenian state by means of Azerbaijani lands. They wanted to apply the Armenian administrative territorial division depending on Russia. Even K. Y. Lazarev who was of Armenian background, suggested a project about this topic to tsar Nicolay I. But the formation of such a state wasn’t fitting for Russia. Russia considered the formation of such an administration manner in the territory of Iravan khanate that would be expedient and worthy in the interest of Russia. Though

³Shahverdiyev Z. Nakhchivan territory in the XIX- the beginning of the XX centuries. Baku, “Elm”, 2008, p. 41.

⁴Suleymanov M. From the history of Armenian chauvinism and aggression. Baku, Military Publishing house, 2008, p. 358.

⁵Nakhchivan encyclopaedia. In 2 volumes, I volume, Nakhchivan, 2005, p. 144.

⁶Parsamyan V. A. The history of Armenian nation. I book, Erevan, 1972, p. 71.

⁷Milman A. Political structure of Azerbaijan in the XIX-the beginning of the XX centuries. Baku, 1966, p. 72.



Armenians were evicted to the area, Russia didn't consider it to be expedient to commission Armenians to the management of the territory.

After the Turkmenchay treaty was signed, the administrative manner of Nakhchivan and Iravan khanates was changed. With the decree given by tsar Nicolay I, on March 21, 1928, "Armenian province" was established on the basis of Iravan and Nakhchivan khanates. In the decree was said: "In accordance with the treaty signed in Iran, Iravan and Nakhchivan khanates which are annexed from Iran to Russia, are to be named "Armenian province" in all documents. And it is to be included to our title. The government will get the necessary instructions about the structure and management of the province in time".⁸

"Armenian province" was an interim administrative division formed on the basis of Iravan and Nakhchivan khanates. After the signing of this decree the former established Iravan Provisory Administration Committee was abolished. "Armenian province" wasn't an Armenian state. But it was the foundation of the future Armenia, that would be created in the territories of Iravan and Nakhchivan khanates, after creating the "Armenian province" on the historical Azerbaijani territories the Tsar government was verifying the realization of the pro Armenian policy beginning from Peter I.

The conflict arose between the commander of the Detached Caucasian Corps, the adjutant general Paskevich and Krasovsky. The frauds of Nerses Ashtaraketsi and his cruelty against the Azerbaijanis was revealed. That's why Krasovski left for Iravan in April of 1828. The archbishop Nerses was valued to be a confessor not reflecting the interests of Russia and soon his being sent into exile from the "Armenian province" was considered to be expedient as a harmful man. A pretext was found for it too. Paskevich strive for him to be appointed to the position of the chief of the Armenian episcopacy in Bessarabia.⁹

In the administrative plan the "Armenian province" consisted of two gazas and a दौरا: Iravan and Nakhchivan gazas and Ordubad दौरا. Ehsan khan and Shikhali bey had been preserved in their posts as the leaders of gazas. But Armenians hoped that with the appearance of the Russian troops everything would be the same they thought, they wouldn't carry out their duties in front of the Azerbaijani beys and khans. Gazas were divided into districts. The mirabs, meliks, aghas were preserved in the governing body of the districts. A. Chavchavadze was appointed to the post of the manager of the province administration. Representatives of the privileged stratum consisting of two Russian soldiers, Armenian and Azerbaijanis were the members of administration. The administration of the province, police, law-court, financial system was in the hands of Russian soldiers and civil officials.¹⁰

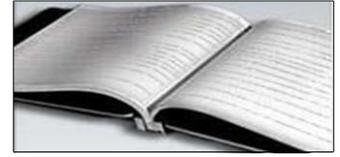
Since 1830 the government of the "Armenian province" was entrusted with D. O. Bebutov (Bebutyan), who was of Armenian background. From the first times of his activity D. Bebutov began to strengthen the position of Armenians here.¹¹ A strong persecution began against the Azerbaijani khans, beys, aghas and the governance methods were changed. The

⁸The Collection of acts on reviews about the history of Armenian nation. I part, Moscow, 1933, p. 178- 179

⁹Suleymanov M. From the history of Armenian chauvinism and aggression. Baku, Military Publishing house, 2008, p. 366.

¹⁰Rahimova A. About the history study of the "Armenian province"/ "History and its problems" magazine. Baku, 2002, p. 192.

¹¹Hajiyev I. The inadequacy of the Armenian territorial claims against Nakhchivan and historical truths// Nakhchivan: historical reality, . Baku, "Tahsil", 2006, p. 41.



independently supremacy of D. Bebutov was intensified, the formerly existed consultative organs were abrogated.¹²

At Armenians' urgent request the emblem was accepted for to strengthen the province status. No portent was there in the emblem, accepted at Armenians' urgent request, reminding the connection of those areas with the Turks. At the bottom of the emblem Aghri mountain had been drawn. Against the background the crown and the Echmiadzin (Uchmuazzin) cloister and on the top of the emblem the double eagle-the emblem of Russian crown had been depicted. The emblem was approved by the Russian tsar on February 27, 1833.¹³

The tsar government passed a Statute about the administrative structure of "Armenian province" on June 23, 1833. Changes were made in the division of administrative territory of Iravan province. The province was divided into 4 dairas- Iravan, Sharur, Surmali, Sardarabad. Dairas also consisted of mahals. Nakhchivan province and Ordubad दौरa kept their former administrative division.¹⁴ The Statute preserved the police administration in Nakhchivan province and Ordubad दौरa as it was. The policemen Ehsan khan and Shikhalibey were under the command of the head of "Armenian province".¹⁵ Changes were made in the court system and Nakhchivan Provincial Court was established.

In 1836 the "Provision of Russia's governance of the Armenian church" was resolved. The Provision framed the political rights of the Armenian clergymen and forbided them to intervene to the governmental business.¹⁶ Armenians living in Russian territory had to unite in eparchy. According to the Statute the catholicosdom in Karabagh was abolished and it became an eparchy of Echmiadzin. Armenians put an end to the independence of Karabagh catholicosdom. Karabagh eparchy became one of the 7 Armenian eparchies in Russia and dependent on Armenian church.¹⁷

Armenians serving to Tsar Russia and its aggressive policy, sham Iravan and Nakhchivan provinces as "Armenian province". But the unassailable facts reject it. Because before the mass scale transmigration of Armenians to those areas from Iran and Turkey, the population of the afterwards called "Armenian province" was 107224 people. 76.5 percent of the population were Azerbaijanis and 24.5 percent Armenians.¹⁸ The overbalance of the Azerbaijanis in the territory avow those territory to be the historical Azerbaijani lands.

The Tsar government couldn't change the demographic situation in the territories of "Armenian province", though lots of Armenians were evicted from Iran and Turkey to this areas during and after the Russo-Persian (1804-1813) and Russo-Turkish War (1828-1829).

Even the Russian general Paskevich, who had carried out the occupation of Iravan and Nakhchivan khanates, confessed that the ¾ of the population of Iravan were Azerbaijanis, though after the eviction of Armenians in the area.¹⁹ With the Paskevich's commission the

¹²Suleymanov M. From the history of Armenian chauvinism and aggression. Baku, Military Publishing house, 2008, p. 367.

¹³Parsamyan V. A. The history of Armenian nation. I book, Erevan, 1972, p. 298.

¹⁴Shopen I. I. Historical memorial about Armenian province during its unification to the Russian Empire. SPb., 1852, p. 448.

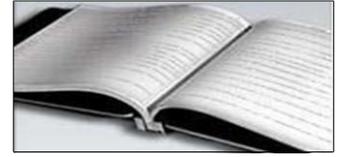
¹⁵Milman A. Political structure of Azerbaijan in the XIX-the beginning of the XX centuries. Baku, 1966, p. 72.

¹⁶Suleymanov M. From the history of Armenian chauvinism and aggression. Baku, Military Publishing house, 2008, p. 368.

¹⁷Parsamyan V. A. The history of Armenian nation. I book, Erevan, 1972, pp. 81-82.

¹⁸Nakhchivan encyclopaedia. In 2 volumes, I volume, Nakhchivan, 2005, p. 144.

¹⁹Acts collected in Caucasian Commission of Archaeology (ACCA), Tbilis, 1874, n.VII, doc. 888.



Russian investigator U. Shopen, who was of French background, held a cameral census in the “Armenian province” in 1829-1832. The number of villages and population was shown here. Only Azerbaijani turks were living in 1111 villages out of 1125 existing in the “Armenian province”.²⁰ As the result of the war 359 villages of the province, in special 310 villages in Iravan , 42 villages in Nakhchivan, 6 villages in Ordubad had turned into ruins, their population had wandered.²¹

According to the results of U. Shopen’s cameral description 164450 people had been registered there. 81749 of them were Azerbaijanis and 25151 were Armenians till their transmigration. After the war, 35560 Armenians had been evicted from Iran and 21666 from Turkey to here.²²

After exploring the proses of Armenians’ transmigration to Southern Caucasus and the number of Armenians moved there, a well-known Russian investigator N. Shavrov was writing in 1911: “At the moment 1 million in 1 million 300 thousand Armenians living in Southern Caucasus are not local people of the region. We have evicted them here”.²³

The number of Armenians increased in the provinces and dairas of the “Armenian province”. Under the tsar pressure the local Azerbaijanis couldn’t tolerate and moved to Iran and Turkey. As the result the disparity in the ethnicity changed in the favour of Armenians. For example, if until the Turkmenchay treaty there were living 22.5 thousand Armenians, during the next two years their number grew thrice and it furnished with 64.5 thousand. The number of Armenians in Nakhchivan province mounted from 2.1 to 1.7 thousand, in Ordubad दौरa from 1.8 thousand to 3.3 thousand.²⁴ Armenians were evicted to 119 villages of Iravan province, 61 villages of Nakhchivan and 11 villages of Ordubad दौरa.²⁵ No matter a number of Armenians were evicted to the area, Azerbaijanis were the majority of the population.

The Tsar government used the Armenian factor as an implement in the invasion of Northern Azerbaijan. For their “service” to the tsar army, the so called “Armenian province” which was in the territories of invaded Azerbaijani lands-Iravan and Nakhchivan khanates, was given to Armenians as a prize. Under the patronage and help of the Tsar Russia they established the territorial basis for themselves in Southern Caucasus.

The system of administrative manner that tsarism established in these provinces, entirely in Northern Azerbaijan made dissatisfaction among the people. That’s why the tsar government began to prepare a reform in the field of administration for to stabilize the situation.

In 1837 the commission was sent under the chairmanship of senator Gann. He was given the instruction of preparing a project for to gather information and establish the institutions in the area. But the commission prepared a reform project on the basis of different suggestions without learning the country. On April 10, 1840 tsar Nicolay I signed the so called document-institutions for the administration of Caucasian countries. The Tsar

²⁰Iravan khanate. Russian invasion and Armenians being transmigrated to Northern Azerbaijani lands (By the scientific editorship of Y. Mahmudov, the corresponding member of the ANAS). Baku, Chashioghlu, 2009, p. 26.

²¹Shopen I. I. Historical memorial about Armenian province during its unification to the Russian Empire. SPb., 1852, p. 510.

²²Nakhchivan encyclopaedia. In 2 volumes, I volume, Nakhchivan, 2005, pp. 144-145.

²³Shavrov N. N. New threats against the Russian management in Transcaucasus. SPb., 1911, p. 63.

²⁴Verdiyeva X. Y. The transmigration policy of the Russian empire in Northern Azerbaijan. Baku, 1999, p. 230.

²⁵Ismayilov I. The injured pages of our memory. Baku, Shirvannashr, 2000, p. 8.



government abrogated the “Armenian province” on April 10, 1840, after invading Southern Caucasus and gaining strength here.²⁶ The territory of Southern Caucasus was defined, Georgia-Imeretia gubernia and Caspian province were established for it to be governed. Gubernia and provinces were divided into gazas, and gazas into sahas. According to administrative division of Russia, Nakhchivan and Iravan territories gained the “gaza” status and was diluted to the Georgia-Imeretia gubernia, on January 1, 1841.²⁷ Ordubad province together with Nakhchivan formed Nakhchivan gaza.²⁸ Nakhchivan gaza was divided into Nakhchivan, Ordubad and Daralayaz sahas (nahiyas).

The law signed in 1840 (April 1), established a new administrative system, the local officials were removed from their posts. These changes were also applied to Nakhchivan, Ehsan khan and Shikhalibey were removed from their positions. Ehsan khan was appointed the commander of the cavalry regiment.

Result

But the reform of Tsar government for to administrate Southern Caucasus couldn't prove its value in practice. The people were really displeased with this administrative manner. For this reason the governors was established in Caucasus with the instruction of tsar Nikolay I. The decree of December 14, 1846 was given. With this decree changes were made in the system of administrative manner of Southern Caucasus. Four gubernias–Tiphlis, Kutais, Shamakhi, Darband were established. Nakhchivan territory that included to Iravan and Nakhchivan gazas, was given to Tiphlis gubernia. In 1849, June 9, Iravan gubernia was established. Five gazas were defined in the formation of gubernia: Iravan, Alexandropol, Novobayazit, Nakhchivan and Ordubad. Nakhchivan gaza was divided into Nakhchivan and Daralayaz sahas (mantagas). The first Ordubad gaza and then Sharur saha in 1870 were put together with Nakhchivan gaza. In 1874 Sharur-Daralayaz and Surmeli gazas were formed. So, the reform of 1840 remained in force till 1917, though several changes were made in this division of administrative manner beginning from 1841.

The Tsar Russia used certain ways and means to occupy Caucasus, mainly Southern Caucasus and Armenians were one of those means. Tsarism appreciated the Armenians' “services”, several reductions were given to them, all the facilities were offered for them to form their own state. But in the XIX century they couldn't realize it. Creating the “Armenian province” they had formed a faked administrative division. And it was the step estimated for the establishment of the future Armenian state.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Acts collected in Caucasian Commission of Archaeology (ACCA), Tiflis, 1874, n.VII, doc. 888.

Hajiyev I. The inadequacy of the Armenian territorial claims against Nakhchivan and historical truths // Nakhchivan: historical reality, Baku, “Tahsil”, 2006.

²⁶Nakhchivan encyclopaedia. In 2 volumes, I volume, Nakhchivan, 2005, p. 145.

²⁷Piriyev V. The Historical-political geography of Azerbaijan. Baku, “Muallim”, 2006, p. 101.

²⁸Shahverdiyev Z. Nakhchivan territory in the XIX- the beginning of the XX centuries. Baku, “Elm”, 2008, p. 44.



AKADEMİK BAKIŞ DERGİSİ

Sayı: 63 Eylül – Ekim 2017

Uluslararası Hakemli Sosyal Bilimler E-Dergisi

ISSN:1694-528X Calal-Abad Uluslararası Üniversitesi,

Türk Dünyası Kırgız – Türk Sosyal Bilimler Enstitüsü

Calal-Abad – KIRGIZİSTAN

<http://www.akademikbakis.org>



- Iravan khanate. Russian invasion and Armenians being transmigrated to Northern Azerbaijani lands (By the scientific editorship of Y. Mahmudov, the corresponding member of the ANAS). Baku, Chashioghlu, 2009.
- Ismayilov I. The injured pages of our memory. Baku, Shirvannashr, 2000.
- Kocharli T. Nakshi-jahan Nakhchivan. Baku, 1998.
- Milman A. Political structure of Azerbaijan in the XIX-the beginning of the XX centuries. Baku, 1966.
- Najafli E. The intentions of establishing the Armenian state in the Azerbaijani territory in the XVIII century. Baku, “Nurlan”, 2007.
- Nakhchivan encyclopaedia. In 2 volumes, I volume, Nakhchivan, 2005.
- Parsamyan V. A. The history of Armenian nation. I book, Erevan, 1972.
- Piriyev V. The Historical-political geography of Azerbaijan. Baku, “Muallim”, 2006.
- Rahimova A. About the history study of the “Armenian province”/ “History and its problems” magazine. Baku, 2002.
- Shahverdiyev Z. Nakhchivan territory in the XIX- the beginning of the XX centuries. Baku, “Elm”, 2008.
- Shavrov N. N. New threats against the Russian management in Transcaucasus. SPb., 1911.
- Shopen I. I. Historical memorial about Armenian province during its unification to the Russian Empire. SPb., 1852.
- Suleymanov M. From the history of Armenian chauvinism and aggression. Baku, Military Publishing house, 2008.
- The Collection of acts on reviews about the history of Armenian nation. I part, Moscow, 1933.
- Verdiyeva X. Y. The transmigration policy of the Russian empire in Northern Azerbaijan. Baku, 1999.