

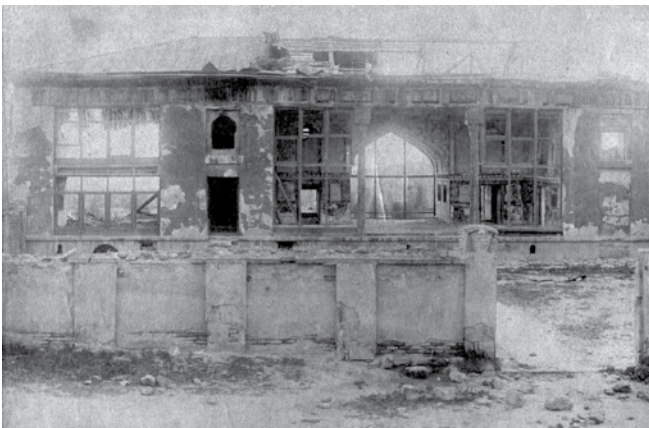
# LOST HISTORICAL LANDS OF AZERBAIJAN

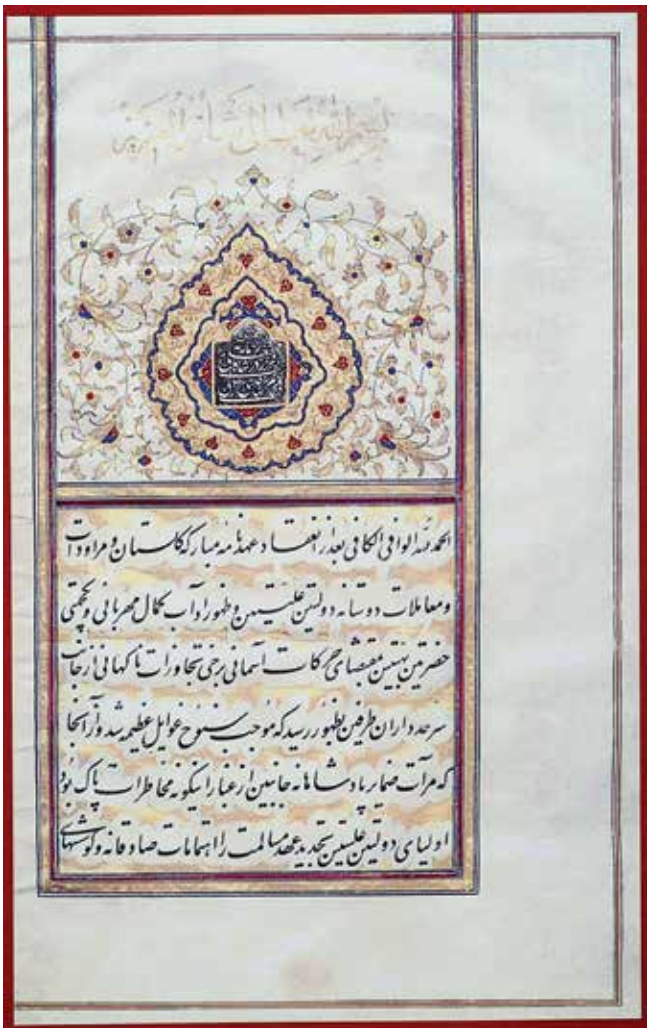
**A**rmenians did not live in Azerbaijan as an ethnic group until the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The territory they inhabited was the Balkan Peninsula, and then they moved to the northern part of Mesopotamia. Advancing

to the shores of the Van Lake, the Armenians received land plots from the Qara Qoyunlu State. They settled in the South Caucasus with the help of the Russian Empire, which met the political interests of the Russian state.

Tsarist Russia, which occupied Azerbaijan in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, used the Armenian factor as a tool in this process. Confronting Qajar Iran and the Ottoman Empire in the South Caucasus, Russian colonizers resettled the Armenians living in those states to the lands of Northern Azerbaijan, especially Iravan, Nakhchivan and Karabakh khanates, with the aim of creating a Christian stronghold in order to implement their expansionist plans. (17, p.22)

In 1911, prominent Russian researcher N. Shavrov wrote after investigating the resettlement of Armenians to the South Caucasus and the number of Armenian settlers: Currently, more than one million of the 1.3 million Armenians living in the South Caucasus are not the pop-





*Title sheet of the 1828 Treaty of Turkmanchay. The treaty not only divided Azerbaijan into two parts - North and South, but also formalized the expulsion of Azerbaijanis from their historical lands and the resettlement of Armenians in their lands*

tsarist Russia settled Armenians in the strategic areas of occupied Northern Azerbaijan (Karabakh, Iravan, Nakhchivan, Zangazur etc.). Throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century and in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, tsarist Russia took measures in this direction and as a result, Azerbaijan lost its territories. In the first stage, the Russian Empire tried to settle more Armenians in Azerbaijani territories and ensure their numerical superiority in some areas. After that, a policy of ousting Azerbaijanis from those territories and making them refugees and displaced persons was conducted. With the help of tsarist Russia, the Armenians wanted to create an Armenian state in these territories. First of all, such a territory included Azerbaijani territories covered by the Iravan Khanate. The Armenians had already managed to become dominant in this territory. As a result, the "Armenian province" was established in 1828 and the Iravan province in 1849. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and early 20<sup>th</sup> century, Armenian Dashnaks strengthened their positions and attempted to create an independent state.

The situation that developed in the South Caucasus in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century made the Armenians' dream about a state come true. Armenians participated in the Special South Caucasus Committee created in March 1917 and in the South Caucasus Commissariat and Seim created several months later. However, following the collapse of the South Caucasus Seim, the peoples of the South Caucasus proclaimed their independence. One of the new countries was Armenia or the Ararat Republic. (18, p.205)

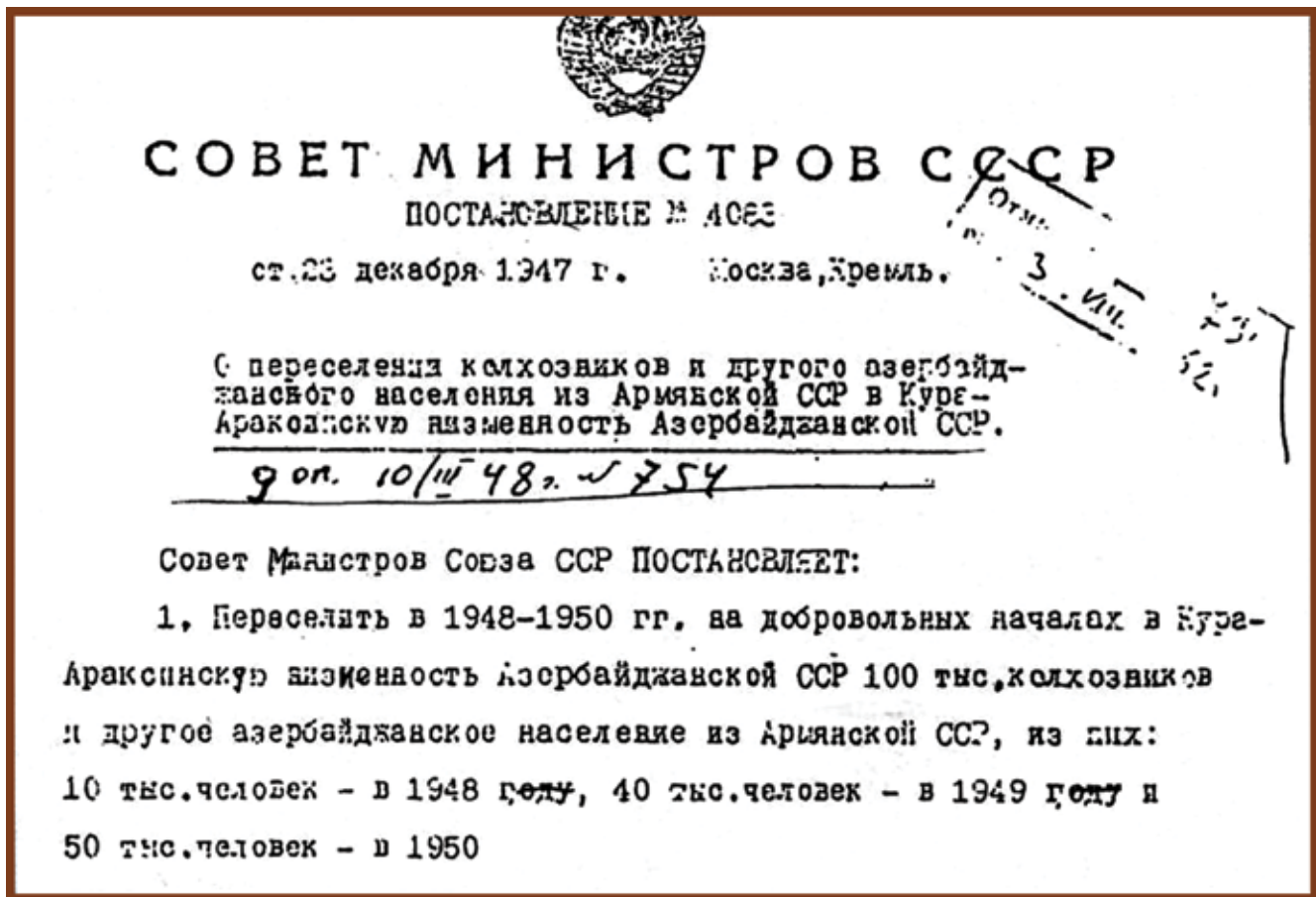
On 28 May 1928, the National Council decides to proclaim the state independence of Azerbaijan, prepares a Declaration of Independence and sends it to the great powers. Thus, the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic emerged. However, since the city of Baku was controlled by the Dashnak-Bolshevik forces, the Azerbaijani government moved from Tiflis to Ganja.

As is known, after the dissolution of the Seim, it was necessary to determine the borders of the newly-created states in the South Caucasus. In the first few days, Armenian representatives appealed to the Azerbaijani government to declare Iravan the capital of Armenia (25, p.119). After heated debates, the Azerbaijani National Council ceded Iravan to the Armenians as a political center. At this moment, Azerbaijani and Armenian representatives were holding negotiations about border issues in Batum. An

ulation of this region. We (Russians – I. H.) resettled them here." (32, p.63)

In exchange for the service of the Armenians, the Russian Empire made attempts to create a state for them in the South Caucasus. Such attempts began three centuries ago – under Peter I. Although Armenian "leaders" enlisted the support of Catherine I and II in order to create an "Armenian state", it was impossible to create such a state in the territory of Azerbaijan for various reasons.

The Armenians did not give up their cunning intentions and offered their services to tsarist Russia throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century. They played an active role in the occupation of Azerbaijani khanates by Russia. In exchange for these services from Armenians, Russian Emperor Nicholas I created an "Armenian province" in the territory of the Iravan and Nakhchivan khanates. Although it was not an independent state, it had a serious impact on the mobilization, organization and economic-cultural progress of Armenians in the future. (15, p.42) On the other hand,



agreement was reached that Azerbaijan consents to the creation of an Armenian state within the limits of the Aleksandropol Province. The city of Iravan was ceded to the Armenians on condition that Armenians would give up their claims to part of the Yelizavetpol (Ganja) Province, i.e. the mountainous part of Karabakh. This step was one of the first cities of the Azerbaijan National Council and the newly-created Azerbaijani state.

Armenia was a very small state in the South Caucasus with an area of 9,800 square kilometers. According to the Batum agreement signed with Turkey, the Peace of Brest was recognized by Armenia and Uchmiadzin and Gumru were handed over to Turkey. When there were Turkish troops in the South Caucasus, the Armenians more or less complied with the conditions of the peace treaty and tried to show their restraint with regard to the local Muslim population and Azerbaijan. Turkey's defeat in the war resulted in Armenians becoming active again at the end of 1918. The claims of "Armenia from sea to sea", which were raised to the level of a state policy, brought unprecedented tragedies to the local Azerbaijanis.

Despite repeated appeals from the Azerbaijani government, it was impossible to create normal relations

between the two states because of Armenia's aggressive policy. On the contrary, Armenia decided to annex Azerbaijan's ancient lands such as Zangazur, Nakhchivan and the mountainous part of Karabakh in overt and covert ways.

At the time of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, the territory of Azerbaijan was 113,900 square kilometers. About 97,300 square kilometers were undisputed territories and approximately 16,600 square kilometers were regarded as disputed territories (25, p.122). 7,900 square kilometers of disputed territories were part of the Iravan province and 8,700 square kilometers were part of the Tiflis province. The territories disputed with Armenia included the western part of the Iravan province – especially south of the Goycha Lake, from the west of Nakhchivan and Sharur-Daralayaz to the Kasak River, both sides of the Aras – Boyuk Vedi, Echmiazzin, Igdir and other territories. Those territories matched the territories of the historical Chukhur-Saad beylerbeydom and the Iravan khanate. The territories disputed with Georgia included Garayazi, Akhalski and Signag districts. The Garayazi plain was an extension of the Ganja-Gazakh plain and was connected to it both from an ethnic and economic point of view. 90



per cent of local residents were Azerbaijani. This territory was occupied by Georgia in 1918 and the fact that it was part of the Tiflis district was taken as a basis. The Akhalski district, where Azerbaijanis made up 73.5 per cent of the population, was also occupied by the Georgians. The western part of the Signag district was populated by Georgians and the eastern part by Azerbaijanis. (25, p.123)

The loss of Azerbaijani lands occurred in the first quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This process took place in different stages: 1. At the time of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic in 1918-20; In April-November 1920 – from the proclamation of the Azerbaijan SSR to the establishment of Soviet rule in Armenia; 3. From November 1920 to February 1921 – the establishment of Soviet rule in Georgia; 4. From the establishment of the TSFSR to its incorporation in the USSR – at the time of the “independent” Transcaucasian Soviet republics.

As we noted, there were serious territorial disputes between the young republics of the South Caucasus. The territorial claims of Armenians who moved to and settled in Azerbaijani territories in the 19<sup>th</sup> century were even more fantastic and violent.

The groundlessness of Armenian territorial claims is proved by the fact that Azerbaijanis made up two thirds of the population in the Sharur-Daralayaz, Surmali and Nakhchivan districts, which they wanted to seize, and the majority in the Jabrayil, Zangazur, Javanshir, Goycha and Gazakh districts (14, p.188). Even in the Iravan district itself, Azerbaijanis made up more than 46 per cent of the population. For this reason, Armenian extremists tried to resolve territorial disputes through force and relying on help from other states. In all cases, Russia, which pursued its own interests in the region, strongly influenced the “settlement” of territorial issues.

From summer 1918, the fierce enemy of the Turkish people, Andranik Ozanyan, breached the Azerbaijani border in the Nakhchivan and Zangazur regions and began to massacre the civilian population. In the autumn of that year, the Armenian government began to lead the operation to cleanse Azerbaijani lands from the Muslim population. Ozanyan seized Gorus and turned it into a center of sabotage against the Azerbaijan Republic (18, p.207). Trying to turn Shusha into the center of a so-called “Lesser Armenia”, the Armenians repeatedly tried to enter Shusha from the Zabukh gorge. In order to prevent this provocation, the Azerbaijani government created the Karabakh province with the center in Shusha in early 1919. The province included Shusha, Javanshir, Jabrayil and Zangazur districts (14, p.190). Khosrov Sultanov was appoint-



*These children have lost both parents during genocide of Azerbaijanians in Khojaly on February 26, 1992*

ed governor-general. Thanks to his resolute position, the separatists were ousted and some of the Armenians living in Shusha recognized the Azerbaijani government.

At the end of June 1919, the Armenian armed forces invaded Zangazur. Azerbaijani army units launched an attack on the Armenian armed forces which occupied Zangazur. On 23 November, Azerbaijan and Armenia signed an agreement and the Armenian armed forces left Zangazur. Azerbaijan withdrew its troops from Zangazur. Taking advantage of this, Armenia violated the agreement and sent regular army units into Zangazur and looted and massacred the local Muslim population. On 30 December, the Azerbaijani government asked the main commissariat of the Allied states in the Transcaucasia to put an end to the arbitrariness of Armenian extremists. On 5-9 August 1920, Red Army units invaded Zangazur and ousted the troops of Armenian generals Dro and Nzhdeh from there (25, p.128). However, on 10 August 1920, Soviet Russia and Armenia signed a temporary agreement according to which Sharur-Daralayaz was unconditionally ceded to Armenia and Karabakh, Zangazur and Nakhchivan were declared “disputed provinces” again. Thus, Russia pursued a policy of Sovietizing Armenia at the expense of Azerbaijani lands.

After the establishment of the Armenian SSR, claims to Azerbaijani territories increased even more. The statement Nariman Narimanov made while announcing the 30 November decision of the Political and Organizing



*Photojournalist O. Litvin captured an Azerbaijani family of IDPs on the road between Shusha and Lachin. G. 1991*

Bureaus of the Central Committee of the Azerbaijan Communist Party (Bolsheviks) and the fact that it was distorted by the newspapers the next day caused those claims to increase even more. This statement prompted the Armenians to take new steps and on 25 December, they set up a "free Syunik government" in Zangazur. The western part of the Zangazur district was taken over by Armenia. Thus Azerbaijan lost 4,505 square kilometers of its territory.

After Zangazur, the Armenians hoped to take over Nakhchivan as well. The fate of Nakhchivan was in serious danger. Russia insisted that Nakhchivan must be handed over to Armenia. After the Turkish troops left the South Caucasus under the Treaty of Mudros, the claims of Armenian extremists to Nakhchivan increased even more. After the proclamation of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, Nakhchivan immediately said that it was part of this republic.

Considering that it was impossible to merge with the Azerbaijan Republic and that they were surrounded by Armenian forces from everywhere, the Nakhchivan and Sharur-Daralayaz districts and the Azerbaijani-populated areas of the Irvan district united and proclaimed the independent Araz Republic in November 1918. Although this republic was short-lived, it took important measures to preserve Nakhchivan. In December 1918, the Araz Republic joined the newly-created South-Western Caucasus Democratic Republic. The establishment and strengthening of a new Muslim republic worried the governments of Armenia and Georgia and the British. In April 1919, the British command abolished the South-Western Caucasus Democratic Republic. About six weeks before it, the Azerbaijani government created the Nakhchivan province

on 28 February 1919. Bahram Khan Nakhchivanski was appointed governor-general. In this period, the Dashnak government wanted to cleanse the Nakhchivan, Sharur-Daralayaz and Echmiadzin districts and the Kars province from the Muslim population and establish the rule of the Armenian government in this area (18, p.207). With the resistance of Nakhchivanis, the efforts of the Azerbaijani government nullified Armenia's intention to seize Nakhchivan. However, the British and Americans wanted to hand over Nakhchivan to Armenia for management. The Muslim population of the Nakhchivan region considered themselves an integral part of Azerbaijan and fought for this (22, p.142). The chairman of the Council of Ministers, N. Yusifbayli, said in his address to the parliament on 18 August 1919: "...Nakhchivan ousted the invaders with its own forces and expressed its willingness to merge with Azerbaijan, which it regards as its natural organism" (7, 1919, 10 September, in Russian).

Considering that disputes on the issue of Zangazur were still continuing, Armenia did not insist on the hand-over of Nakhchivan in the initial stage and issued an official statement on 28 December 1920 saying that it had no claims to Nakhchivan: "Nakhchivan is recognized as an independent Soviet republic and we give up our territorial claims to it" (22, p.301). Prof I. Musayev rightly writes that in fact, the recognition of the region not as part of Azerbaijan, but as an independent republic was a well-thought out and deliberate step for Armenia's future plans. In the following years, Armenian perfidy was not long in coming. However, for the time being, Armenia's plans to seize Nakhchivan failed. We should note the resistance of Nakhchivanis, the efforts of the Azerbaijani government, the objective position of Turkey and its stubborn support for it.

An opinion poll conducted in Nakhchivan in January 1920 ruined the Armenians' plans. In the opinion poll conducted among the population of the Nakhchivan region on their attitude to the statements of the Azerbaijani and Armenian revolutionary committees, 90 per cent of the population voted for the region being part of Azerbaijan as an autonomous republic (24, p.79). The notes and documents sent by B. Shahtakhtinski to the chairman of the RFSRS Special Committee, Vladimir Lenin, also had an impact. The Treaty of Moscow signed between the RSFSR and Turkey on 16 March 1921 gave Nakhchivan autonomous status within Azerbaijan, determined its borders and noted that Azerbaijan must not cede it to a third

state. Thus, the issue of Nakhchivan found its fair solution. The terms of the Treaty of Moscow were confirmed by the 13 October 1921 Treaty of Kars. The treaty was signed for an indefinite period and was of special importance for the future fate of Nakhchivan. Along with that, disputes and territorial claims to Nakhchivan continued in following years.

After the occupation of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, allegations about the Karabakh issue increased again. Armenia was doing its best to seize the mountainous part of Karabakh. On 19 June 1920, the Armenian government issued a statement saying that Nagorno-Karabakh was an integral part of Armenia. On 27 June 1920, the Political and Organizing Bureaus of the Azerbaijan C(b)P issued an objective resolution rejecting Armenia's claims to the upper part of Karabakh. After about a year, the issue of Nagorno-Karabakh was put up for debate by the Caucasus bureau of the RC(b)P. On 4 June 1921, the Caucasus bureau of the RC(b)P took a decision to incorporate Nagorno-Karabakh into the Armenian SSR and conduct an opinion poll among local Armenians. Considering serious objections from Narimanov and people's dissatisfaction, the Caucasus bureau discussed the issue again on 5 July and repealed the previous unfair decision (21, p.25). However, along with that, Nagorno-Karabakh was given autonomy and the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region was created within the Azerbaijan SSR on 7 July 1923. The mountainous parts of the Shusha, Javarshir and Jabrayil districts were included in the region. Agdam, Jabrayil and Kurdistan districts were created in the rest of Karabakh and their territories were determined. According to the statute adopted in 1924, Shusha and Khankandi from the Shusha district, 62 villages from the Javanshir district, 30 villages from the Garyagin district and the village of Galadarasi from the Gubadli district were incorporated into the NGAR (25, p.130). This created grounds for the future plans of Armenians. As a result of the handover of Aldara, Lehvaz, Astazur, Nuvadi and other residential areas to Armenia in 1929-31 and the creation of the Mehri district in that area, the Nakhchivan region was separated from the rest of Azerbaijan (22, p.315).

At the same time, the 18 February 1929 meeting of the Board of the Transcaucasia Central Executive Committee grossly violated the terms of the 1921 Treaties of

Moscow and Kars and handed over nine villages of the Nakhchivan ASSR – Gorchevan, Gurdbulag, Khachik, Horadiz, Ogbin, Agkhach, Almali, Itgiran and Sultanbay - together with their lands, as well as some of the lands of the village of Kilit to Armenia (2, v.2). In those years, the mountainous part of the Gazakh district – the Dilijan territory – was handed over to Armenia against the will of the Azerbaijani people (25, p.131). Based on the decision of the 5 March 1938 meeting of the Board of the Transcaucasia Central Executive Committee, certain territories around the villages of Sadarak and Karki in Sharur were handed over to Armenia (7, 2013, 10 January).

As can be seen, as a result of the lopsided and Dashnak-Bolshevik-style "settlement" of territorial issues, disputed territories were handed over to our notorious neighbors and another 11,000 square kilometers of our territory were given to Armenia (25, p.131). These included mostly the Zangazur district, the Sharur-Daralayaz district and the Goycha county. Thus, in those years, Azerbaijan lost 27,599 square kilometers of its territory. During the formation of the Azerbaijani and Georgian states in 1918, the political belonging of the Zagatala county was one of the most pressing issues in bilateral relations.



*Elchin Allahverdiyev. First, he and his family were expelled from Armenia, and then, after the occupation of Nagorno-Karabakh by the Armenian army, from the village of Goytapa of Shusha District of Azerbaijan*





At its session on 26 June 1918, the Muslim National Council of the Zagatala county decided to merge with Azerbaijan (4, v.28-29). The Zagatala National Council notified the Azerbaijani government about its decision in a telegram on 28 June. On 30 June 1918, the government took a decision on the merger of the Zagatala county with the Azerbaijan Republic and appointed General Aliyar bay Hashimbayov governor of the region (3, v.2).

Taking advantage of the fact that in summer 1918 German troops seized Borchali and Garayazi, as well as the Poylu and Agstafa stations, the Georgian government organized its administrative governance there (4, case 227, v. 9 archive). The Georgian government took control of the Garayazi, Chatma, Jeyranchol and Eldar plains where there was no Georgian ethnic element, as well as the Azerbaijani-populated part of the Borchali district (27, p.15).

Azerbaijan and Georgia wanted to resolve their territorial disputes and conducted peace talks to this effect. The memorandum submitted by the Georgian delegation to the peace conference included the Zagatala region as Georgian territories. The constitution presented by the Georgian Founding Assembly on 21 February 1921 declared the Zagatala region as an integral part of the Republic of Georgia.

In the course of the June 1920 uprising in Zagatala, the Georgian government sent its military units to the region. However, they were soon withdrawn from there.

In July 1921, a conference was convened in Tiflis to delineate the internal borders between South Caucasus republics. The conference adopted a resolution signed by F. Makharadze and N. Narimanov on the delineation of the borderline between Azerbaijan and Georgia (1, v.6). With this document, as well as with the 15 November 1921 agreement between M. Hajiyev and B. Mdivani, the Georgian SSR gave up all its claims to the Zagatala region.

*World public kept silent about the expulsion of Azerbaijanis from their native lands*

However, the Georgian authorities pursued a policy of expelling Zagatala residents from the Shirak plain. From October 1924 to early 1927, 17 villages of the district were totally expelled from the Shirak plain, and as a result, these villages lost 9,200 hectares of land. In general, as a result of the decisions made in the middle and in the second half of the 1920s on land disputes between Azerbaijan and Georgia, an area of more than 63,000 hectares was handed over to Georgia (27, p.23).

Throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Armenians cunningly seized Azerbaijani lands and expanded "Great Armenia". This was done under various pretexts. They linked it either to the lack of pastures, little land or rugged borders. In a word, they used all possible means to seize Azerbaijani lands. When L. Mirzoyan worked as secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan, he handed over 50 square kilometers from Gazakh District and the villages of Nuvadi, Elnazir and Tugud from Jabrayil District to Armenia. In 1946, another 40 square kilometers of forests were given to Armenia. Under Vali Akhundov, the village of Taglar of the Hajilar Soviet, which had 76 square kilometers in the Shinikh zone of Gadabay District, and the summer pastures and arable lands of the villages of Garavalilar and Goyali were handed over to Armenia. Thus, the Armenians took advantage of the weakness of the Azerbaijan SSR leadership and managed to get the consent of the republic's leadership to hand over 5,000 hectares of lands from Gazakh District to the Armenian SSR in 1984 despite the strong protests of the district population. Although the people expressed their strong protest, the protest was crushed with the help of the Soviet military (7, 2013, 11 January).

Before national leader Heydar Aliyev came to power in Azerbaijan, the Armenians claimed some lands in Nakhchivan's Sadarak District bordering on Armenia, lands in Ordubad bordering on Mehri, the village of Taglar in Gadabay District and some lands in Gazakh, Gubadli and Lachin districts. Unfortunately, the then leaders of Azerbaijan had consented to this. National leader Heydar Aliyev said while recalling those events: "I remember those days now. I was already working for several days, and they informed me about these issues. They also exerted a lot of pressure from Moscow – a decision has been made, hurry up and order its implementation. I said you know, this decision was adopted in May, and if it was not implemented before July, give me a chance to investigate it. Of course, after investigating it, I realized that I could not accept it. I

did not accept it. As long as I worked in Azerbaijan, that decision was not implemented.” (7, 1998, 17 January)

In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Armenians raised the issue of merging Nagorno-Karabakh with Armenia several times, but failed to achieve their goal. They used various excuses for merging Nagorno-Karabakh with Armenia. They linked it either to Nagorno-Karabakh's backwardness in the socio-economic sphere or the wrong attitude of the previous regional leadership to the problems of the NKAR.

“Perestroika” and “glasnost” launched in the 1980s led to the creation of an ethnic conflict in the NKAR again. In collaboration with Russian military units, Armenian detachments began to occupy Azerbaijani lands in the initial stages. Nagorno-Karabakh and surrounding areas were occupied. The “measures” taken to “resolve” the problem produced no results. In close collaboration with Russian soldiers, the Armenians occupied new territories. After taking over the villages of Karkijahan, Malibayli, Gushchular and Khojali, the Armenians seized Shusha on 8 May 1992. After that, they occupied Lachin, Kalbajar, Agdam, Jabrayil, Fuzuli, Gubadli and Zangilan districts. We lost 13,082 square kilometers of lands, including 4,372 square kilometers in Nagorno-Karabakh and the rest in surrounding districts. In general, 40,681 square kilometers of our territories were occupied by the Armenian SSR and Armenians from the 1920s to the 1990s (25, p.134).

After the issue of Nagorno-Karabakh was raised, Azerbaijan's situation deteriorated even more and its territorial integrity was violated. Before 1990, the NKAR, former Shaumyan district (village) and the village of Chaykand were no longer under Azerbaijan's jurisdiction and the village of Karki in Sharur District was totally occupied by Armenia. Considering all this, at a session of the Supreme Soviet of the Azerbaijan SSR in February 1991, Heydar Aliyev suggested seeing the attempts of Armenian nationalists to take Nagorno-Karabakh from Azerbaijan not within a narrow framework, but from a historical point of view and as an issue of restoring Azerbaijan's territorial integrity: “I suggest examining not just the Nagorno-Karabakh issue, but all the Azerbaijani lands handed over to Armenia since 1920. What lands were handed over, within which borders and when... We should take the offensive against Armenia instead of being on the defensive. Now we should start a fight and I am ready for this fight.” (29, p.108)

In subsequent years, in 1998, the national leader developed the demand he put forward in 1991 and sug-

gested it as the future program of the people: “I think that the lost lands must be returned one day. Our people should know what our historical lands are, what lands were once lost and why they were lost, and there is no doubt that they must be returned (7, 1998, 17 January).

As can be seen, the Armenian state was created on the lands of the Iravan Khanate, which is a historical Azerbaijani territory, and incorporated some of our territories into “Great Armenia” in subsequent years with the help of its patrons. In the late 1980s, they occupied Nagorno-Karabakh and seven surrounding districts with the help of the Russian military. Unfortunately, our lands have been under occupation for many years. The decisions and resolutions of international organizations are not being implemented. There are four resolutions of the UN Security Council that demand the unconditional withdrawal of Armenian occupying forces from the occupied lands. However, Armenia is ignoring them. The OSCE, the European Parliament, the Council of Europe and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation have also issued decisions and resolutions on this issue. However, unfortunately, they are not being implemented.

In his congratulations to the Azerbaijani people in connection with World Azerbaijani Solidarity Day and the New Year, Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev said that the territorial integrity of our country will be restored and Azerbaijani citizens will live in their historical lands



*World public kept silent about the expulsion of Azerbaijanis from their native lands*



and resolutely noted that “the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict should be resolved on the basis of the territorial integrity of our country. There can be no other option. Azerbaijan will never allow a second artificial Armenian state to be created on our lands. I am confident that the territorial integrity of our country will be restored and Azerbaijani citizens will be living in all the occupied territories. I am confident about this and I have no doubt about this. In order to achieve this, we must be even stronger, have an even stronger army and secure economic development.” (7, 2014, 8 January) 🌱

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*This work was supported by the Science Development Foundation under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan – Grant № EIF /MQM-3-Shusha- 2014-7 (22)-05/01/5*