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**ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES IN KARABAKH DURING THE PERIOD OF THE
AZERBAIJAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC'S ACTIVITY (1918-1920)****Sugra Askar gizi Orujova**

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Abstract: The topic “Administrative change in Karabakh during Azerbaijan Democratic Republic (1918-1920)” it is relevant because this work has been researched from a historical and geographical perspective. The article uses a comparative method, where goal is to compare the territorial changes of Karabakh. The First Azerbaijan Democratic Republic independently declared its independence on May 28. The most important goal for the young country was to gain international recognition of the ADR state and preserve its territorial integrity. What became possible was that on January 10, 1920, at one of the meetings of the Paris Peace Conference, the Supreme Council of the Entente recognized the ADR de facto. Formally, the ADR was a full-fledged state. However, at the cost of the lives of thousands of its soldiers, the ADR, which existed for only 23 months, managed to defend the territorial unity of the state and protect Azerbaijan's sovereign rights over Karabakh. The administrative change in Karabakh during the period of the ADR (1918-1920) occurred in January with the formation of the Karabakh Governorate General, which included the Shusha, Javanshir, Jabrayil and Zangezur counties. Khosrov bek Sultanov, one of the most influential figures of the republic, was appointed Governor-General of Karabakh.

Keywords: Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, Karabakh, the historical geography, the administrative change, Karabakh Governorate-General, Khosrov bey Sultanov

Introduction

The article analyzes the administrative change in Karabakh during the period of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic (1918-1920). The question arises, what events influenced the changes taking place in Karabakh? The article is researched in this direction. First of all, it is necessary to provide information about the situation in Azerbaijan. The Azerbaijan Democratic Republic (ADR), created on May 28, 1918, was forced to defend its independence and territorial integrity from the very beginning of its existence. On the historic day of May 28, 1918, the first meeting of the National Council took place, at which a decision was made to proclaim Azerbaijan an independent state. Thus, after a break of more than 100 years, national statehood was restored in Azerbaijan within the Eastern and Southern Transcaucasia. At the same meeting, the “Act on Independence of Azerbaijan” was adopted, legally enshrining the fact of the creation of a new democratic state [9, p. 5]. The proclamation of the sovereign Azerbaijan Republic was a major historical event. It marked the revival of national statehood and marked the beginning of the unification of the broad masses of the Azerbaijani people in the struggle for their independence and freedom. The indigenous population of Azerbaijan considered the ADR government to be the only legitimate one protecting national interests.

The Creation of Parliament and its Activities

On December 7, 1918, the still unrecognized independent Azerbaijan Democratic Republic opened the first Parliament in the Muslim East, thereby confirming the inviolability and commitment to the principles of democracy. The creation of a state governed by the rule of law implied the separation of legislative, executive and judicial powers. The intense activity of the Parliament was addressed to the most pressing problems of the life of the ADR: solving socio-economic and financial issues, ensuring the political and territorial inviolability of the republic,

protecting the rights of citizens, strengthening the democratic and legal foundations of the state, creating conditions conducive to the global calling of Azerbaijan's independence, developing its political and trade-economic cooperation with the foreign world and, above all, with its closest neighbors [8, p. 10-11].

A constant external threat to the ADR was the military aggression of the Armenian (Ararat) Republic, which took an incredibly large amount of forces, exhausted the state's resources and took thousands of lives. Despite the fact that the Armenian Republic itself was created with the direct participation of powerful external forces on the original land of Azerbaijan - in the Irevan region, it tried to seize other Azerbaijani regions, primarily Karabakh, which was part of the Ganja province at that time. The most active organization fighting for the implementation of the idea of "Great Armenia" was the Dashnaktsutyun party. At first, they founded a small Armenian Republic (9 thousand square kilometers) on Azerbaijani lands, that is, on the territory of the former Irevan Khanate (later the Irevan Province), gradually increasing it to 29 thousand square kilometers [5, p.10-16].

During the existence of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, 5 cabinets were formed, three of which were headed by F. Khoyski, who had a higher legal education, and the last two by N. Usubbekov, who also received a higher legal education. The lack of confidence in the government headed by Khoyski led to a political crisis. In order to overcome the current political crisis, a compromise was made between the leadership of the Turkish troops in Azerbaijan and the Azerbaijani National Council: the National Council was dissolved, the supreme legislative and executive power was concentrated in the hands of the cabinet of Fatali Khan Khoyski. Having temporarily suspended its activities as a result of the June crisis, Milishura fulfilled its historical mission - to preserve the state independence of Azerbaijan at a very difficult and complex stage. On the evening of June 17, the second government headed by Khoyski was organized in Ganja. Given the tense situation that had developed in Azerbaijan, on June 19, the government declared martial law throughout Azerbaijan [2, p.86].

On June 26, Azerbaijan issued a decree on the creation of a National Army. Revealing the essence of the so-called "Karabakh problem" artificially created by Armenia, one of the prominent figures of the ADR, Ali Mardan bey Topchubashev (from December 1918, as the chairman of the Azerbaijani parliament, he was the head of the republic) emphasized: "The Karabakh issue raised by the Armenians is not a question of five or ten villages, but a dispute over four districts - Shusha, Javanshir (a district with its center in Terter - ed.), Jebrail and Zangezur. This is the territory of an entire khanate. Despite the fact that the number of Armenians and Muslims living here is not the same, there is no reason to talk about an absolute majority of Armenians. In addition, they are not indigenous residents. They moved there from Turkey after the war with Russia. Finally, the Armenians in Karabakh itself do not live compactly, but are settled among Muslims. And, nevertheless, we are supporters of a peaceful settlement of the problem."

Attempts at Administrative Change in Karabakh

Since the summer of 1918, the Azerbaijani regions of Zangezur and Karabakh began to be attacked by Armenian military formations led by Andranik Ozanyan. In the autumn of the same year, Andranik, having fortified himself in part of the territory of Zangezur, declared it an Armenian governorate and then began to attempt to capture Shusha. This directly affected the historical geography of Karabakh.

On December 10, 1918, the newspaper "Azerbaijan", telling about the criminal actions of Andranik's gangs in the words of eyewitnesses, wrote: "In Karabakh, Armenians are destroying Muslim villages: the villages of Lakhvaz-chay, Aldara, Nuvedi, Ali-Okhchi, Shabaddi, Maedan, Kara-Giol, Krach-Chman, Shahidli, Burunli, Askerlar, Toi, Vartapariz and others have been completely reduced to ashes. The population of these regions, partly escaping from the attack, ended up in Ordubad and Persia. Now all the mosques and streets are full of widows and orphans. Every day, dozens of these unfortunates die from cold and hunger... the one-million Muslims, starting from Erivan and ending with Shusha, are languishing, being ruined and perishing..."

On December 19, 1918, member of the Azerbaijani parliament Kara bey Aliverdiyev telegraphed from Shusha to Baku: "I, as a representative of Karabakh, informing about the situation in Karabakh, report that Andranik has shelled Zangezur, which has created a dangerous situation in all of Karabakh, Ordubad, Javanshir and Karyagin. He has destroyed and plundered countless Muslim villages, killed the defenseless population, and driven the inhabitants out of their homes. He has captured the center of Karabakh, Shusha, robbed its inhabitants and distributed the property to his soldiers..." [10, p. 28-30].

The aggression of the Armenian Republic against Azerbaijan became a subject of discussion at the extraordinary session of the ADR parliament on December 20, 1918. In his speech, the head of the government Fatali Khan Khoyski noted that "Andranik's plan is to "cleanse" Zangezur and Shusha from the Muslim population and tear these pieces from the living body of Azerbaijan." Stressing that after the Azerbaijani government moved to Baku, liberated from enemy rule, in September 1918, it sent military force against Andranik, Khoyski stated: "Our army pushed him out of Shusha and Zangezur. Andranik fled and did not show up until November. After the Turkish army left Azerbaijan in mid-November, Andranik again made a name for himself in this territory with his cruelty... Andranik's army is nothing more than a bandit group. His goal is clear to us. He is pursuing the goal of separating the Zangezur and Shusha districts from Azerbaijan and annexing them to Armenia. We, in turn, will take appropriate measures."

The Karabakh Governorate General was formed

The ADR government, indeed, began to take all necessary measures to repel the Armenian aggression. Taking into account the real danger of the occupation of Azerbaijani lands by Armenian troops, the Karabakh Governorate General was formed in January 1919, which included the Shusha, Javanshir, Jebail and Zangezur districts. One of the most influential figures of the republic, Khosrov bey Sultanov, was appointed Governor General of Karabakh.

According to the report of the ADR Ministry of Internal Affairs, the main tasks facing Sultanov in this post were designated as "the fight and complete liquidation of the Armenian movement, the final establishment of order, the organization of local government, the organization of food for refugees and the provision of general assistance to them, the organization of the fight against epidemics both among the refugees and among the indigenous population and, finally, after calming down, the return of refugees to their native places." [5, p. 95].

Arriving in Shusha on February 12, 1919, Khosrov bey Sultanov began to fulfill his duties. His brother, Sultan bey Sultanov, famous for creating volunteer military units that countered the aggressive attacks of Armenian armed formations in Zangezur and Karabakh, placed part of his forces at Khosrov bey's disposal. At the same time, the governor-general of Karabakh himself began to organize irregular cavalry units.

Khosrov bey Sultanov's efforts were soon crowned with success. Despite the fact that on March 21, military units of Dashnak Armenia captured the Askeran crossing, Azerbaijani troops under the command of the Governor-General of Karabakh defeated the aggressors in a battle on May 30 and returned Khankendi and Shusha to the control of the Azerbaijani state. By the end of April, the Azerbaijani army had completely driven Andranik's gangs out of the country.

In early summer 1919, the Dashnak government of the Armenian Republic provoked a new round of bloody conflict by supplying the Armenians of the mountainous part of Karabakh with a large amount of weapons. On June 4-5, several soldiers of the Azerbaijani army were killed in clashes with the Armenians. Governor-General Sultanov took tough measures to suppress the Armenian actions. He expelled from Karabakh the members of the Armenian National Council who advocated secession from Azerbaijan and the annexation of the region to Armenia, after which relative order was restored in the region.

At the same time, Sultanov issued an order stating that any crimes against the person and property of the Armenians themselves would be punished to the full extent of the martial law laws. The Governor-General personally went to the Armenian quarters of Shusha, whose population greeted him with a welcoming speech. Representatives of the Karabakh Armenians declared their

recognition of the authority of the Azerbaijani government, and also expressed confidence that the Azerbaijani authorities would take all measures to establish good-neighborly relations between the Muslims and Armenians of Karabakh. In his response, Sultanov stated that the Azerbaijani government, having embarked on the path of resolving serious state problems, based its work on the equality of all citizens before the law. [7, p. 113-114].

The result of the policy of the ADR government was that the Karabakh Armenians, at their congress held in August 1919, agreed to be granted national and cultural autonomy.

The Next Attempt at Territorial Change

However, the armed formations of Dashnak Armenia, which had launched a new round of aggression against the ADR, continued to exterminate Azerbaijanis in the Zangezur district. In early October 1919, the government of Azerbaijan sent troops to the region under the command of Major General Javad Bey Shikhlinsky. The Azerbaijani army managed to encircle the Armenian forces near the town of Dyk. The British representative in Tiflis, General Shatelvorgh, intervened in the situation. Although the Azerbaijani troops suspended the offensive operation, they achieved the solution of their main task: Karabakh and Zangezur became calm again.

The undisputed territory of the ADR was 97.3 thousand square kilometers. The Azerbaijani government considered 8.7 thousand square kilometers bordering Georgia and 7.9 thousand square kilometers bordering Armenia as disputed land. The population of Azerbaijan was 2 million 862 thousand people, of which 70 percent were Muslims. [6, p.149].

On November 23, 1919, an agreement was concluded in Tiflis between Azerbaijan and the Armenian Republic, according to which the parties pledged to cease all armed clashes between them, open the roads leading to Zangezur, and resolve all disputes, including the border issue, peacefully. The Armenian-Azerbaijani peace conference that opened in Baku on December 14, 1919, confirmed this condition of the November agreement on the peaceful settlement of disputes.

However, Armenia, treacherously violating the peace agreements, attacked Azerbaijan again. Armenian regular troops passed through Zangezur to Karabakh, destroying all Azerbaijani villages along the way. It can be argued that from this time on, Armenian-Azerbaijani military clashes took on the character of a full-scale war.

At the meeting of the State Defense Committee of Azerbaijan held on January 16, 1920, a number of measures were developed to prevent aggression from Armenia. Additional military units were sent to the western regions of the country, and the state allocated 5 million rubles to organize partisan detachments from local residents.

The next day, January 17, 1920, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan, Fatali Khan Khoyski, sent a note to the High Commissioner of the Allied Powers in Transcaucasia, American Colonel Haskell, which stated: "My government, prompted by the desire to stop the bloodshed in Zangezur, as well as the advice given by your deputy, Colonel Ray, and the British High Commissioner O. Wardrop, ordered the Karabakh Governor-General not to take military action against the regular Armenian military units sent by the Armenian government to support the Armenians involved in the uprising against the authorities of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Following the agreement reached on November 23, 1919 between the heads of government of Azerbaijan and Armenia, the Azerbaijani government withdrew all its troops from Zangezur to eliminate the possibility of using weapons against the Armenians, while being confident that the Armenian government, in pursuance of the agreement of November 23, 1919, would in turn withdraw its troops from Zangezur and will take measures to stop the destruction of Muslim villages by Armenians. Unfortunately, the Armenian government not only did not recall its military units from Zangezur, but, on the contrary, even after the agreement of November 23, 1919, continued, as we are informed, to replenish its regular military units located in Zangezur, send shells and cartridges and systematically destroy Muslim villages, clearing the Zangezur district of the Muslim population. In addition, Armenian military units are fulfilling the task assigned to them - to destroy Muslim villages separating the Armenian villages of the Shusha and Jebrail districts from the Armenian villages of the Zangezur district. My government has received information that since the

agreement to this day, the Armenians have destroyed about 40 Muslim villages in the Zangezur district...".

On January 22, 1920, Khoyski sent a note to the Armenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in which he stated the following: "I have received reports from my government that on January 19 of this year, the troops of the Armenian government, together with armed bands, began offensive actions from Zangezur in the direction of the Shusha district, and all Muslim villages lying along the route of their movement are being exterminated, 9 of which have been destroyed in recent days... Armenian troops, apparently fulfilling a specific plan of their government, have again begun to destroy Muslim villages, subjecting the inhabitants to inhuman extermination... Once again pointing out the absolute inadmissibility of such a course of action by the government of the Republic of Armenia, I categorically insist on an immediate suspension of the aggressive actions of the Armenian troops and consider it my duty to inform you that in the event of non-cessation of military actions against the peaceful Muslim population, my government will be forced to take decisive measures to protect the lives and property of its citizens, placing full responsibility for the possible consequences of this on the Armenian government."

On January 23, 1920, member of the Azerbaijani parliament Jalil Sultanov telegraphed from Karabakh to the chairman of the parliament, the prime minister, and the leaders of the parliamentary factions: "...On January 19, Armenian regular troops with 10 (16) cannons and many machine guns attacked a number of Azerbaijani villages in the area between Khojaly and Kaladarasi. By yesterday, 15 villages had been destroyed. The offensive continues on the border of the Jeyrail district near Khanlikh..."

It should be taken into account that all these events, indicating the intensification of Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan, occurred shortly after the Supreme Council of the Allied Powers unanimously decided to recognize the de facto independence of Azerbaijan, as well as Armenia and Georgia. On January 10, 1920, the Supreme Council of the Entente recognized the ADR de facto at one of the sessions of the Paris Peace Conference. Formally, the ADR was a full-fledged state and had the attributes of statehood recorded in the Act of Independence [11, p.1]. Thus, the ADR was recognized by the Paris Peace Conference in accordance with the borders indicated in the official document - a map presented by the delegation of Azerbaijan headed by Ali Mardan bey Topchubashov and including the territories of Karabakh and Zangezur as integral parts of the Azerbaijani state.

On March 22-23, 1920, Armenian troops attacked the Azerbaijani garrisons in Askeran and Khankendi, and carried out attacks on Shusha, Khojaly and Terter. These acts of aggression were committed during the days when the Azerbaijanis were celebrating Novruz Bayram, in the hope that they would be caught off guard [3, p.33].

In a telegram to the Minister of Internal Affairs, Karabakh Governor-General Sultanov reported: "On March 23, at two and a half o'clock in the morning, Armenians carried out an impressive attack on our military unit in Khankend. At the same time, Armenians began attacks in Shusha. The attacks have been repelled, and there are exchanges of fire in the surrounding areas. Shusha is being bombarded from Shushikend. The Agdam-Shusha telegraph has been interrupted."

On March 28, 1920, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan Khoyski noted in a message to foreign diplomatic missions and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia E.P. Gegechkori: "...The heights of Shusha and Askeran were subjected to artillery fire by the Armenians. The following day, attacks by significant Armenian armed forces on Muslim villages within the Jeyrail and Zangezur districts were noted, and some of these villages were destroyed. Information was received that reinforcements were moving towards the rebel Armenians from the Novo-Bayazet district of the Erivan province and that Armenian troops had arrived in the village of Togludzha, located near the Kazakh district... The Azerbaijani government hastily took measures to restore order in Karabakh and to prevent the possibility of similar attacks in the future." With the capture of the Askeran fortress by the Armenians, the only road connecting Nagorno-Karabakh with

the rest of Azerbaijan ended up in the hands of Armenian gangs under the command of Dro [4, p. 351-352].

To stop the Armenian aggression, the government of Azerbaijan sent a 20,000-strong corps to the region, led by Major General Gabib bey Salimov. Already in early April, after heavy and bloody battles, Azerbaijani soldiers liberated Askeran, Khojaly and Shusha.

During 1918-1920, infantry and cavalry regiments, artillery brigades and divisions, and other military-technical units were formed in Azerbaijan. By the end of 1919, the Azerbaijani army consisted of two infantry and one cavalry divisions. The first infantry division, whose headquarters were located in Ganja, included the 1st Javanshir, 2nd Zakatala, and 3rd Ganja regiments, as well as the Kurdish rifle battalion. The second division, whose headquarters were located in Baku, included the 4th Quba, 5th Baku, and 6th Geokchay regiments. The creation of the 7th Shirvan Regiment began the formation of the 3rd infantry "division. The cavalry division, whose headquarters were also located in Ganja, included the 1st Tatar, 2nd Karabakh and 3rd Sheki cavalry regiments, as well as the Kurdish cavalry division [10, p.76].

Conclusion

For almost the entire month, the Azerbaijani army liberated Karabakh and Zangezur from Armenian troops. These events influenced the historical geography of Karabakh. After decisive victories in Karabakh, it was aimed at completely suppressing the Armenian aggression in the direction of Zangezur. On April 27, 1920, Major General Salimov, telegraphing the Ministry of War, although he complained about the lack of troops and weapons, still asked for an order to go deep into Zangezur. However, at that moment such an order could not be received. April 27 was the last day in the history of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, whose military potential was insufficient to counter the invasion of the 11th Red Army of Soviet Russia. The transfer of the best military forces of the ADR to the western regions of the country in order to repel Armenian aggression practically deprived the state of the opportunity to protect its northern borders ... Each page of the history of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, which lived only 23 months, is very dear to all Azerbaijanis [1, p. 7].

In 1920, Azerbaijan won the first, in fact, Karabakh war. A century later, in 2020, the triumphant relay race of the glorious army of the ADR was continued by the valiant Armed Forces of the modern Azerbaijan Republic, which ensured the Great Victory for our people in the new Karabakh war unleashed by the Armenian aggressors.

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**AZƏRBAYCAN XALQ CÜMHURİYYƏTİNİN FƏALİYYƏTİ DÖVRÜNDƏ
QARABAĞDA İNZİBATİ DƏYİŞİKLİK (1918-1920)****S.Ə.Orucova**

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Xülasə: “Azərbaycan Xalq Cümhuriyyətinin fəaliyyəti dövründə Qarabağda İnzibati dəyişiklik (1918-1920)” mövzusu aktualdır, çünki bu əsər tarixi-coğrafi tərəfdən tədqiq edilmişdir. Məqalədə əsas məqsəd Azərbaycan Xalq Cümhuriyyətinin fəaliyyəti dövründə Qarabağın ərazi dəyişikliklərini müqayisə etmək, müqayisəli metoddan istifadə olunub. İlk Azərbaycan Xalq Cümhuriyyəti 28 May 1918-ci ildə Rusiya imperiyasının süqutundan sonra müstəqil olaraq müstəqilliyini elan etdi. Gənc ölkə üçün ən vacib məqsəd ADR dövlətinin beynəlxalq səviyyədə tanınması və ərazi bütövlüyünün qorunması idi. Mümkün olan şey, 10 yanvar 1920-ci ildə Antanta Ali Şurası Paris Sülh Konfransının iclaslarından birində ADR-ni de-fakto tanıdı. Formal olaraq, ADR tam hüquqlu bir dövlət idi və müstəqillik aktında qeyd olunan dövlətçilik əlamətlərinə sahib idi. Ancaq cəmi 23 ay davam edən minlərlə AXC əsgərinin həyatı bahasına dövlətin ərazi birliyini qorumaq, Azərbaycanın Qarabağ üzərində suveren hüquqlarını qorumaq mümkün oldu. Azərbaycan Xalq Cümhuriyyətinin fəaliyyəti dövründə (1918-1920) Qarabağda baş verən əsas inzibati dəyişiklik yanvar ayında Şuşa, Cavanşir, Cəbrayıl və Zəngəzur qəzalarının daxil olduğu Qarabağ general-qubernatorluğunun yaranması ilə baş verdi. Qarabağın general-qubernatoru respublikanın ən nüfuzlu simalarından biri Xosrov bəy Sultanov təyin edilib.

Açar sözlər: Azərbaycan Xalq Cümhuriyyəti, Qarabağ, tarixi coğrafiya, inzibati dəyişiklik, Qarabağ general-qubernatorluğu, Xosrov bəy Sultanov

**АДМИНИСТРАТИВНОЕ ИЗМЕНЕНИЕ В КАРАБАХЕ В ПЕРИОД ДЕЯТЕЛЬНОСТИ
АЗЕРБАЙДЖАНСКОЙ ДЕМОКРАТИЧЕСКОЙ РЕСПУБЛИКИ (1918-1920)****С.А.Оруджева**

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Резюме: Тема “Административное изменение в Карабахе в период деятельности Азербайджанской Демократической Республики (1918-1920)” является актуальной, так как это работа исследована с историко-географической стороны. В написанной статье использован сравнительный метод, где основной целью является сравнить территориальные изменения Карабаха в период деятельности АДР. Первая Азербайджанская Демократическая Республика самостоятельно объявила свою независимость 28 мая 1918 году после распада Российской империи. Важнейшей целью для молодой страны стало получение международного признания государства АДР и сохранение территориальной целостности. Что стало возможным, 10 января 1920 года Верховный совет Антанты на одном из заседаний Парижской мирной конференции признал АДР де-факто. Формально АДР являлась полноценным государством и имела признаки государственности, зафиксированные в Акте независимости. Однако ценой жизни тысяч своих воинов АДР, просуществовавшей всего 23 месяца, удалось отстоять территориальное единство государства, защитить суверенные права Азербайджана над Карабахом. Основным административным изменением в Карабахе в период деятельности Азербайджанской Демократической Республики (1918-1920) произошло в январе месяце с образованием Карабахское генерал-губернаторство, в которое вошли Шушинский, Джаванширский, Джебраильский и Зангезурский уезды. Генерал-губернатором Карабаха был назначен один из наиболее влиятельных деятелей республики Хосров бек Султанов.

Ключевые слова: *Азербайджанская Демократическая Республика, Карабах, историческая география, административное изменение, Карабахское генерал-губернаторство, Хосров бек Султанов*

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