

ARMENIAN EXCAVATIONS IN AZIKH OR HOW HISTORY IS FALSIFIED

In 1960, Azerbaijani scientists under the leadership of prominent archaeologist Mammadali Huseynov discovered an ancient human settlement in the Azikh cave on the banks of the Guruchay River in Karabakh. Tools that are more than 1.2 million years old were found here; remnants of hearths enclosed with stones and primitive homes (circles built of stone), which existed 300,000 years ago; a cache of skulls of cave bears that served as objects of a cult (the skulls had scratches - images regarded as elements of primitive art). There were so many finds and they were so considerable that they were separated into the special "Guruchay culture". In 1968, fragments of the lower jaw of an ancient man named Azikhanthrop were found. This made it possible to conclude for the first time that there was a vast area inhabited by pre-Neanderthals in Europe. Russian academician A. Derevyanko wrote: "The earliest known finds were made in the area of the Kura-Araz lowland and in the Azikh cave in Azerbaijan. It is possible that this direction – along the western Caspian Sea and further north through the North Caucasus - was the main focus of settlement in Europe in general." Based on materials from Azikh, hundreds of scientific articles, monographs and dissertations have been written. Ar-

chaeologist Damir Hajiyev defended in Moscow his master's thesis dedicated to the bones of the Azikhanthrop. It was defended so successfully that instead of a master's degree, the scientist was awarded a doctor's degree.

The discovery of the cave was an outstanding scientific discovery, as a find of this kind was the fifth discovery in the history of archeology. From 1960 to 1980, Azerbaijani scientists carried out a lot of work to study the cultural layers in an area of less 8,000 square meters. A corridor divided by 8 grand grottoes with high 20-meter domes and 2-meter stalactite columns with a girth of 1.5 meters was restored. The archaeological materials, including human remains, were handed over to the Museum of History of Azerbaijan, where they are still kept. Archaeological research in the cave lasted for decades, it was visited by hundreds of Soviet and Western scientists; a cast of the Azikh jaw, along with other ancient finds from other countries of the world, was used in the reconstruction of the image of a young Neanderthal girl whose mockup is on display in the Museum of Natural History in London.

Thus, the Azikh cave was recognized as one of the oldest in the world. However, everything changed after the occupation of Karabakh and seven neighboring districts of Azerbaijan by the Armenian armed forces. Armenian chauvinists, destroying in the occupied territories monuments that show the history and culture of the Azerbaijani people and "restoring" or rather falsifying Armenian ones, suddenly realized that the Azikh cave could be used as evidence of ancient Armenian roots. In the book "History and Architectural Monuments of Nagorno-Karabakh", S. Mkrtchyan wrote that a woman's "statue" belonging to the Acheulian culture had been found in the Azikh cave and that the woman's clothing was very similar to the clothing of modern Armenian women. The absurdity of the statement is obvious when



Armenian archeologists conducting illegal excavation in the cave

Armenian falsifiers trying to establish a museum in the cave



you consider that what was found in Azikh was not the remains of modern man, but those of the transitional form from Pithecanthropus to Neanderthals.

Then the machinery of falsifications started working in full force. They first renamed “Azikh” – after all, an Armenian monument cannot have an Azerbaijani name. Armenian “scientists” and then journalists announced that the cave was called “Azokh” – “unripe grapes”: this is what the ancient inhabitants called their cave. In the second step of renaming, they announced that “the locals (of course, Armenians) sometimes call the cave Virvan (Vorvan) or Virapavan, which can be roughly translated as “an abode in the pit”. So, they began to write about the cave: “Azokh-Vorvan.” Today, it is increasingly referred to as the “Vorvan cave”. It should be added that the village with the ancient Azerbaijani name of Salakoti near the cave was renamed Armenian “Drakhtik”.

To date, there is also written (!) evidence that the cave

of primitive humans belonged to Armenian culture. So, it was announced that “the history of the cave is quite long. It was mentioned in ancient Armenian chronicles and there are many legends about it, for example, during the Mongol invasion, treasures of lord Amaras were hidden in the cave”.

To completely dismiss all the merits of Azerbaijani scientists in the discovery and study of the cave, the following story was invented (they definitely tell it to everyone wishing to listen to Armenian tales): “In the 1960s, the cave near the village of Azokh in Hadrut District was surrounded for about 6 months by policemen who had arrived from Baku. They had heard rumors that during the Mongol invasion, residents of Tokh and neighboring villages hid their gold in the cave. They kept blowing up the rock formations of the cave, but found nothing.” So, Azerbaijani scientists turned into policemen seeking gold of the Mongol era. Of course, the Azerbaijani



An entrance to the cave

policemen-scientists had no idea “how the ancient humans managed to hide gold in the rock formations of the cave.” No, they came and blew everything up, but found nothing and left.

Thus, all the traditional steps of the Armenian model of falsifying history are obvious: 1. Place names are changed; 2. Historians “discover” a written document with the appropriate Armenian place name. Then comes the third stage: Armenian archaeologists, naturally as part of an “international” expedition, begin to dig. While archaeologists are digging, Armenian geographers get into the act: The true location of the monument is identified: “Continent - Asia, location - Armenia”; “the Azokh cave is one of the natural, historical and cultural monuments of the Armenian plateau.”

Armenian journalists do not remain idle either: on the one hand, they continuously publish articles in which “patriotic Armenian scientists who conduct excavations without even getting wages” are praised to the skies, and on the other, we hear appeals to the Armenian diaspora and the international community to contribute money.

And then, finally, we hear the cry of the Armenian archeologists: “Eureka!” The aspirations of all the suffering Armenian people have come true – we “found” something that confirms Armenian claims to these lands. If the remains of an ancient bear are found, it means that the bear was killed by ancient Armenian hunters; If the remains of a fire are found, it means that it was an “ancient Armenian hearth”; If fragments of tools are found, it means that they are similar to “Armenian tools” from such and such a museum in Yerevan.

Today Armenian falsifiers are carrying out another stage of their classic scheme: the information of Armenian historians, geographers and archaeologists, seasoned with stories of local residents and authoritative quotations from the speeches or reports of “international scientists”, is prepared for publication in the form of books in different languages. Naturally, the Armenian diaspora will express a “noble wish” to hold presentations and banquets where “Armenian dolma” wrapped in “Armenian lavash” will be distributed and, of course, the “ancient Armenian dance Kochari” will be performed.

Later, with the tacit consent of the international community, everyone will witness the next stage of falsification: the concerned Armenian public will bombard the Armenian government with demands to immortalize the memory of the Vorvan cave. And responding to the appeal, they will install a monument “Ancient Armenian cave hunter, his Armenian girlfriend and the bear they killed” at the entrance to the cave.

By this time, they will try to remove from libraries and websites mentions about the work of M. Huseynov, D. Hajiyev and other Azerbaijani archeologists in the cave, or at least present them as villains in a police uniform looking for gold.

The editorial staff of the IRS-Heritage magazine cannot assume the functions of the international community, which should have long said “Stop Armenian falsifications!”. We only invite readers to visit the National Museum of History of Azerbaijan, which demonstrates finds from Azikh found not by policemen carrying out demolition work; We recommend reading the works of Azerbaijani and Soviet scientists on the results of archaeological work in the 1960-80s and finally, we present our readers with a brief review article by Doctor of History G. Hajiyev on the history of the study of the Azikh cave. 🌟

Editorial staff of IRS-Heritage magazine