

# Azerbaijani emigration in World War II

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Just recently, we marked 80 years of the start of World War II – the most destructive and bloodiest of all wars in the history of mankind which has affected the fates of most people around the world in one way or another. The war left a deep mark on the history of the Azerbaijani people, both directly and indirectly. The outbreak of war and the ensuing quick division of Poland between Germany and the USSR prompted the government of France to search for ways to prevent the attacks of Nazi Germany. Since the USSR accounted for a third of German oil imports, the issue of destroying the oil fields of Baku, which contributed 80 percent of Soviet oil production, was under serious consideration. These processes and the activities of Azerbaijani emigration in the context of military and political situation are examined in the first part of the article by French-Georgian political scientist Giorgi Mamulia and Azerbaijani historian, publisher and diplomat Ramiz Abutalibov.

You will certainly be interested to read a story about prominent Azerbaijani thinker, public and political activist and publisher Ahmad Agaoglu. A bright representative of the Azerbaijani Renaissance of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, A. Agaoglu advocated the Europeanization of the traditional eastern society, including Azerbaijan, and saw this as the only way of ending the deplorable backwardness and ignorance.

Other articles deserving reader's attention include the second part of the story about prominent women of medieval Azerbaijan, as well as an article on cases of distortions of historical facts in Armenian literature and historical documents. Also of interest are articles about fortresses of the Iravan Khanate, outstanding Azerbaijani painter Sattar Bahlulzade, and the continuation of a story on the history of Azerbaijani-Swiss relations.

In a nutshell, I am sure that this issue is well worth your time.

Enjoy the read!