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KARABAKH:

FROM THE TREATY OF KURAKCHAY TO THE FALL OF THE INDEPENDENT KHANATE

ON 10 APRIL 1840, AS A RESULT OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND MILITARY REFORM, THE KARABAKH PROVINCE WAS TRANSFORMED INTO THE SHUSHA DISTRICT AND INCLUDED IN THE CASPIAN PROVINCE WITH ITS CENTER IN SHAMAKHI, AND FROM 1846, IT JOINED THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED SHAMAKHI PROVINCE.

In 1859, the Shamakhi province was transformed into the Baku province, while Karabakh was incorporated in the new province. In other words, the Karabakh khanate and its center Shusha were incorporated into the Russian Empire as Muslim lands and an Azerbaijani khanate. From an administrative point of view, these lands were subordinated precisely to Muslim areas or the Shamakhi and Baku provinces which covered the Muslims. When the Yelizavetpol (Ganja) province was formed in 1867, Shusha district was within the administrative boundaries of the province¹. However, due to the partition of the Shusha district, Zangazur, Javanshir and Jabrayil districts formed on Karabakh soil. But, apparently, the policy of

reliance on the Armenians had already been determined. In comparison with 1832, in 1871 the number of Armenians in Azerbaijan exceeded 15%.

The next powerful influx of Armenians into the Caucasus was observed after the Russian-Turkish war of 1877-1878 and the events that took place in Turkey in 1893-1894. These flows of Armenian immigrants were purposefully regulated by public policy. There is no doubt that this flow had an impact on the dynamics of the religious and ethnic composition of the population in Karabakh. According to the census of 1897, the number of Armenian immigrants in the South Caucasus reached 1,100,138, and 1,124,948 people in the whole of the Caucasus². Ten years before the census of 1886, 962,000 (actually 939,131 - JH) of the 4,186,000 people living the South Caucasus were Armenians, while 1,139,659 were Azerbaijanis³. A member of the British Parliament and the British Royal Geographical Society, the famous traveler H. F. B. Lynch, in order to downplay the importance of the absolute numerical superiority of the Tatars (Azerbaijanis), writes that the Tatars (Azerbaijanis) are divided into

Sunnis and Shiites on the basis of tough religious antagonisms⁴. However, Lynch admitted that in Iravan, the number of Tatars (Azerbaijanis - JH) was equal to the number of Armenians, and the language of the Tatars (Azerbaijanis - JH) in the South Caucasus still serves as an international language in all regions from the Caucasus Mountain Range to the Armenian plateau⁵.

As for the Armenians, in order to play up their significance, Lynch writes: «In assessing the significance of the Armenian element, it is necessary to take into consideration not so much their number as the solidarity of the Armenian people, especially in comparison with the surrounding peoples.»⁶ According to the census of 1897, 62,868 of the 138,771 residents (45.3%) of Shusha district were Azerbaijanis and 73,953 (53.1%) – Armenians; 71,216 (52.3%) of the 137,871 people living in the Zangazur district were Azerbaijanis and 63,622 (46.4%) – Armenians; 52,044 (71.3%) of the 72,719 residents of Javanshir district were Azerbaijanis and 19,551 (26.7%) – Armenians; 49,189 (74.5%) of the 66,360 residents of Jabrayil district were Azerbaijanis and 15,746 (23.8%) - Armenians.

1 Энциклопедический словарь. Изд. Брокгауз и Эфрон. V.XII, St. Petersburg, 1894, p. 222-223; Энциклопедический словарь. Изд. Брокгауз и Эфрон. V.IX, St. Petersburg, 1904, p. 26

2 Кавказский календарь на 1903 г. Tiflis, 1902, p. 250-253

3 Армения. Путевые очерки и этюды Х.Ф.Б.Линча. Том I. Русские провинции. Типография М.Мартirosянца, Tiflis, 1910, p. 571

4 Ibid. p. 571

5 Ibid. p. 576-577

Overall, of the 878,415 people living in the Ganja province, 534,086 (60.8%) were Azerbaijanis and 229,188 (26.1%) were Armenians.⁷ Compared to the statistics of the early 19th century, these figures show major changes in the national and ethnic composition of the Karabakh population. The immigration policy of Tsarist Russia, which resettled Christian elements to the South Caucasus in order to establish a foothold, influenced the demographic situation in Karabakh to a large extent. Colonel Lazarev, who ran the resettlement of Armenians from Iran to the South Caucasus, prophetically promised them: «The small donations you made will be rewarded by a hundred times, and by sacrificing the little and for a little while, you will get everything and forever.»⁸ By the end of the 19th century, this prediction came true. In an encyclopedia published in 1904 in St. Petersburg, the population of Shusha district, which constituted the mountainous part of Karabakh, was divided into 58.2% of the Armenians (compared to 53.1% in 1897 - JH) and 41.5% of the Azerbaijani Tatars (compared to 45.3% in 1897 - JH) and 0.3% of Russians. In the district center - the city of Shusha, 56.5% of the population of 25,656 were Armenians and 43.2% - Azerbaijani Tatars (Turks - JH)⁹.

Even the British Liberal Lynch, who favored the Armenians, acknowledged that the number of Armenians in the Russian provinces had increased significantly due to migrants from Turkey and Iran¹⁰. And if in 1822-1826, the Armenians constituted 9.3% of the population of the South Caucasus, this figure rose to 32.8% in 1916¹¹.

Modern Armenian and Russian authors, in contrast to the stubborn facts, are trying to prove the opposite, saying

that the Turkicization of Nagorno-Karabakh occurred in the 19th century. V. A. Zakharov and S. T. Sarkisyan, for example, write that on the basis of numerous documents, we can say: in the 19th century, Nagorno-Karabakh was actively Turkicized (!)¹². However, in support of their arguments, they cannot cite any one of the «numerous documents».

In the 1940s, there appeared the question of the colonization and Russification of these territories. However, at the same time, the undesirable consequences of the policy of increasing the Christian population only with Armenians began to manifest themselves. For the resettlement of Russians, there was not enough free land, because the most and best public lands were in the hands of the Armenians.

The patronage of the Armenians observed throughout the 19th century was replaced with the cooling of sympathies in the 1890s. In 1896, Prince Golitsyn was appointed Governor-General of the Caucasus, who took several measures to tame the Armenians' influence and improve relations with the Muslims. He sacked an impressive number of Armenians from government service and replaced them with Muslims, and in 1903, he requisitioned the property of the Armenian Church. In response, the Armenians organized the first terrorist acts against tsarist officials. In 1903, Golitsyn was wounded and left the Caucasus. The political assassinations carried out by Armenian terrorist organizations against officials of the Russian Empire, lit the fire of the Armenian-Muslim conflict, «which had no precedent in the Caucasus since the spread of Russian power in the province.»¹³ Appointed governor of the tsar in the Caucasus in May 1905, Count I.

Vorontsov-Dashkov, unlike Prince Golitsyn, sympathized with the Armenians and did not hide it. He believed that friendship with the Armenian was the cornerstone of Russian rule in the Caucasus. The appointment of Vorontsov-Dashkov as governor made the leaders of the Armenian groups in the Caucasus more active and increased the interest in the Armenian issue. In Western Europe, there was an idea that «only Russia can help them achieve their political ideals and improve the fate of the Armenians in Turkey.»¹⁴

During the revolutionary events of 1905, the first Armenian-Muslim clashes took place in Baku. Soon afterwards, this conflict enveloped the whole of Azerbaijan, especially Karabakh, as well as Iravan and Tiflis. This first mass Armenian-Muslim conflict, in which up to 10 thousand people were killed from both sides, also created a new level of relations between the two peoples. Better armed and organized Armenians carried out terrorist attacks, used the tactics of «scorched earth» and unexpected attacks, and forcibly expelled Azerbaijanis from the territories where «the Armenian state should be located», especially from Iravan and Karabakh. If we pay attention to the geography of the Armenian-Muslim clashes at the time, it becomes evident that the largest number of confrontations occurred between Armenians and Shiite Muslims.

The First World War and then the Russian Revolution dramatically changed the situation in the Caucasus. The military operations on the Russian-Turkish front set the stage for future shocks. In the autumn of 1914, detachments of Armenian volunteers set up in the Transcaucasia fought on the Russian-Turkish front. The tragic end of

6 Ibid. p. 571

7 See: Р.Мустафа-заде. Две республики. Азербайджано-российские отношения в 1918-1922 гг. - М., 2006, p.189

8 С.Н.Глинка. Описание переселения армян Аддербиджанских в пределы России. - М., 1831, p.110-111

9 Энциклопедический словарь. Изд. Брокгауз и Эфрон. V.XI, St. Petersburg, 1904, p.25-26

10 Армения. Путевые очерки и этюды Х.Ф.Б.Линча. Том I. Русские провинции, p.576

11 Ф.Абасов. Гарабагское ханство. Ваку, 2007, p.15

12 В.А.Захаров, С.Т.Саркисян. Азербайджано-Карабахский конфликт: истоки и современность // Майендорфская декларация 2 ноября 2008 года и ситуация вокруг Нагорного Карабаха. Сборник статей. Moscow, 2008, p.223

13 Рапорт генерала Л.М.Болховитинова к его высокопревосходительству помощнику по военной части Наместника Его Императорского Величества на Кавказе. 11.12.1915 г. // РГВИА, ф.2100, оп.1, д.646, л.47

14 Ibid. л.47

all these activities is known: the mass extermination of Turks and Armenians in eastern Anatolia. Although the Armenians are trying to present these events as genocide against them, the historical truth is much more complicated. According to many researchers, two flows of refugees clashed in Eastern Turkey: the flow of Muslims fleeing Armenian armed gangs in the Caucasus, and the flow of Armenians fleeing Turkey to Russia. It was the collision of the two flows of refugees that was the tragedy the echo of which reached the present day. But such a clash does not match the concept of genocide, not least because the Armenians felt safe enough in western Turkey at the time. In fact, in order to understand the true essence of the events that took place in eastern Anatolia in 1915-1916, it is enough to see a secret report by the Chief of Staff of Russia's Caucasian front, General Bolkhovitinov, addressed to the tsar, and reports by Russian diplomat V. F. Mayevskiy¹⁵. In his report to the governor's assistant for military affairs, kept at the intelligence branch of the Caucasian Army Staff and entitled «Letters on the Armenian squad, its organization and activities», General L. M. Bolkhovitinov notes that in October-November 1894, in the «Asiatic vilayets of Turkey - Trabzon, Erzurum, Van, Bitlis, Sivas, Diyarbekir, Harput, Urfa, Adana and Aleppo, bloody beatings gradually broke out, in which

the initiators were the Armenians themselves in almost all cases».¹⁶ In 1914-1915, the following detachments participated in military operations against Turkey under the name of «fidains» and exterminated Turkish civilians: the first Armenian squad under the command of the well-known chetnik Andronik, the second squad under the command of the Russian citizen of Armenian descent Dro, the third squad led by Hamazasp who committed bloody crimes in Azerbaijan in 1918, the fourth squad led by Keri – an associate of Yefrem, who shot at Sattarkhan in the Atabay Park¹⁷. Later, all these chetniks distinguished themselves with atrocities against Muslim civilians in Baku, Shamakhi, Guba, and especially in Nakhchivan, Zangazur and Karabakh¹⁸. V. Mayevskiy, who served as Consul General of Russia in the provinces of Erzurum and Van in the Ottoman Empire from 1895, wrote of the Dashnak crimes and the falsified «Armenian question»: «I want not only to express, but also emphasize very well the idea that the spread of mainly lies about the Armenian question led the entire Armenian nation on the wrong path, troubled the minds of its best representatives, baffled hundreds of Armenians, tore a thousand hands away from useful things and directed them towards anarchy - the creation of the endless disasters which the Armenian villagers of Asiatic Turkey had to endure

and which affected the Armenians of the Caucasus too... Thanks to the media, the truth about the Armenian affairs turned into such a dense fog that a ray of truth could not break through this fog.»¹⁹ V. Mayevskiy had the courage to openly write: «The facts I personally know about the clashes of the Armenians and Muslims in various cities of Turkey suggest that the bloody things are the initiative of Armenians everywhere.»²⁰ About a month before the Novruz holiday, 19 February 1915, M. E. Rasulzadeh wrote about the atrocities of the Armenians in Kars and Ardahan in edition 869 of Igbal newspaper: «There is information that Muslims living in the military zone along the border of Turkey were subjected to cruel ordeals: men were slaughtered, women were taken captive, children were scattered in the mountains and forests, and the whole area lies in ruins ... The refugees are hungry, naked and barefoot, poverty holds them by the throat ... If we were able to fully portray the suffering and misery of our poor fellow coreligionists and compatriots in Kars and Ardahan, our readers would now be getting ready not for the upcoming holiday, but for mourning.»²¹ The genocide, on which Armenians insist, is not supported by facts, and familiarization with documents about the events of 1915 leads to the idea about purposeful provocation. L. M. Bolkhovitinov noted in his report

- 15 See: Рапорт генерала Л.М.Болховитинова к его высокопревосходительству помощнику по военной части наместника Его Императорского Величества на Кавказе. 11.12.1915 // Российский Государственный Военно-Исторический Архив (РГВИА), ф.2100, оп.1, д.646, л.44-75; See: *Attaques des musulmans dans la region de Kars. 1915* // Archives personnelles A.M. Topchibashli, valise 9. Paris; *Documents sur 1915: Adjars, Sarykamis* // Archives personnelles A.M. Topchibashli, valise 9. Paris; В.Ф.Маевский. Армяно-татарская смута на Кавказе как один из фазисов армянского вопроса. Tiflis, 1915
- 16 Рапорт генерала Л.М.Болховитинова к его высокопревосходительству помощнику по военной части Наместника Его Императорского Величества на Кавказе. 11.12.1915 // Российский Государственный Военно-Исторический Архив (РГВИА), ф.2100, оп.1, д.646, л.46
- 17 Ibid. л. 53 об.-54
- 18 See: *Claims of the Peace Delegation of the Republic of Caucasian Azerbaijan Presented to the Peace Conference in Paris. Paris, 1919*, p.21; Le Lieutenant-Colonel Chardigny, Chef de la Mission Militaire Française au Caucase, à Monsieur le Ministre de la Guerre (Etat-Major de l'Armée, 2^e Bureau). Le 15 avril 1919. // Ministère des Affaires Etrangères de France, Archives Diplomatique, vol.832, folio 55; F.Kazemzadeh. *The Struggle for Transcaucasus (1917-1921)*. New-York, 1951. p.131; Nikita Dastakian. Il venait de la Ville Noire. *Souvenirs d'un Armenien du Caucase. L'inventaire/Cres*, 1998, p.69, 87-91; В.Степаков и Т.Куприков – в ЦК КПСС. 25.06.1965 // РГНИ, ф.5, оп.33, д.221, л.35; Срочная депеша председателя Совета Министров Ф.Х.Хойского руководителю азербайджанской делегации в Стамбуле М.Э.Расулзаде. 31.07.1918 // АПД УДП АР, ф.277, оп.2, д.7, л.37-38; о кровавых преступлениях Дро (Д.Каняна) в Восточной Анатолии и Азербайджане See: Архив Министерства Национальной Безопасности Азербайджанской Республики, д.862, т.3, часть II, л.56-69; О кровавых преступлениях Амазаспа в Азербайджане See: С.Рустамова-Тохида. Март 1918 г. в Баку. Азербайджанские погромы в документах. – Ваку, 2009; С.Рустамова-Тохида. Куба. Апрель-май 1918 г. Мусульманские погромы в документах. Ваку, 2010, с.75-77, 154-158 and others.
- 19 В.Ф.Маевский. Армяно-татарская смута на Кавказе как один из фазисов армянского вопроса. Tiflis, 1915, p.36-38
- 20 Записка Генерального консула России в Эрзеруме В.Маевского. В кн.: Н.Н.Шавров. Указ. соч. Ваку, Elm, 1990, p.98

that when Russian troops occupied the region of Van, the Armenian militia left no stone unturned here, and no one was spared.²² French scientist Georges de Maleville rightly writes that the thesis about the decision of the Turkish government - «the legend about the notorious secret plan to wipe out the Armenians to take their place is just as groundless as it is primitive».²³ In his autobiography, A. Mravyan, who held various official positions in Soviet Armenia, stated his opposition to the Dashnak party and its adventurist actions in Turkish Armenia.²⁴ General Nikolayev, who commanded the Russian army on the Caucasian front and was in the middle of events in the hottest point, wrote in

his report that he had not known about cases of mass extermination of the Armenian population in Eastern Anatolia. He said that about 50,000 Armenian refugees left Van in the direction of Tapariz. Of them, about 100 people were killed by the Kurds. Upon return from Tapariz to Berggri-Kala, there were about 500 Armenians who had died of disease. General Bolkhovitinov writes that from the beginning of these events, a large mass of up to 200,000 refugees moved to Russia. As the columns of people moved along the road from the southern part of Lake Van to Khoys and on the other side, to Igdir, «people died from exhaustion, hunger and thirst».²⁵

After the events in Eastern Anatolia,

the moving of large numbers of Armenians to the South Caucasus contributed to the worsening of national-ethnic relations in the region. In his report «On the political situation in the Caucasus», the Grand Duke Nicholas detailed the panorama of these contradictions to Emperor Nicholas II.²⁶ The Grand Duke told the king that «in Tiflis, which is the main center of the Caucasus, the urban public administration is entirely in the hands of the Armenians». As for the relations between the Russians and Armenians living in the Caucasus, Nicholas wrote: «Most of the Russian people living in the Caucasus have a negative attitude towards the Armenians.»²⁷ 🌱

21 «Игбал», 1915, 19 February

22 Рапорт генерала Л.М.Болховитинова к его высокопревосходительству помощнику по военной части Наместника Его Императорского Величества на Кавказе. 11.12.1915 г. // РГВИА, ф.2100, оп.1, д.646, л.71 об.

23 Жорж де Малевил. Армянская трагедия 1915 года. – Ваку, 1990. p.46

24 Автобиография А.А.Мравьяна. 1923 // АПД УДП АР, ф.1, оп.8, д.4020, л.12

25 Рапорт генерала Л.М.Болховитинова к его высокопревосходительству помощнику по военной части Наместника Его Императорского Величества на Кавказе. 11.12.1915 // РГВИА, ф.2100, оп.1, д.646, л.74

26 Кавказ и Российская империя: проекты, идеи, иллюзии и реальность. Начало XIX – начало XX вв. – St. Petersburg, 2005. p.542-552

27 Ibid. p.551

THERE IS NO AZERBAIJAN WITHOUT KARABAKH



Azerbaijani districts
occupied by Armenia
and dates of their occupation

Asgaran – 1991	Agdara – 07.07.1993
Hadrut – 1991	Agdam – 23.07.1993
Khojavand – 1991	Kalbajar – 02.04.1993
Khankandi – 1991	Fuzuli – 23.08.1993
Khojaly – 26.02.1992	Jabrayil – 23.08.1993
Shusha – 08.05.1992	Gubadli – 31.08.1993
Lachin – 18.05.1992	Zangilan – 29.10.1993