

**REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN**

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**ABSTRACT**

of the dissertation submitted for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

**ECONOMIC SITUATION OF THE AZERBAIJANI SSR  
IN 1920-1927**

Specialty: 5503.02 - History of the Motherland

Field of science: History

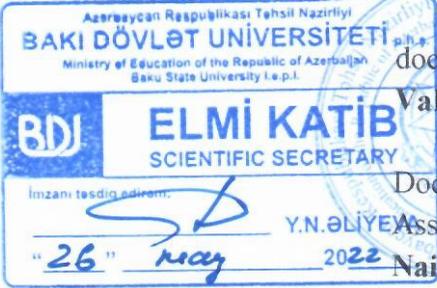
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## I. GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DISSERTATION WORK

**Relevance of the topic and the degree of elaboration.** The first half of the 1920s was an extremely interesting and at the same time complex and controversial period in the history of Azerbaijan. It was during this period that the April coup took place, which determined the historical destiny of our people for the next 70 years, our country lost its state independence, joined the Northern Empire, and radical changes began in all spheres of socio-political, socio-economic, cultural and spiritual life.

It was during this period that Azerbaijan experienced two periods of transition, in the 20s of the XX century our national independence was usurped by the Bolshevik regime, and in the 90s of that century Azerbaijan regained its independence. That is why the Great Leader Heydar Aliyev, during a meeting with scientists of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences on January 31, 1997, set the study of the history of Azerbaijan in the XIX-XX centuries as a task for historians.<sup>1</sup> In this regard, the dissertation on "The economic situation of the Azerbaijan SSR in 1920-1927" is of great scientific and political importance as one of the next steps in this direction.

**The degree of elaboration of the topic.** The problem of the economic situation of the Azerbaijan SSR is one of the problems of the historians of the Soviet period, as well as the historians of the Homeland paid special attention to in the years of independence.

As noted, although the problem had been studied to some extent by some researchers, this topic was chosen by us for the first time as an object of independent research, is studied in a complex way. While conducting research on the topic of the dissertation, an attempt was made to use sources and historical literature that provided at least some information on this problem, in addition to obtaining information from archival documents, the information provided by them was analyzed, the extent to which the documents reflect the objective reality was

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<sup>1</sup> Azərbaycan qəzeti 4 fevral 1997

determined by comparing them with information from other sources, and efforts were made to clarify issues related to the topic.

Speaking about the historical basis of the problem under study, it should be noted that works on this problem have been appearing since the early years of Soviet rule. Of these works, which are of a kind of source nature, first of all, it is necessary to note the works of D.Bunyadzadeh<sup>2</sup> dedicated to the state of agriculture, various industries in Azerbaijan in the 1920s and the work done to build socialism in our republic.

Our research was also enriched by the factual materials obtained from the works of Kh. Alimirzayev<sup>3</sup>, one of the researchers who studied the problem of building socialism in Azerbaijan, about the place of the Azerbaijani village in the struggle for the preparation and victory of the socialist revolution and his works written together with Kh.Aliyev<sup>4</sup> about the history of collectivization of agriculture in Azerbaijan.

The second half of the twentieth century can be considered the next stage in the study of the economic situation in Azerbaijan in the first years of Soviet rule. One of the authors who devoted special works to the problem of the economic situation of our republic in the historiography of that period first of all, the name of D.H.Gudratov<sup>5</sup> can be mentioned. D.H.Gudratov's research provides information on the history of development of state farms in Azerbaijan, the establishment of collective farms. This work focuses on the organization of state farms, with a historical excursion to the establishment of collective farms from the earliest days of the new economic policy.

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<sup>2</sup> Bünyadzadə, D. Azərbaycanın kənd təsərrüfatının yüksəldilməsi (VI Ümumazərbaycan Şuralar qurultayına məruzə, aprel, 1929). - Bakı: Azərnəşr, - 1929. - 80 s.; Bünyadzadə D. On il sosializm yolunda. - Bakı: Azərnəşr, - 1930. - 64 s.

<sup>3</sup> Əlimirzəyev, X. Azərbaycan kəndi sosialist inqilabının hazırlanması və qələbəsi uğrunda mübarizə dövründə. - Bakı: ADU nəşriyyatı, - 1960. - 124 s.; Алимйрзаяев X. Азербайджанская деревня за годы Советской власти. - Баку, - 1963,

<sup>4</sup> Əliyev, X. Əlimirzəyev X. Azərbaycanda kənd təsərrüfatının kollektivləşməsi tarixindən. - Bakı: Azərbaycan SSR EA nəşriyyatı, - 1957. - 274 s.

<sup>5</sup> Qüdrətov, D.H. Azərbaycanda sovxoz təsərrüfatının inkişafı tarixinə dair // Azərbaycan SSR-in 40 illiyi. Bakı: Azərbaycan SSR EA nəşriyyatı, - 1960, s.242-272.

A.I.Khalilov<sup>6</sup>, is one of the authors who devoted this problem to the historiography of the 70s. Despite the fact that his work on the participation of Azerbaijani workers in the building of socialism was written in accordance with the Soviet ideological approach, it is important in terms of having valuable information on the problems that concern us.

In the historiography of the Soviet period, issues such as the building of socialism in our republic, the state of agriculture and industry, the impact of the new economic policy on the economic situation of the Azerbaijan SSR became the object of study of individual Soviet researchers. Among them are N.N.Metelsky<sup>7</sup> and V.E.Lizlov<sup>8</sup>. These authors presented the issues of building socialism in our republic from the point of view of the existing ideological approach.

After the restoration of Azerbaijan's state independence in the early 1990s, researchers began to objectively rewrite the history of the country, especially the history of the Soviet period, including the 1920s. In contrast to Soviet-era historiography, which is characterized by a class nature, distortion of historical facts and a one-sided approach to individual problems, in the historiography of this period, many pages of the history of the First and Second Republics, which had been forgotten or ignored until then, began to be studied as the subject of special research.

Foreign-political aspects of the emergence and activity of these republics, as well as the problems of the internal economic situation were

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<sup>6</sup> Халилов А.И.Трудящиеся Азербайджана в борьбе за осуществление кооперативно го плана В.И.Ленина . - Баку, -1970

<sup>7</sup> Метельский Н.Н. X съезд РКП (б): шаг к нэпу или защита военного коммунизма?//Историческое значение НЭП-а. Сб. науч. Трудов. М.: Институт Истории СССР АН СССР, - 1990. - с.43-60

<sup>8</sup> Лызлов В.Е. Экономическая политика первых лет Советской власти (1017-1921 гг.). Москва: типография Университета ордена Дружбы народов им. П. Лумумбы, - 1983. - 76 с.

considered in the research of historians F.Ibrahimli<sup>9</sup>, E.Maharramov<sup>10</sup>, N.Mammadov<sup>11</sup>, J.Jafarov<sup>12</sup> and others.

Historian scientist F.Ibrahimli's monograph "Socio-political processes in the village of Azerbaijan", published in 1996, first of all attracts<sup>13</sup> attention in terms of critical attitude to the ideological approaches rooted in the historiography of the Soviet period. On the other hand, this work provides a scientific explanation of the events that took place in the village by analyzing the socio-political processes.

Doctor of Philosophy in History E. Maharramov's monograph on the study of agricultural issues in Azerbaijan in the 1920s on the basis of the materials of the "Communist" newspaper is valuable in terms of the richness of factual material on various areas of economic life in Azerbaijan. In his work, E. Maharramov was not satisfied only with the information provided by the Communist newspaper, but also included other available source materials on the problem.

In the historiographical review, we would like to mention Sh.D. Salimov<sup>5</sup>, one of the researchers of the oil industry of Azerbaijan. His work on the issue of Azerbaijani oil in international relations in the first years of Soviet rule (1920-1922) provides valuable information on the state of the republic's oil industry at that time, citing primary sources and historical literature. The value of the work is further enhanced by the

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<sup>9</sup> İbrahimli F. Azərbaycan kəndində sosial-siyasi proseslər (1920-1930). - Bakı: Mütərcim, - 2001. - 168 s

<sup>10</sup> Магерамов Е.А. Газета «Коммунист» (на азерб. языке) и вопросы восстановления сельского хозяйства Азербайджанской ССР (1921-1928 гг.). – Баку: Нурлан, - 2004. - 344 с.

<sup>11</sup> Məmmədov N.Z. Azərbaycan Mərkəzi İcraiyyə Komitəsinin kollektivləşmə siyasətinə müasir baxış. Bakı Universitetinin "Xəbərlər"i. Humanitar elmlər seriyası. – 2012. №1, - s. 99-105.

<sup>12</sup> Cəfərov C.M. Azərbaycan kəndi kollektivləşmə illərində (1920-ci illərin sonu – 30-cu illər). Bakı: Elm, - 2008. 300 s.; Cəfərov C.M. Azərbaycan tarixinin XX əsrin 20-40-cı illərinin tarixşünaslığı. Bakı Universitetinin xəbərləri. Humanitar elmlər seriyası. - 2008, №3, - s. 111-118

<sup>13</sup> Səlimov Ş.D. Azərbaycan nefti beynəlxalq münasibətlərdə (1920-1922-ci illər). –Bakı: Bakı Universiteti nəşriyyatı. - 2005.- 160 s.

author's involvement in the study of sources and literature of a number of foreign countries, including Azerbaijan.

Along with the occupation of Azerbaijan by Bolshevik Russia, Rasulzadeh's works<sup>14</sup> deal with the deplorable economic situation in the republic during the first period of Bolshevik rule, and the experimental measures taken by the new government in Azerbaijan.

Summing up what has been said about historiography, we would like to emphasize once again that the above-mentioned works are noteworthy in terms of providing information on the problem we are interested in - the economic situation of the Azerbaijan SSR in 1920-1927. The presented work tries to fill the gap in this area, at least in part.

**Source base of the research:** During the research of the dissertation, along with the numerous historical literature listed above, rich source materials were used.

From the archive materials we applied during the research, first of all, we can mention the documents obtained from the funds of the State Archive of the Republic of Azerbaijan. From the funds of this archive 27 (People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs of the Azerbaijan SSR), 379 (Central Executive Committee of the Azerbaijan SSR), 410 (Azerbaijan Revolutionary Committee), as well as 52, 61, 391 and 411 rich factual material on the current economic situation in Azerbaijan in the first years of Soviet power, measures taken to revive certain spheres of economic life and other issues were included in the study.

One of the archives where we obtained rich factual material on the economic situation of the Azerbaijan SSR is the Archive of Political Documents of the Office of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The materials obtained from the funds of this archive cover a wide range of issues, such as the measures taken by the party-government bodies to eliminate the existing decline in various spheres of economic life in the Azerbaijan SSR, the inclusion of these issues in the directives of the supreme party leadership.

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<sup>14</sup> Rəsulzadə M.Ə. Azərbaycan Cümhuriyyəti. Ərəb qrafikasından transliterasiya edən, qeydlərin və lüğətin müəllifi Asif Rüstəmov. – Bakı: Elm, - 1990. - 116 s.; Rəsulzadə M.Ə. Bolşeviklərin şərq siyasəti. – Bakı: Sabah, - 1994. - 132 s.

The inclusion in the dissertation of materials obtained from the Scientific Archive of the Institute of History of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences named after A.A. Bakikhanov during the research further enriched our research. Its importance is further enhanced by the fact that the materials stored in the funds of this archive are collected at different times by the staff of the institute from separate archives in the former USSR.

The periodicals published in the 20s of the XX century are another group of sources we refer to in our research. First of all, "Communist"<sup>15</sup> and "Bakinskiy rabochiy"<sup>16</sup> newspapers can be mentioned.

A collection<sup>17</sup> of statistical data of a source nature were also used in the study of the. Very valuable information obtained from them, which allows to follow the dynamics of development of different sectors of the economy over the years, mainly consisting of statistical data, was involved in the study.

**Object and subject of research.** The object of selected research is the state of various sectors of the economy of the Azerbaijan SSR in the first years of Soviet power.

The subject of the study is the research of the first measures taken by the Bolshevik government, the establishment of poor committees, the policy of Military communism and the impact of the New Economic Policy on the economic life of Azerbaijan.

**Objectives and tasks of the research.** The main purpose of the research is to study in detail and comprehensively the economic situation in Azerbaijan in the first years of Soviet rule, the economic policy of the Bolshevik government, as well as various areas of economic life in Azerbaijan on the basis of existing documents, historical literature and other sources. To achieve this goal, the following specific tasks have been set in research work and efforts have been made to address them:

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<sup>15</sup> «Коммунист» газета, 1920, 12 мая, №9

<sup>16</sup> «Бакинский рабочий»газета, 1923, 27-28 апрел, №91-92

<sup>17</sup> Адрес-календарь Азербайджанской Республики на 1920 г. Баку: Издание Министерства Призрения. - 1920, - 64 с.; Азербайджан в цифрах. Краткий статистический сборник. Баку: Азербайджанское государственное издательство. – 1964. - 302 с.

- To give an overview of the political situation in our republic after the occupation of Azerbaijan by Soviet Russia;
- To reveal the causes of the economic collapse faced by Azerbaijan in the first months of the occupation;
- To clarify the plans of Soviet Russia for Azerbaijan, a number of aspects of the alliance with the local communists in the implementation of these plans;
- To investigate the issue of location of the central government's local army and interim authorities in the face of chaos and decline of the Azerbaijani economy during the early years of Soviet rule;
- To disclose the impact of the Soviet government's policy of aggression on Azerbaijan on the economic situation in our republic;
- To study the impact of the New Economic Policy on the development of various spheres of Azerbaijan's economic life.

**Research methods.** The method of comparative analysis of history and the method of objective approach to history chosen during the research of the dissertation were taken as a basis for achieving the set goal.

During the study of the problem of the economic situation in Azerbaijan in the 20s of the XX century, historical documents, existing scientific literature were studied, compared and analyzed, and scientific and logical conclusions were drawn. The logical conclusions obtained as a result of these studies, their analysis allowed to better understand and explain the essence of Soviet Russia's economic policy towards Azerbaijan.

**Scientific novelty of the research.** The main factors determining the scientific novelty of the dissertation are as follows.

- For the first time in the first years of Soviet rule, the problem of the economic situation in Azerbaijan was selected as a separate object of study;
- Some archival documents and source materials related to the economic situation of Azerbaijan were included in the scientific circulation for the first time in the research work;
- New facts related to the establishment of totalitarian rule over the economy of the republic were included in the study;

- In the first years of Soviet power, the plunder of Azerbaijan's economic potential and its subordination to Russia were studied for the first time;

- The special reactionary nature of the policies of S.Orjenikidze, S.M.Kirov and others, representatives of the central Bolshevik government, in Azerbaijan was revealed;

- The special reactionary nature of this policy was revealed in the nationalization campaign carried out in Azerbaijan, indicating the location of the left wing of the Central Committee of the Azerbaijani Communist (Bolshevik) Party, especially the Baku Committee headed by Sarkis and then Mirzoyan;

- As a result of the research, on the basis of source information, some peculiarities of the measures taken in Azerbaijan in the field of military communism policy were identified;

- The research revealed that the outlines of the Bolshevik government's colonial economic policy towards Azerbaijan were drawn long before the occupation.

**The main provisions of the defense.** The following provisions were defended in the dissertation:

- Soviet Russia, which did not recognize the independence of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, in the spring of 1920, after the success of the Soviet government in its operations against the Denikinists in the North Caucasus, began to implement the plan of aggression which was on agenda against Azerbaijan.

- Although the Provisional Revolutionary Committee of Azerbaijan and its executive body, the Council of People's Commissars, acted as the official supreme body of power in the republic after the April coup, but for a long time real power in the capital and places was concentrated in the hands of the XI Army and its Special Department. This was a major factor negatively affecting the political and economic situation in Azerbaijan.

- With the introduction of Soviet rule in Azerbaijan, the new government began to implement mandatory socio-economic measures, such as the establishment of local Soviet authorities and the nationalization of certain areas.

- One of the important issues facing the new government was to save the Azerbaijani economy, which had been in crisis since the early days of the Soviet Union, from the whirlwind of post-Soviet decline. Realizing the catastrophe of the situation, the supreme party-state leadership took certain measures in this direction.

- The application of the policy of military communism deepened the internal socio-economic recession and tension. Realizing that it was impossible to overcome the crisis on its own, the Soviet government had to use the bourgeoisie at some stage for the restoration and development of the productive forces. In this regard, a new economic policy had been implemented.

- In the period of the New Economic Policy, there was a revival and rise in the economic life of the Azerbaijan SSR

- In all spheres of economic life of Azerbaijan, which was in deep crisis during the first period of occupation as well as by various measures taken mainly in industry and agriculture, significant changes had been achieved towards the restoration of the national economy by 1927.

- In 1927, at the XV Congress of the Russian Communist (Bolshevik) Party, in order to solve the problems of building socialism, to expand the planned organization of the economy, to carry out an active struggle against the bourgeois-capitalist elements in urban and rural areas with the decision to restructure the new economic policy, there was a transition to a new stage in economic relations, a gradual abandonment of the new economic policy.

- Although the new Economic Policy improved the financial situation of workers, it did not penetrate into the depths of production. Already in 1927, social problems intensified, there were difficulties in food supply. In 1928, a bureaucratic administrative apparatus was formed to take over the function of the market, and a card system was introduced to provide the population with food. The limitation of the upper chronological framework of the study in 1927 is due to these factors.

**Theoretical and practical significance of the research.** The practical significance of the research is that the factual material and generalizations presented in the research, the scientific results obtained from these materials can be used in the preparation of generalizations on

the history of Azerbaijan, textbooks on the history of Azerbaijan, as well as defining the concept of economic development of our republic.

**Approbation of the dissertation:** The dissertation was completed at the Department of "History of the peoples of Azerbaijan and Eastern Europe" in Sumgayit State University. The main provisions and main results of the research are reflected in the scientific articles published by the author on this problem, also in the speeches in conferences held in our country, as well as in international scientific-practical conferences.

**Name of the organization where the dissertation work is performed.** Department of "History of Azerbaijan and the peoples of Eastern Europe" Sumgayit State University.

**The total volume of the dissertation.** The dissertation consists of an introduction, 3 chapters, conclusion, source and bibliography. The introductory part of the dissertation consists of 18 pages, the first chapter 48 pages, the second chapter 41 pages, the third chapter 24 pages, the final part 8 pages, the literature part 12 pages. The total length of the dissertation is 150 pages, the total volume of the dissertation is 290,238 characters.

## MAIN CONTENT OF THE WORK

The "**INTRODUCTION**" part of the dissertation includes facts indicating the relevance of the dissertation topic, as well as sources and literature were analyzed, and a brief summary of the main scientific innovations are reflected here by giving information about the goals and objectives, chronological framework, theoretical and methodological basis and practical significance of the dissertation.

The first chapter of the dissertation is entitled "**Economic situation in Azerbaijan in the first years of Soviet rule**" and consists of three sub-chapters. The first half of the first chapter is called "**Occupation of Azerbaijan by Soviet Russia**". Demonstrating a hostile attitude to the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, Soviet Russia not only never recognized its independence, but never gave up its intention to encroach on its independence. For this purpose, it was planned to organize Armenian uprisings in Karabakh and a strong spy network in order to destabilize the country. At the same time, serious preparations were being

made for military aggression. One month later, in late April, a large part of the Red Army had gathered on the northern border of Azerbaijan<sup>18</sup>. In late March 1920, preparations for military operations to capture Baku began.

Thus, on April 21, the command of the Caucasus Front, consisting of Tukhachevsky, Ordzhonikidze, Zakharov, by order No. 490, ordered the XI Army to cross the Azerbaijani border on April 27 and capture the Baku province. Two days later, this directive was amended to make the capture of Azerbaijan as a whole, along with Baku, the last task of the army<sup>19</sup>. After the April coup, the official supreme body of power in the republic, as we noted, was the Provisional Revolutionary Committee of Azerbaijan, and its executive body was the Council of People's Commissars. In his monograph on Narimanov, H. Hasanov notes that "although Soviet Azerbaijan had a Provisional Revolutionary Committee and a Council of People's Commissars headed by Narimanov, power soon passed to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan... In Azerbaijan, the Communist Party was in the hands of Russians and Armenians from 1920 to the mid-1930s"<sup>20</sup>. F.Ibrahimli divides the forces within the Bolshevik Party, which came to power in Azerbaijan after the April coup, into four groups: pro-Moscow communists implementing the center line, Armenian communists acting with a sense of national revenge, "internationalist" Azerbaijani Bolsheviks and nationalist communists<sup>21</sup>.

The second half of the dissertation is entitled "**The first compulsory social measures applied to Azerbaijan by the Soviet system.**" Immediately after the April coup, the Bolshevik regime began to organize the penitentiary system. Although the sinister Azerbaijan

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<sup>18</sup> Азербайджанская Демократическая Республика (1918-1920). Армия(Документы и материалы). Баку: Азербайджан, 1998, с.374-375

<sup>19</sup> Лызлов В.Е. Экономическая политика первых лет Советской власти (1917-1921 гг.). М., типография Университета ордена Дружбы народов им. П. Лумумбы, 1983, с. 19

<sup>20</sup> Həsənov H. Nəriman Nərimanovun milli dövlətçilik baxışları və fəaliyyəti. Bakı: Elm, 2005, s. 87

<sup>21</sup> İbrahimli F. Azərbaycan kəndində sosial-siyasi proseslər (1920-1930). Bakı: Mütərcim, 2001, s. 83

Emergency Commission (FC; Russian: CHK) was formed on April 29, it initially operated together with the Special Department of the XI Army due to lack of personnel. Although this body, headed by Pankratov, known for its brutality, was created to fight against the opponents of the new regime in the army, during its stay in Azerbaijan it greatly exceeded its powers and did not even take into account the formal supreme authority - the Revolutionary Committee. Only after Narimanov's arrival in Baku the arbitrariness of the Special Department slow down (not immediately, but after some time), thus Narimanov opposed the shooting without the sanction of the Revolutionary Committee.

The construction of the so-called party-state superstructure in Azerbaijan began immediately. It should be noted that although the Communist Party of Azerbaijan (Bolsheviks) was officially declared in February 1920, its structuring began only after the sovietization. In July 1920, the Political and Organizational Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist (Bolshevik) Party of Azerbaijan was established, various departments were organized, and the post of Secretary of the Central Committee was established. N.Narimanov, V.I.Naneyshvili, M.D.Huseynov, A.I.Mikoyan, V.Lominadze, Sarkis (S.A.Danielyan), V.F.Sturua, D.H.Bunyadzade, A.H.Garayev were elected to the Political Bureau<sup>22</sup>.

The structures of the Baku Committee of the party were formed earlier in Azerbaijan. This was due to the fact that before the Soviet coup, with the exception of the Baku region, the Bolsheviks did not represent an organized force in the counties in Azerbaijan. Baku and the mines were one of the industrial centers with a rich revolutionary tradition not only in the Caucasus, but in Russia in general. That is why the first All-Baku Party Conference was convened on May 5-6, a week after the April coup. It defined the tasks of the city party organization and elected the Baku Committee headed by Sarkis. Until the end of July, the Baku Committee performed the function of the Central Committee of the Communist (Bolshevik) Party of Azerbaijan, which existed only on paper and in its Bureau, too, non-Azerbaijanis formed an absolute majority (Sarkis,

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<sup>22</sup> Bayramova R.M. Azərbaycan rəhbərliyində ixtilaf və daxili-siyasi çəkişmələr (1920-1925-ci illər). - Bakı: Elm, - 2007, - s. 46

Mikoyan, Naneyshvili, L. Gogoberidze, V. Lominadze, V. Yegorov, N. Tyukhtenev and others). These people could not accept the fact that Baku is a part of Azerbaijan, the capital. The ethnic composition of Baku at the time provided a fertile ground for such efforts: azerbaijanis and other muslims made up 48.8% of the city's population, armenians 19%, and russians 26%.<sup>23</sup> Soviet construction and socialist reforms in Azerbaijan were generally based on the experience and example of Russia. Indeed, recent research shows that Azerbaijani peasants were skeptical of even some of the government's measures that met its vital interests (such as the abolition of land ownership). It was not uncommon for the peasants, unlike in Russia, to refuse to take their lands on the grounds that they did not comply with the rules and requirements of Islam and Sharia, and that they were considered haraam.<sup>24</sup> D.Bunyadzadeh, a long-time People's Land Commissioner, presented a report to the VI All-Azerbaijani Congress of Soviets (April 1929) describing this situation as follows: The Azerbaijani village is so far behind that in the first years of the revolution, when we took land from landowners and nobles and gave it to the poor, in many places the rural poor did not want to take the land based on sharia, as if the Koran forbade it ... I saw a poor man, a mercenary, take a shovel in his hand and say, "After my master is killed, I don't need to live."<sup>25</sup>

The third half of the dissertation is entitled "**The policy of military communism in Azerbaijan.**" Azerbaijan's economy was in the throes of a severe crisis in the first post-Soviet period. In fact, the crisis in the economy began with the First World War. The steps taken by the government to overcome the crisis during the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic did not yield the desired results for a number of objective and subjective reasons. The re-occupation of Azerbaijan in late April 1920 and the depravity of the troops deepened the crisis in the country and made the socio-economic situation of the population unbearable. One of

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<sup>23</sup> Адрес-календарь Азербайджанской Республики на 1920 г. - Баку: Издание Министерства Признания, - 1920, - с. 51

<sup>24</sup> İbrahimli F. Azərbaycan kəndində sosial-siyasi proseslər (1920-1930). Bakı: Mütərcim, - 2001. - s. 26

<sup>25</sup> Bünyadzadə D. Azərbaycanın kənd təsərrüfatının yüksəldilməsi (VI Ümumazərbaycan Şuralar qurultayına məruzə, aprel, 1929). Bakı: Azərneşr, - 1929. - s.4

the aggravating factors was the policy of military communism. The economic policy pursued by the Soviet government during the Civil War is called "Military Communism" in the historical literature. The broad masses of the peasantry wanted the abolition of food stagnation and the free use of their surplus produce. The catastrophe of the situation was also understood by the supreme party-state leadership. The Second Congress of the Communist (Bolshevik) Party of Azerbaijan, held in February 1921, identified some measures for the restoration of the oil industry and agriculture.<sup>26</sup>

However, these measures were incomplete, so that the economic policy pursued did not touch the foundations of "military communism". According to Ibrahimli, stopping the ongoing policy of military communism was beyond the economic and political power of the republic's leadership<sup>27</sup>.

The essence of the system of military communism is the extreme centralization and rapid nationalization of management in industry, the naturalization of wages in agriculture and the equalization of workers, as well as the prohibition of private trade and the militarization of labor. Researchers note that the first elements of military communism appeared in the development of the military communism system, the first covering the period from the summer of 1918 to the beginning of 1919, the second stage, in which the system of military communism was established, covering 1919, and the third stage, which covered 1920, when this system flourished.<sup>28</sup>

Measures on the policy of "military communism" in Azerbaijan were already included in the decree "On Harvest" issued on July 12: the article "all products are handed over to local food authorities after the required amount is seized to meet the needs of the current economy ”

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<sup>26</sup> Azərbaycan Kommunist Partiyası tarixinin öçerkləri. - Bakı: Azərbaycan Dövlət Nəşriyyatı, - 1964. - s. 372

<sup>27</sup> Cəfərov C.M. 1920-1930-cu illərdə kənd təsərrüfatının kollektivləşdirilməsi prosesi Azərbaycan reallığında. Bakı: Bakı Universitetinin xəbərləri. Humanitar elmlər seriyası. – 2008. №4, - s.60

<sup>28</sup> Лызлов В.Е. Экономическая политика первых лет Советской власти (1017-1921 гг.). М., типография Университета ордена Дружбы народов им. П. Лумумбы, - 1983.- с. 74

actually led to food assessment.<sup>29</sup> On July 28, 1920, the Political and Organizational Bureaus of the Central Committee of the Communist (Bolshevik) Party of Azerbaijan decided to send food-related groups to the village. On August 23, a decree was passed on the above-mentioned grain monopoly. Finally, in late September, the food assessment, the general labor obligation, was introduced. By the way, the food assessment was applied in the following order. Each administrative unit, each rural community had to hand over to the state a predetermined amount of grain and other products. The community was responsible for the supply. Only after the supply was fully completed the government issue a receipt entitling the villager to purchase industrial goods. Farmers were paid for their products with money subject to constant inflation, which discouraged them from developing their own farms. The peasants responded to food assessment and shortages of essential goods by reducing their arable land and returning to subsistence farming.<sup>30</sup>

From the end of 1920 to the beginning of 1921, a partial easing was observed in the measures taken in Azerbaijan in connection with military communism. The Plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist (Bolshevik) Party of Azerbaijan, dated November 27, 1920, decided to abolish the food assessment in some counties<sup>31</sup>. It should be noted that this was a coercive step taken by the government to prepare the ground for overcoming the extremely difficult economic and political situation, to increase the material interest of the peasants in their work.

The second chapter of the dissertation is entitled "**Changes in the economic life of the Azerbaijani SSR in 1921-1925**" and consists of two half-chapters. The first half of the second chapter is entitled "**New economic policy and its impact on the economic situation of the Azerbaijan SSR.**" From the earliest days of the uprising and protests against the Soviet government, acted as enough alarms for the new regime. At that time, the Soviet state had two choices: either to continue

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<sup>29</sup> Декреты Азревкома. Баку: Азернешр, 1989, с. 130

<sup>30</sup> Верт Н. История советского государства, 1900-1991. Пер. с французского, 2-е изд. - Москва: Инфра-М, Издательство «Весь Мир», 1998, - с. 137-138

<sup>31</sup> Дилбазов А.К. Роль союза рабочего класса и крестьянства в восстановлении народного хозяйства Аз. ССР в первые годы Советской власти (1920-1923 гг.).- Баку: АКД, - 1959, с.10

the course of military communism, which no longer met the new military-political conditions, and thus to be in a state of constant war with the peasants, who made up the absolute majority of the population, and to watch the catastrophic economic situation; or to revitalize the country's economic life by encouraging the peasantry and promoting a new socio-economic course that included some other measures specific to a free economy. As was well known, Lenin's leadership, having adequately assessed the situation, made its choice on a second strategy.

The 10th Congress of the Russian Communist (Bolshevik) Party, held on March 8-16, 1921, became significant by defining a transition from military communism to the New Economic Policy (NES). On the basis of Lenin's report, the Congress decided to replace food assessment with taxes. The amount of food tax was less than the amount of food assessment, and after paying it, the peasant could sell the rest of his produce freely. According to Lenin, the new economic policy was to form the basis of the socialist system. Lenin was right in thinking that in order to make a producer interested in the productivity of his labor, he must free him from being bound to the land.<sup>32</sup>

It is clear from Rasulzadeh's views on the new economic policy that the Bolshevik government took this step not to bring the country out of the deep economic crisis, to save the peasants from the difficult situation, but to prevent rising peasant dissatisfaction. He writes that when the peasant revolted against the system of handing over what he had planted to the government, Lenin found it necessary to move to a "New Economic Policy."<sup>33</sup>

Issues related to the implementation of the new economic policy in Azerbaijan were discussed at the plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist (Bolshevik) Party of Azerbaijan on April 9-10. People's Food Commissioner G. Musabayov made a report on food policy at the plenum.<sup>34</sup> He considered it inexpedient to impose a food tax in

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<sup>32</sup> Нугаева Г.А. Деятельность государственных и профсоюзных органов по модернизации Владимирской стекольной промышленности (20 - 30-е годы XX века). АКД. – Владимир, - 2006, с. 4

<sup>33</sup> Rəsulzadə M.Ə. Bolşeviklərin şərq siyasəti. - Bakı: Sabah, - 1994. - s.11

<sup>34</sup> Мусабеков Г. Избранные статьи и речи. В двух томах. Т. I (1920-1927). - Баку: Издательство АН Азерб. ССР, - 1960. - с. 18-24-

Azerbaijan, citing the fact that Azerbaijan grew 30-35 million pounds of grain a year during the tsarist period and imported 5-7 million pounds, as well as the fact that about 30-40% of the fields were not planted at that time and called for the introduction of free trade throughout the country. On March 5, 1922, the third session of the Central Executive Committee of Azerbaijan adopted a law on food tax. The law established a progressive form of taxation by deducting interest from the middle class, the poor, and those affected by natural disasters, as well as determined the amount, type and table of equivalents of the food tax.<sup>35</sup>

Apparently, the new economic policy provided for certain exceptions, taking into account the deplorable situation of the peasantry in the Azerbaijan SSR. In our opinion, this was not the result of the Bolshevik government's humanist policy towards the Azerbaijani peasantry, but simply a step aimed at alleviating, at least in part, the gathered social contradictions.

The second half of the second chapter is entitled "**Changes in the economic life of the Azerbaijan SSR during the New Economic Policy.**" The steps taken within the framework of the new economic policy encouraged the peasants to develop their own economy, which began to bear the first fruits in the agriculture of Azerbaijan in early 1922. First of all, the decline in arable land was stopped, a certain increase was achieved: according to the People's Land Commissioner D. Bunyadzade, the arable area in Azerbaijan in 1914 was 730,000 desiatins, in 1917 - 661,000 desiatins, in 1921 this figure was 480,000 desiatin, 670,000 desiatin in 1922, 787,000 desiatin in 1923, 899,000 desiatin in 1924, and 960,000 desiatin in 1925.<sup>36</sup>

As part of the new economic policy, the staff of the Azerbaijan National Economic Council (ANEC) has been restructured. About 60 enterprises of leather processing, chemistry, printing, metal products, textiles, sewing, silkworm breeding and mining subordinated to it were

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<sup>35</sup> Протоколы заседаний третьей сессии пленума Азербайджанского Центрального Исполнительного Комитета Советов Раб., Крест., Красноарм. и Матрос. Депутатов (3-5 марта 1922 г.). Баку: Издание АЗЦИК, - 1922. - с. 65-66

<sup>36</sup> Məmmədov N.Z. Azərbaycan Mərkəzi İcraiyyə Komitəsinin kollektivləşmə siyasətinə müasir baxış. Bakı Universitetinin "Xəbərlər"i. Humanitar elmlər seriyası, - 2012, №1, - s.101

leased. The largest enterprises remained at the disposal of the Azerbaijan National Economic Council, which also abolished collegiality and introduced the principle of sole management.<sup>37</sup>

The new economic policy had led to certain changes in agriculture. First of all, the sown areas of grain crops were growing, cotton growing was almost restored. Reclamation works were being expanded, agriculture was being mechanized. Although some progress was made in the oil industry in early 1921 due to some improvement in the share of oil industry workers and some other measures, the situation towards the summer, as we have noted, worsened again: in July drilling and oil production fell sharply. As the statisticians of the time noted, "in the absence of the most necessary materials and transport, and in the general decline of labor discipline, it would be wrong to rely solely on the 'creative enthusiasm' of hungry, naked workers."<sup>38</sup>

The main results of the new economic policy were the expansion of economic ties between urban and rural areas, the unification of the population in cooperatives, the development of industry through electrification, increasing interest of workers in their work as a result of the transition to economic accounting in all spheres of economic life, improving public administration, abandoning harsh administrative commands in the economy. The gradual solution of the food problem led to the revival of cities, population growth and accelerated migration to cities. The steps taken within the framework of the new economic policy encouraged the peasants to develop their own economy, which began to bear the first fruits in the agriculture of Azerbaijan in early 1922. It is also clear from the cited facts that Azerbaijan's agriculture reached the level of 1913 only in 1926/27.

The third chapter of the dissertation is called "**Transition to the Soviet economic system in the Azerbaijan SSR**" and consists of two half-chapters. The first half of the third chapter is entitled "**Preliminary results of the restoration of the national economy in the Azerbaijan SSR.**" Despite the measures taken, it was still not possible to reach pre-

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<sup>37</sup> Мусабеков Г. Избранные статьи и речи. В двух томах. Т. I (1920-1927). - Баку: Издательство АН Азерб. ССР, - 1960. - с.54

<sup>38</sup> Азербайджанский настольный календарь 1924-1925 гг. -Баку: Издание особой секции при АзЦИК'е, 1926. - с.459

war levels in many areas of industry and agriculture. The production of grain products, which was the leading sector of agriculture, was one of the areas of special attention in this regard. Therefore, certain measures were being taken to save the agricultural sector from the difficult situation and increase their interest in their work. In order to provide the villagers with seed wheat and agricultural tools, in 1925 it was decided to provide the villagers with 400,000 pounds of seed wheat and the necessary agricultural inventory. For this purpose, in 1925, the amount of the single agricultural tax paid by the peasants in the South Caucasus, including Azerbaijan, was reduced by 40 percent. In addition, taxes on rural handicraft production and natural wine production were reduced. The situation was slightly different in the cotton field. Thus, in 1925, 116,000 dessiatins of cotton were planted, and in the same year, cotton cultivation (according to the size of the sown area) reached pre-war levels (114,000 dessiatins). The productivity of cotton production for that year was above average, with an average yield of 40-45 poods per hectare in Salyan and Gazakh districts, 35-40 poods in Zubov and Petropavlovsk districts, 40-45 poods in Ujar and Goychay, and around 45-50 poods in Agdash and Ganja, 50-55 poods in Karabakh, and 40-50 poods in Nakhchivan. For comparison, in 1925, compared to 1924, 15-20 percent more cotton was produced. In 1925, the area of tobacco plantations increased to 600 acres. In the economic year of 1925, the greatest increase in the area under tobacco was observed in Guba district, which became the main center of tobacco growing in Azerbaijan. Thus, in this county, the area of tobacco plantations increased from 9 tenths in 1924 to 215 tenths in 1925.

There was some progress in livestock during the recovery period. By the end of 1925, the number of cattle had increased by 53.6 percent compared to the pre-war level.<sup>39</sup> The application of new technology in the drilling of oil wells was also a key factor in ensuring the rapid growth of the oil industry. Already in the economic years of 1924-1925, half of the drilling was carried out by twist drilling. Thus, 67,140 meters (55 percent) of the 122023 meters of drilling carried out at that time were carried out

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<sup>39</sup> Токарежский Е.А. Очерки истории Советского Азербайджана в период перехода на мирную работу по восстановлению народного хозяйства (1921-1925 гг.). - Баку: Издательство АН Азерб. ССР, - 1956, - с.173

by twist drilling. As a result, it was possible to exceed the level of 1913 in the drilling of wells in the economic years 1925-1926. If in 1913 drilling was carried out at a depth of 171,774 meters, in 1925-1926 this figure reached 202,985 meters (128,270 meters, of which 63.3 percent fell to the twist drilling method).

The last half-chapter of the third chapter of the dissertation is entitled "**Industry and agriculture of the Azerbaijan SSR in 1926-1927**". Despite the measures taken, the revival of agriculture did not proceed at the desired pace: Azerbaijani agriculture reached the level of 1913 only in the 1926/27 economic years. According to the People's Land Commissariat, the area planted in 1914 - 868,000 dessiatins - had long been inaccessible, and only in 1926 was it possible to cross this level by planting 936,000 dessiatins.<sup>40</sup> Despite the positive changes in the Azerbaijani village, it was still backward and simple.

Along with oil, cotton production was one of the areas of special interest to the Soviet government. In the economic years of 1926-1927, the number of farms planting cotton was 76,117. Of these farms, 58.8 percent had an area of 1 dessiatins, 27.5 percent 2 dessiatins, 8.7 percent 3 dessiatins, 1.8 percent 5 dessiatins, and 3.2 percent more than 5 dessiatins. The situation was slightly different in the development of industry. While in some areas it was possible to surpass the pre-war level, in others it was still backward. In 1925, when the restoration of the national economy in the USSR was considered complete, the industry of the Azerbaijan SSR reached only 71% of the level of 1913<sup>41</sup>. It was possible to exceed this level only in 1927/28.<sup>42</sup>

Despite significant investment in the oil industry, it was not possible to achieve the desired results in this area. One of the measures taken to develop the oil industry was the commissioning of the Schmidt plant. 5.514 million tons of oil were produced in 1926/27, which was

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<sup>40</sup> Отчет Народного Комиссариата Земледелия Азербайджана (1924-1926 гг.). Баку: Издание НКЗ АССР, 1927, с.14

<sup>41</sup> «Бакинский рабочий»газета, - 1923, 27-28 апрел, №91-92

<sup>42</sup> Двадцать лет Азербайджанской ССР. Статистический сборник. - Баку: Азернешр, - 1940. - с.17

75% of the 1913 production.<sup>43</sup> In September 1926, the number of oil wells reached 2,692, of which 1,549 were deep pumps and 145 were compressors. By the fall of 1926, daily oil production exceeded 1 million poods. For comparison, if in October 1924 the average daily oil production was 787,000 poods, in August 1926 this figure reached 1,051,000 poods, an increase of 20.5 percent. Between 1925 and 1926, 8 million poods of gasoline and 10 million poods of lubricant were produced.

In 1927, the share of poor farms in Azerbaijan was 41.8%, medium-sized farms - 51.4%, and golchomak farms - 6.8%. For comparison, at that time, of the more than 25 million farms in the USSR, 30.3% were poor, 66.4% were middle-class, and 3.3% were golchomak.<sup>44</sup> If we pay attention to the social structure of the Azerbaijani village, we see that if in 1921 uncultivated farms accounted for 26.7% of the total farms, in 1926 this figure reached 15.27%. During this period, farms with up to 1 dessiatins of arable land fell from 31% to 24.85%, and the number of farms with 1-4 dessiatins increased from 34% to 48.31%. Farms with an area of 4-8 dessiatins accounted for 6.7 and 9.82%, respectively. In farms with more than 8 dessiatins, however, almost no significant changes had taken place.<sup>45</sup>

Although the new Economic Policy improved the financial situation of workers, it did not penetrate into the depths of production. Already in 1927, social problems intensified, there were difficulties in food supply. In 1928, a bureaucratic administrative apparatus was formed to take over the function of the market, and a card system was introduced to provide the population with food.<sup>46</sup>

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<sup>43</sup> Обзор деятельности правительства за 1925 и 1926 гг. Отчет V-му Всеазербайджанскому съезду Советов. Баку: Издание Управления делами Совнаркома и ВЭС'а, 1927, с.207

<sup>44</sup> Cəfərov С.М. Azərbaycan kəndi kollektivləşmə illərində (1920-ci illərin sonu – 30-cu illər). – Bakı: Elm, - 2008, - s.33

<sup>45</sup> Cəfərov С.М. Azərbaycan kəndi kollektivləşmə illərində (1920-ci illərin sonu – 30-cu illər). – Bakı: Elm, - 2008, - s.43

<sup>46</sup> Время трудных вопросов. История 20- 30-х годов и современная общественная мысль. Материал публикуются под ред. Академика Г.Л.Смирнова. газета «Правда», 30-е сентября 1988 года, № 274

In the " **Conclusion**" part of the dissertation the research was summed up and relevant scientific generalizations were made.

**The main content of the dissertation is reflected in the following published scientific works of the author:**

1. Магеррамов, С.К. Новая экономическая политика и ее влияние на экономическое положение Азербайджана. Образование, наука и культура Кавказа: Традиции и современность// Материалы Международной научной конференции, посвященной 25-летию образования Республики Ингушетия, -7-го февраля, - 2017, - с. 218-222

2. Məhərrəmov, S.Q. Yoxsul komitələri və onun mahiyyəti// Doktorantların və gənc tədqiqatçıların XXI Respublika Elmi Konfransının materialları. – Bakı: BDU, - 24-25 oktyabr, -2017. -s. 21-22.

3. Məhərrəmov, S.Q. 1921-1927-ci illərdə Azərbaycan SSR-də daxili və xarici ticarətin inkişafı// - Lənkəran: Lənkəran Dövlət Universitetinin Elmi Xəbərləri, -2017, № 2, - s. 33-38.

4. Məhərrəmov, S.Q. Azərbaycanın Bolşevik Rusiyası tərəfindən işğaldan sonra totalitar cəza aparatının təşkil olunması// - Bakı: Azərbaycan Milli Elmlər Akademiyası, Tarix İnstitutu, Elmi əsərlər, - 2017. - cild 67, - s. 114-121

5. Məhərrəmov, S.Q. Azərbaycanda hərbi kommunizm siyasəti// - Bakı: Tarix və onun problemləri. – 2018, № 1, - s. 204-209.

6. Məhərrəmov, S.Q. 1921-1925-ci illərdə Azərbaycan neft sənayesinin vəziyyəti// - Sumqayıt: Sumqayıt Dövlət Universiteti, Elmi Xəbərlər jurnalı, - 2018. № 1, Cild 14, - s. 53-58,

7. Məhərrəmov, S.Q. Sovet Rusiyanın Azərbaycan SSR-də iqtisadi maraqları (1920-1921-ci illərdə)// İqtisadi təhlükəsizlik mövcud vəziyyət və perspektivlər Beynəlxalq elmi konfransın materialları.- Sumqayıt,-02-03 may, - 2018,- s. 413-415

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9. О состоянии сельского хозяйства Азербайджанской ССР в 1925-1927 гг. Національний педагогічний університет імені

М.П.Драгоманова ВГО Українська академія наука. Видавництво «Гілея». Науковий вісник збірник наукових праць. Випуск 129(№2) Київ 2018, с.107-112

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11.Maharramov, S.G. Changes in The Oil Industry Of The Azerbaijan SSR in 1921-1927// - Baku (Azerbaijan): Azerbaijan State Oil and Industry University, International Conference on Actual of Chemical Engineering APCE – 2020, - 24-25 december, - 2020, - s. 454-458



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