

**REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN**

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**ABSTRACT**

of the dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Science

**AZERBAIJANI POLITICS OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE  
IN THE YEARS OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR**

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## I. THE GENERAL CHARACTERISTIC OF THE DISSERTATION

**Relevance and development of the subject.** The first world war was the greatest and most terrible war in its history. Although the second world war surpassed the first in its scale, the consequences of the first world war were even more significant and had a profound effect on the course of human history. The entry of the Ottoman Empire into the first world war also had a profound effect on the course of the next world war. The Ottoman Empire which undertook to fight a large part of the allied forces on these fronts also eliminated the allies' ability to provide assistance to Russia from the Black Sea with the victory of Chanakkale which played an important role in the crisis in Russia. As a result of the collapse of the Russian Empire, the people of Azerbaijan regained their national independence. The restoration of the lost national statehood at the beginning of the 19th century - the establishment of Azerbaijan Republic - was the greatest end of the first world war for Azerbaijan.

Although the Ottoman Empire fought on a total of 10 fronts in the first world war, the Turkish military command paid special attention to the Caucasus front. This was due to the fact that the Istanbul government's main war target was Russia, especially in the Caucasus. While the Ottoman Empire fought Russia and Britain for the Caucasus, it did not make concessions to Germany, its main ally in the Caucasus. As a result, the greatest success among the states fighting for Baku and Azerbaijan as a whole was achieved by the Ottoman Empire. In this sense, the study of the policy of the Ottoman Empire towards Azerbaijan in 1914-1918 and the ongoing military-political processes would be an important contribution to a more complete and comprehensive study of the history of Turkey, Azerbaijan and the Caucasus as a whole, as well as the first world war.

Although Azerbaijan did not take a direct part in the first world war, it was involved in the war as part of the Russian Empire under its colonization. However, Caucasian Muslims including Azerbaijanis supported the Ottoman Empire by all possible means in this war. This

support was based not only on racial, national, and religious factors, but also on hopes for Ottoman assistance in liberating the Caucasus from Russian rule. However, the realization of the aspirations of Caucasian Muslims for independence depended not only on the victory of the Ottoman Empire in world war, but also on whether the Istanbul government's strategic plans for the Caucasus included independence in the region. Investigation of the Ottoman government's position on the future status of the Turkish-Muslim regions in Russia including the Caucasus, its propaganda activities in Europe on the national rights and independence of the Caucasus and Russian Muslims in general and its demands at international conferences. It is important in terms of clarifying the strategic plans of the Ottoman Empire for the Caucasus and the place of Azerbaijan in these plans.

One of the necessary cultural indicators of any nation is its level of knowledge of its history. The main line of relations established between the Azerbaijani intelligentsia and the Ottoman military-political circles during the First World War was the idea of national independence of the Azerbaijani people. Investigation of the agreements reached as a result of negotiations between Azerbaijani intellectuals and Ottoman military-political circles since the first years of the world war on the idea of creating an “independent Azerbaijan state” and the measures taken to implement them is very important in terms of studying the path of national struggle which ended with the establishment of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

At the same time, after the declaration of independence, the main line of Azerbaijani-Ottoman relations was the struggle to protect the independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty of Azerbaijan. In this sense, the historical experience of Azerbaijani-Ottoman relations is of exceptional importance for the Azerbaijani people and state. The relations between the Ottoman Empire and the Republic of Azerbaijan in political, military, economic and other spheres, the nature of these relations, the goals and objectives of the parties, united and conflicting interests are comprehensively examined on the basis of primary archival documents Restoring unchanging historical truths is one of

the most important tasks facing historians and this is of great scientific, political, and practical importance in terms of clarifying many obscure aspects of Ottoman-Azerbaijani relations.

One of the factors determining the relevance of the research topic is modernity. The Republic of Azerbaijan which is currently celebrating the 31th anniversary of its independence, gives great importance to the experience gained by its predecessor and considers the in-depth study of this experience to be one of its important tasks. The decree signed by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev on January 30, 1998 on the “celebration of the 80th anniversary of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic” emphasizes that the republic has left a great trace on the history of our people.<sup>1</sup> As a continuation of this policy, the decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan İlham Aliyev “About the 90th anniversary of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic” signed on February 15, 2008 shows the role of the Republic in our history and the task of historians to study documents kept in closed archives was put.<sup>2</sup> Also, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan İlham Aliyev issued special orders “About the 100th anniversary of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic”<sup>3</sup> on May 16, 2017, “About declaring 2018 the “Year of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic” in the Republic of Azerbaijan” on January 10, 2018.<sup>4</sup> The study of the history of the Republic of Azerbaijan was also specially mentioned in these historical orders. In this regard, the study of Ottoman-Azerbaijan relations during the first world war on the basis

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<sup>1</sup> Azərbaycan Xalq Cümhuriyyətinin 80 illiyinin keçirilməsi haqqında Azərbaycan Respublikası Prezidentinin Sərəncamı – 30 yanvar 1998. URL: <http://axc.preslib.az/az/page/8bQ4nzv76X>

<sup>2</sup> Azərbaycan Xalq Cümhuriyyətinin 90 illik yubileyi haqqında Azərbaycan Respublikası Prezidentinin sərəncamı – 15 fevral 2008. URL: [http://archive.president.az/articles.php?item\\_id=20080215094224869&sec\\_id=30](http://archive.president.az/articles.php?item_id=20080215094224869&sec_id=30)

<sup>3</sup> Azərbaycan Xalq Cümhuriyyətinin 100 illik yubileyi haqqında Azərbaycan Respublikası Prezidentinin Sərəncamı – 17 may 2017. URL: <https://president.az/articles/23701>

<sup>4</sup> 2018-ci ilin Azərbaycan Respublikasında “Azərbaycan Xalq Cümhuriyyəti İli” elan edilməsi haqqında Azərbaycan Respublikası Prezidentinin Sərəncamı – 10 yanvar 2018. URL: <https://president.az/articles/26711>

of primary archival documents can be considered an important contribution to a more complete and comprehensive study of the history of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The most convincing response of the Azerbaijani side to the territorial claims of Armenia against Azerbaijan, which lasted for more than a hundred years, may be to reveal the realities of 1918 in connection with the establishment of the Armenian state. Therefore, one of the factors determining the urgency of the topic is the study of the negotiations, agreements and details between the Ottoman, Armenian and Azerbaijani representatives at the Batumi Conference on the establishment of the Republic of Armenia in Azerbaijan in 1918, with Iravan as the center.

As today, during the first world war, the oil factor played a major role in the policy of major powers including Turkey in Azerbaijan, but also played an important role in strengthening Azerbaijan's position in the international arena. From this point of view, it is important to study the struggle of the Azerbaijani government to liberate its capital Baku from enemies at the end of the first world war against the background of the Ottoman-Russian-German and British struggle for Baku oil.

The topic of “Azerbaijani policy of the Ottoman Empire during the first world war” has not been the subject of research as a separate problem in historical science. However, in connection with the period we are studying, which is extremely sensitive, complex and full of contradictions, many works written both in Azerbaijan and abroad have stated certain facts and opinions on certain aspects of Azerbaijani policy of the Ottoman Empire. In general, the historiography of the Ottoman Empire during the first world war on the policy of Azerbaijan and the history of the period in question as a whole can be divided into several parts: a) the history of emigration; b) Soviet historiography; c) contemporary homeland historiography; d) foreign historiography.

During the first world war, the first attempts to study Ottoman-Azerbaijani relations and the history of the Republic of Azerbaijan were made during the republican period. Booklets and brochures<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Topçubaşov, Ə.M. Azərbaycanın təşəkkülü. – İstanbul: Ahmediye Matbaacılık Şirketi, – 1918; Rəsulzadə, M.Ə. Azərbaycan təşəkkülündə Müsavat. – Bakı:

written by A.Topchubashov, M.A.Rasulzade, A.Ziyadkhanov, Y.Vazirov and other political figures contain a number of interesting facts and opinions on Ottoman-Azerbaijan relations.

The works of public figures and other intellectuals who left their homeland after the occupation of Azerbaijan by Soviet Russia and emigrated to foreign countries are important in terms of clarifying a number of obscure points on the subject under study. In the works<sup>6</sup> of immigrant political figures M.A.Rasulzade, M.Y.Mehdizade, M.B.Mammadzade, N.Sheykhzamanli and others from the first contacts of the Azerbaijani national movement with the Ottoman military-political circles to the interstate relations between the Ottoman Empire and Azerbaijan Republic and the end of these relations Many interesting aspects of the events and processes that took place between the parties in the period leading up to his death were reflected.

In the works<sup>7</sup> Y.Ratgauzer, S.Belenkiy, A.Manvelov, A.Rayevsky, A.Steklov, S.Sef, Z.Ibrahimov, Y.Tokarjevsky, G.Madatov, T.Kocharli, H.Azimov and other authors published in the

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Azərbaycan qəzetəsi hökumət mətbəəsi, – 1920; Ziyadxanov, A. Azərbaycan. – Bakı: 1338 (1919); Vəzirov, Y. Biz kimik və istəyimiz nədir? – Bakı: – 1918.

<sup>6</sup> Rəsulzadə, M.Ə. Azərbaycan Cümhuriyyəti. – Bakı: Elm, – 1990; Mehdizadə, M.Y. Beynəlmiləl siyasətdə petrol. – Bakı: Azərbaycan Dövlət Nəşriyyatı, – 1994; Məmmədzadə, M.B. Milli Azərbaycan hərəkatı. – Bakı: Nicat, – 1992; Şeyxzamanlı, N. Azərbaycan istiqlal mücadiləsi xatirələri. – Bakı: Azərbaycan, – 1997.

<sup>7</sup> Rathauzer, Y. Bakıda inqilab və vətəndaş müharibəsi: 1917-1918-ci illər. – Bakı: Azərnəşr, – h. 1. – 1928; Бельский, С., Манвелов А. Революция 1917 года в Азербайджане. – Баку: Аз. Изд., – 1927; Раевский, А. Английская интервенция и мусаватское правительство. Из истории интервенции и контрреволюции в Закавказье. – Баку: Истпарт, – 1927; Стеклов, А. Армия Мусаватского Азербайджана. – Баку: АзГИЗ., – 1928; Сеф, С.Е. Борьба за Октябрь в Баку. – Тифлис: Закнига, – 1930; İbrahimov, Z.İ. Sosialist inqilabı uğrunda Azərbaycan zəhmətkeşlərinin mübarizəsi. 1917-1918-ci illər. – Bakı: Azərnəşr, – 1957; Токаржевский, Е.А. Из истории иностранной интервенции и гражданской войны в Азербайджане. – Баку: Изд. АН Аз. ССР, – 1957; Mədatov, Q. Naxçıvanda sovet hakimiyyətinin qələbəsi və Naxçıvan MSSR-nin təşkili. – Bakı: Azərnəşr, – 1958; Кочарли, Т.К. Исторический поворот в судьбах Азербайджанского народа. – Баку: Азернешр, – 1980; Азимов, Г.С. Великий Октябрь в Азербайджане. – Баку: Азернешр, – 1987.

Soviet period, the last years of the first world war were mainly of interest and this period was assessed as a preparatory stage of the “socialist revolution” in Azerbaijan. These works mainly covered the activities of Bolshevik organizations studied, at Ottoman-Azerbaijani relations more episodically and assessed the Azerbaijani movement of Ottoman troops as a “foreign military intervention” or “Turkish occupation”. Serious efforts were made to prove its “reactionary”, “anti-national”, “anti-Azerbaijan” and “counter-revolutionary” character by branding it as “bey-khan government”.

The works<sup>8</sup> of A.Stavrovsky, N.Korsun, F.Notovich, A.Kadishev, E.Ludshuveyt, G.Pipiya and other authors published in Russian-Soviet historiography during the soviet period are important in terms of studying the Russian-Soviet view of military operations on the Caucasus front and the German-Ottoman alliance's policy towards Azerbaijan and the Caucasus as a whole.

The first serious research work in the field of studying the place of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the system of international relations in 1918-1920 was written by J.Hasanli.<sup>9</sup> The work contains many interesting facts and considerations related to Azerbaijan-Ottoman relations. The author rightly studies the struggle of the government of the Republic of Azerbaijan for the liberation of its capital in the summer of 1918 against the background of the inter-block and intra-

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<sup>8</sup> Ставровский, А. Закавказье после Октября. Взаимоотношения с Турцией в первой половине 1918 г. – Москва-Ленинград: Гос. Изд., – 1925; Корсун, Н.Г. Сарыкамьшская операция на Кавказском фронте в мировой войне 1914-1915 гг. – Москва: Госвоениздат, – 1937; Корсун, Н.Г. Первая мировая война на Кавказском фронте. Оперативно-стратегический очерк. – Москва: Воениздат, – 1946; Нотович, Ф.И. Дипломатическая борьба в годы первой мировой войны. – Москва: Изд. АН СССР, – 1947; Кадышев, А.Б. Интервенция и гражданская война в Закавказье. – Москва: Воениздат, – 1960; Лудшувейт, Е.Ф. Турция в годы первой мировой войны. 1914-1918 гг. – Москва: Изд. МГУ, – 1966; Пипия, Г.В. Германский империализм в Закавказье в 1910-1918 гг. – Москва: Наука, – 1978.

<sup>9</sup> Həsənov, C. Azərbaycan beynəlxalq münasibətlər sistemində (1918-1920-ci illər). – Bakı: Azərneşr, – 1993.



block struggle for Baku oil. The author's works<sup>10</sup> published in the following years also contain a number of interesting facts and comments on various aspects of Azerbaijan-Ottoman relations.

Some aspects of Azerbaijan-Ottoman relations are reflected in N.Nasibzadeh's work, although it's superficial.<sup>11</sup> However, the author's claim that "in 1918, the Ottoman government lent Azerbaijan 2 million liras for a period of ten years" is not confirmed.

I.Musayev's work<sup>12</sup> comprehensively studies the military-political processes in the South Caucasus in 1917-1921 years, the struggle of Armenians for the occupation of Azerbaijan lands, substantiates the need to invite Turkish troops to Azerbaijan. However, the author interprets the entry of Turkish troops into Nakhchivan in the summer of 1918 and the waving of Ottoman flags in the city as mere fraternal aid, and no longer agrees that "Nakhchivan is a province of Turkey".

M.Suleymanov's works<sup>13</sup> are important in terms of studying the military factor in the Azerbaijan policy of the Ottoman Empire. The author, who studies the Azerbaijani movement of the Caucasus Islamic Army, substantiates the need for the deployment of Turkish troops in Azerbaijan and highlights the operation to liberate Baku, as well as the process of organizing the Azerbaijani National Army.

M.Gasimov's works<sup>14</sup> comment on the Azerbaijani policy and plans of the great powers during the First World War. However, it is

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<sup>10</sup> Həsənli, C. Azərbaycan Xalq Cümhuriyyətinin Xarici Siyasəti (1918-1920). – Bakı: "Garisma" MMC, – 2009; Həsənli, C. Tarixi şəxsiyyətin tarixi: Əlimərdan bəy Topçubaşov. – Bakı: Azərbaycan Diplomatik Akademiyası, – 2013.

<sup>11</sup> Nəşibzadə, N. Azərbaycanın xarici siyasəti (1918-1920). – Bakı: Ay-Ulduz, – 1996.

<sup>12</sup> Musayev, İ. Azərbaycanın Naxçıvan və Zəngəzur bölgələrində siyasi vəziyyət və xarici dövlətlərin siyasəti (1917-1921-ci illər). – Bakı: Bakı Universiteti, – 1996.

<sup>13</sup> Süleymanov, M. Qafqaz İslam Ordusu və Azərbaycan. – Bakı: Hərbi Nəşriyyat, – 1999; Süleymanov, M. Nuru paşa (sənədli очерklər). – Bakı: Hərbi Nəşriyyat, – 1999.

<sup>14</sup> Qasimov, M. Birinci dünya müharibəsi illərində böyük dövlətlərin Azərbaycan siyasəti (1914-1918-ci illər): [3 hissədə]. – Bakı: Qanun, – h. 1. – 2000; Qasimov, M. Birinci dünya müharibəsi illərində böyük dövlətlərin Azərbaycan siyasəti (1914-1918-ci illər): [3 hissədə]. – Bakı: Adiloğlu, – h. 2. – 2001.

impossible to agree with the author's claims that “the Batum agreements signed between the Ottoman Empire and the Republic of Azerbaijan do not contradict the Brest-Litovsk agreement”, and that “the Ottoman state undertook to recognize Azerbaijan's independence by its allies”.

The book 5th volume<sup>15</sup> of the 7-volume history of Azerbaijan, “Azerbaijan Democratic Republic and the Caucasus Islamic Army”<sup>16</sup> written by the authors and “Encyclopedia of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic”<sup>17</sup> draws attention to the military-political processes in the South Caucasus in the last years of the first world war and the policy of the Ottoman Empire, the organization of the Caucasus Islamic Army and its Azerbaijan movement. There are many interesting facts and considerations.

R.Hatamov's research<sup>18</sup> is important in terms of studying the competition between Germany and the Ottoman Empire in the South Caucasus in 1917-1918 and the role of the Azerbaijani issue in relations between the two allies. Emphasizing that Baku oil has become a factor for Germany to ensure victory in the world war, the author rightly notes that the main target of the German-Turkish confrontation in the South Caucasus was Azerbaijan.

A.Iskanderli's work<sup>19</sup> attracts attention in terms of the topic we are studying. The book analyzes the events in the South Caucasus after the February Revolution of 1917, the genocide committed by the Dashnak-Bolshevik forces against the Azerbaijani people, the Baku movement of the Caucasian Islamic Army and the liberation of the Azerbaijani people from the Dashnak-Bolshevik forces.

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<sup>15</sup> Azərbaycan tarixi: [7 cilddə]. V cild (1900-1920-ci illər). – Bakı: Elm, – 2001.

<sup>16</sup> Azərbaycan Xalq Cümhuriyyəti və Qafqaz İslam Ordusu / edit. M.Rıhtım, M.Süleymanov. – Bakı: Nurlar, – 2008.

<sup>17</sup> Azərbaycan Xalq Cümhuriyyəti Ensiklopediyası: [2 cilddə]. – Bakı: Lider, – c. 1 – 2004; – c. 2. – 2005.

<sup>18</sup> Hətəmov, R. Almaniya-Osmanlı münasibətlərində Azərbaycan amili (1917-1918-ci illər): / tarix üzrə fəlsəfə doktoru dis. / – Bakı, 2005.

<sup>19</sup> İsgəndərli, A. Azərbaycan həqiqətləri: 1917-1920. – Bakı: Elm və təhsil, – 2012.

Y.Mahmudov's work<sup>20</sup> is important in terms of the problem we are studying. The author comments on the negotiations on the establishment of the Armenian state at the Batumi conference and emphasizes that the Armenians have not fulfilled their obligations in exchange for the transfer of Azerbaijani lands in and around Iravan.

I.Hajiyev's works<sup>21</sup> are valuable researches from point of studying the place and role of Nakhchivan region in the history of statehood of Azerbaijan. The author describes comprehensively the military-political processes in the Nakhchivan region, the territorial claims of the Armenians against Nakhchivan and the armed intervention, as well as an objective analysis of the policy of the Ottoman state in 1918 towards Nakhchivan and Azerbaijan as a whole.

There are the works<sup>22</sup> of I.Bagirova, A.Balayev, Sh.Salimov, R.Gasimov also contain interesting facts and considerations in terms of the topic we have studied related to the issues such as the policy of the great powers, including the Ottoman Empire in the South Caucasus during the first world war, the struggle for Baku oil, the relations of Azerbaijan Republic with the Ottoman Empire.

The various aspects of policy of the Ottoman Empire in Azerbaijan and the Caucasus as a whole was also in the focus of foreign historiography. The Turkish historiography of the period we are studying is distinguished by its richness. Among the fundamental works<sup>23</sup> published in Turkey, in the works of A.N.Kurat,

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<sup>20</sup> Mahmudov, Y. Azərbaycan xalqının İrəvan və ətrafındakı torpaqlara tarixi varislik hüququ bərpə olunmalıdır. – Bakı: Turxan, – 2015.

<sup>21</sup> Hacıyev, İ. Naxçıvan Azərbaycanın dövlətçilik tarixində. – Bakı: Elm, – 2018; Hacıyev, İ. Araz-Türk Cümhuriyyəti. – Naxçıvan: “Əcəmi” NPB, – 2021.

<sup>22</sup> Багирова, И.С. Политические партии и организации Азербайджана в начале XX века (1900-1917). – Баку: Элм, – 1997; Балаев, А. Азербайджанское национальное движение в 1917-1918. – Баку: Элм, – 1998; Səlimov, Ş. Cümhuriyyət dövründə beynəlxalq münasibətlərdə Azərbaycan nefti məsələsi. – Bakı: Bakı Universiteti, – 2004; Qasimov, R.Y. Azərbaycan Xalq Cümhuriyyəti – Osmanlı münasibətləri (Osmanlı mənbələri əsasında). – Bakı: Mütərcim, – 2018.

<sup>23</sup> Kurat, A.N. Türkiye ve Rusya. – Ankara: Kültür Bakanlığı Yayınları, – 1990; Aydemir, Ş.S. Makedonya’dan Ortaasya’ya Enver Paşa: [3 Ciltte]. – İstanbul: Remzi Kitapevi, – C. 3. – 1985; Bayur, Y.H. Türk İnkılabı Tarihi: [3 Ciltte]. – Ankara: Türk Tarih Kurumu, – C. 3. K. 1-4. – 1991; Yüceer, N. Birinci Dünya Savaşında Osmanlı

Sh.S.Aydemir, Y.H.Bayur, N.Yuceer, S.Kilic, I.E.Atnur, E.Shahin, M.Cholak and other authors, one can find many interesting facts and opinions on the Azerbaijani policy of the Ottoman Empire during the First World War and various aspects of Turkish-Azerbaijani relations.

The works published in western historiography on the problem we are studying are also of great scientific importance. During the study of the problem, the works of western historians F.Kazemzadeh, R.Hovannisian, T.Swietochowski, W.Bihl and other authors<sup>24</sup> were also considered.

The main part of the source database of the research is the documents stored in the archives of Azerbaijan and Turkey. During the study of the subject, the State Archives of the Republic of Azerbaijan (ARDA), the Archives of Socio-Political Documents of the Office of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan (ARPIİSSA), the Ottoman Archives of the State Archives of the Republic of Turkey (BOA) and the Turkish Armed Forces Documents and Materials (ATASE) were widely used.

**Object and subject of research.** The object of research is the Northern Azerbaijani policy of the Ottoman Empire during the First World War. The main subject of the research is the policy of the Ottoman Empire towards Northern Azerbaijan, its military and diplomatic struggle and the political, military, economic and cultural

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Ordusunun Azerbaycan ve Dağistan Harekatı. – Ankara: Genelkurmay Askeri Tarih ve Stratejik Etüt Başkanlığı Yayınları, – 1996; Kılıç, S. Türk-Sovyet İlişkilerinin Doğuşu. – İstanbul: Ülke Kitapları, – 1998; Atnur, İ.E. Osmanlı Yönetiminden Sovyet Yönetimine Kadar Nahçıvan (1918-1921). – Ankara: Türk Tarih Kurumu, – 2001; Şahin, E. Türkiye ve Maveraya-yı Kafkasya İlişkileri İçerisinde Trabzon ve Batum Konferansları ve Antlaşmaları (1917-1918). – Ankara: Türk Tarih Kurumu, – 2002; Çolak, M. Alman İmparatorluğu'nun Doğu Siyaseti Çerçevesinde Kafkasya Politikası (1914-1918). – Ankara: Türk Tarih Kurumu, – 2006.

<sup>24</sup> Kazemzadeh, F. The Struggle for Transcaucasia (1917-1921). – New-York: Philosophical Library, – 1951; Hovannisian, R.G. Armenia on the Road to Independence 1918. – Los Angeles: Berkeley, – 1967; Swietochowski, T. Müslüman Cemaatten Ulusal Kimliğe Rus Azerbaycanı 1905-1920. – İstanbul: Bağlam Yayınları, – 1988; Bihl, W. Die Kaukasus Politik der Mittelmächte. – Wien-Köln-Graz: Böhlau Verlag, – Teil 1. – 1975; Bihl, W. Die Kaukasus Politik der Mittelmächte. – Wien-Köln-Weimar: Böhlau Verlag, – Teil 2. – 1992.

relations between Turkey and Azerbaijan in the context of the events and processes in the Caucasus and internationally during the First World War.

**Objectives and tasks of the research.** A comprehensive study of the place and role of Azerbaijan in the Ottoman Empire's Caucasus policy during the first world war, the Istanbul government's plans for Azerbaijan and the military-political measures taken to implement these plans and the political, military, economic and cultural relations between Turkey and Azerbaijan is the main goal of the research. In order to achieve this goal, the following tasks have been specified:

- To study the war goals and plans of the Ottoman Empire for the South Caucasus on the eve of the first world war and the first period of the war, to determine the factors influencing the formation of these plans and the place and role of Azerbaijan in the Caucasus policy;

- To study the idea of establishing muslim state in the Caucasus in the first years of first world war and the policy of the Ottoman Empire in relation to this idea;

- To study the policy of the Ottoman Empire to revolt the Caucasian Muslims against Russia and the support of the Azerbaijanians to the Ottoman army during the war as a whole;

- To study and analyze the policy of the Ottoman Empire in Europe regarding the destiny of the Muslims of the Caucasus and Russia as a whole and the propaganda activities carried out for this purpose;

- To study the political currents in Azerbaijan under the influence of the revolutionary events in Russia, their goals and objectives and their relations with the Ottoman military-political circles;

- Study of the Ottoman Empire's Caucasus policy and attempts to achieve the independence of Caucasian Muslims during the Brest-Litovsk Peace Conference and analysis of this issue in the context of Ottoman-South Caucasus relations;

- Clarification of the Ottoman government's Caucasus policy during the Trabzon and Batum conferences and the place and role of Azerbaijan in this policy;
- Investigation of the Ottoman-Armenian-Azerbaijan talks held within the Batum conference on the establishment of the Armenian state in the Irevan region;
- Study of the final results of the Batum conference for the Ottoman Empire and the Caucasian republics, analysis of these results;
- To study the relations between the Ottoman Empire and the Republic of Azerbaijan in the political, military, economic and cultural spheres and to study the problems in these spheres;
- To study the struggle of the Azerbaijan government for the liberation of Baku in the summer of 1918 against the background of Ottoman-Azerbaijan relations and the international struggle for Baku oil;
- Study of territorial and border problems between the Caucasian republics and the policy pursued by the Ottoman government in this regard;
- To study and analyze the struggle of the Ottoman Empire to clarify the international situation in the Caucasus and promote the independence of Azerbaijan to Germany, Russia and England;
- Investigation of the consequences of the Mudros peace for Ottoman-Azerbaijan relations and for Azerbaijan as a whole;
- Identification and analysis of the general results of the Ottoman Empire's policy towards the Caucasus during the first world war for Azerbaijan.

**Research methods.** The methodological basis of the research is the principles of objectivity, complex approach to historical events and processes, historical and systematic. The principles of structural-functional analysis, historical-genetic, historical alternative were used in the research and comparative-critical analysis was preferred. The approach to historical events and processes is not based on sympathy or hatred, but on the principle of an objective, caring attitude to facts and events, the connections and contradictions between them are revealed and the true nature of events is revealed.

**The main provisions of the defense** are as follows:

1. In the First World War, the ideology of Turkism and Turanism formed the basis of the Ottoman state's policy in the Caucasus and its plans for the region. One of the main goals of the Ottoman state was to unite the Turkish-Muslims in the Caucasus, Iran and Turkestan under its own flag.

2. Although the Ottoman government promised autonomy to the Armenians and Georgians with certain tactical considerations in order to carry out its plans for the Caucasus at the beginning of the war, it did not make such promises to the Caucasian Muslims and planned to include them in the Turan Empire. However, after the Sarikamış disaster, the Ottoman government was forced to make strategic changes in its plans for the future status of the Caucasus, and approved projects to establish Muslim and Georgian states in the region.

3. The Ottoman government attached great importance to propaganda activities in Europe in order to unite the freedom struggle of Turkish-Muslims living in the Caucasus and in Russia as a whole under the Turkish flag, to influence the socio-political circles on this idea and to create a political basis. The main mission of the Caucasian and Turkish-Tatar delegations sent to Europe in November 1915 was to ensure the support of the Central Powers for this idea.

4. At the beginning of First World War, the Ottoman state did everything possible to incite Caucasian Muslims to revolt against Russia. According to Anwar Pasha's plan, in parallel with the Sarikamış movement, Russia was to be completely expelled from the Caucasus by the uprisings of the Caucasian Muslims, and the Ottoman state was to rule the region.

5. During the First World War, volunteer battalions of Caucasian Muslims fought side by side with the Ottoman army, and the Azerbaijanis provided many services to the Ottoman special services to ensure the victory of the Turkish army.

6. The Ottoman state raised the issue of “Caucasian Muslims self-determination and recognition of their political independence” at the Brest-Litovsk peace conference. However, this project was not

supported not only by Russia, but also by the allies of the Istanbul government.

7. The Brest-Litovsk Peace Conference and its aftermath recognized the Ottoman state as a buffer state in the Caucasus between Turkey and Russia, but the South Caucasus Commissariat and the South Caucasus Sejm, dominated by Georgians and Armenians, a minority in the Caucasus. He wanted to see the region as an “Islamic state” in which Turkish-Muslims, who make up the majority of the population, dominate Georgians and Armenians.

8. According to the plans of the Ottoman government, the North Caucasus should also be included in the South Caucasus Sejm, thus ensuring the Muslim majority in the Sejm and the superiority of Muslims over Georgians and Armenians, and Turkey should take this state under its protection. The Ottoman sultan was to be proclaimed the sultan of all of Turkey and the Caucasus, and the nations of the Caucasus confederation were to be given the right to self-government.

9. The general talks between the Ottoman and South Caucasus delegations at the Trabzon and Batumi conferences were merely protocol, all major issues were discussed and resolved in separate secret and closed meetings between the Turkish delegation and the Azerbaijani, Georgian and Armenian representatives of the South Caucasus delegation.

10. Since the beginning of 1918, almost all political forces representing Azerbaijan have unequivocally sought to provide Ottoman military assistance to the country in order to prevent anarchy and genocide against Turkish-Muslims. However, in relation to the nature of Ottoman aid and the future of the country, the national forces were divided into two factions, the annexers and the independents.

11. In the spring of 1918, the annexes sent from Azerbaijan to the Ottoman government in connection with the annexation of the country to Turkey were political actions organized by the Istanbul government, and these actions were based on the Turanian policy of the Istanbul government.

12. There was a disagreement in the Ottoman government over the annexation of Azerbaijan to Turkey or its independence under the



auspices of the Ottoman state. As the international situation was not favorable for the annexation of Azerbaijan to the Ottoman Empire, the Istanbul government decided to establish an independent republic in Azerbaijan under its auspices, and to postpone the annexation until later.

13. At the time of the collapse of the South Caucasus Sejm, the majority of Ottoman ruling circles were in favor of the establishment of two states in the South Caucasus - Georgian and Muslim, and opposed the establishment of a third state in the region - the Armenian state. However, in the face of the insistence of the Georgian and Azerbaijani representatives, the Istanbul government agreed to establish an Armenian state between the new borders of the Ottoman state and Lake Goycha in exchange for a number of commitments.

14. The Ottoman state accepted all the demands made at the Batum Conference to the Caucasian republics. Azerbaijan also suffered huge territorial losses. With the Batum agreements, the Ottoman state recognized the Caucasian republics at the de facto level and gained freedom of military and economic activity in the territory of these republics. The Batum agreements also created a legal basis for providing Ottoman military assistance to Azerbaijan. The biggest loss of the Batum conference for Azerbaijan was the establishment of the Armenian state in the historical Azerbaijani land of Iravan.

15. The Istanbul government viewed the relations between Turkey and the Caucasus republics established by the Batum agreements as a temporary situation and planned to annex the entire Caucasus outside Georgia after clarifying the international situation in the Caucasus and gaining German and Russian recognition of its secession from Russia. This factor was also the reason why the Istanbul government did not ratify the Batum agreements, the text of which it drafted. The end of the world war with the defeat of the Ottoman-German bloc without clarifying the international situation in the Caucasus did not allow Azerbaijan to be annexed to the Ottoman state.

16. In the interim period before the annexation, the Istanbul government tried to formalize the independence of Azerbaijan, to take

full control of the Azerbaijani government and even to form this government itself. This factor was at the heart of the political crisis that took place in Ganja in June 1918.

17. After the establishment of the republic, relations between Azerbaijan and the Ottoman Empire in the political, military, economic and cultural spheres were formed and became an important aspect of interstate relations.

18. It was Baku oil that prompted the Ottoman government to send troops to Azerbaijan. Towards the end of the World War, the intense struggle between Turkey, Russia, Germany and Britain for Baku oil ended with the victory of Turkey and Azerbaijan. Although the defeat in First World War did not allow the Ottoman government to implement its plans for Azerbaijan and the Caucasus as a whole, the Azerbaijani government was able to achieve its goals in the field of Ottoman-Azerbaijani military cooperation.

19. In June-September 1918, the Istanbul government waged a fierce diplomatic struggle for the recognition of Azerbaijan's independence by Germany and Russia. By giving Germany a number of economic concessions on Baku oil, the Ottoman state was able to persuade the Berlin government that Baku belonged to Azerbaijan, that Turkey was given freedom of action in the Caucasus, and that Germany did not object to the Ottoman state's recognition of Azerbaijan's independence. The Turkish-Russian talks on the recognition of Azerbaijan's independence were unsuccessful.

20. On the eve of the defeat in First World War, the Ottoman government in Azerbaijan sought to gain British recognition of its independence by granting certain economic concessions to the British and involving Azerbaijan in an alliance with the Entente against Bolshevism. These attempts were connected with Anvar Pasha's future plans - to come to Azerbaijan and start the Turkish national liberation movement from there, but failed.

21. Although the peoples of the Caucasus gained their national independence in 1918, they were unable to make the most of this opportunity given to them by history. The existing territorial and border disputes between the Caucasian republics, especially between

Armenia and neighboring republics, were the biggest obstacle to the realization of the idea of solidarity of the Caucasian peoples. All the initiatives of the Ottoman state, as well as the Azerbaijani government to resolve the territorial and border disputes between Georgia and Armenia and Azerbaijan through negotiations, were in vain.

22. The defeat of the Ottoman state in the world war also thwarted its plans for Azerbaijan and the Caucasus as a whole. This defeat not only dragged the Ottoman state into disaster, but also made Azerbaijan, its mainstay in the Caucasus, the subject of the Mudros Reconciliation.

**Scientific novelty of the research.** In the presented dissertation, for the first time in historiography, the problem of “Azerbaijan policy of the Ottoman Empire during the first world war” was studied in detail as a separate research work. During the research, the initial Azerbaijan and Ottoman archival documents on the subject were studied, the achievements of historiography were studied and analyzed in detail and the following scientific innovations were obtained:

- On the eve of the first world war and the first period of the war, the plans of the Ottoman Empire for the Caucasus were studied, the factors influencing the formation of these plans were studied and the place and role of Azerbaijan in the Caucasus policy of the Istanbul government were determined;

- The projects on the future status of the Caucasus at the beginning of the world war, including the project to establish muslim state in the region were studied, the position and policy of Turkey and Germany on this project were also analyzed;

- The Ottoman Empire's attempts to benefit from the help of Caucasian Muslims during First World War and its policy of inciting them to revolt against Russia were studied, and the factors that played an important role in the results were identified;

- The attempts of the Ottoman government to unite the national liberation struggles of the Turkish-Muslim peoples living in the territory of the Russian Empire, including the Caucasian Muslims, under the Turkish flag and the policy pursued in Europe for this purpose were studied and the essence of this policy was clarified;

- The work done by the Azerbaijan socio-political forces to provide Ottoman military assistance to the country in the face of the catastrophes caused by the revolutionary events in Russia was studied, the political currents in relation to Ottoman aid, their goals and objectives and relations with the Istanbul government were studied and analyzed;

- The strategic changes in the Caucasus policy of the Ottoman Empire since late 1917 and the factors influencing them were studied, the essence, goals and objectives of the Istanbul government's policy towards the Caucasus were clarified also the manifestation in the relationship and its consequences were studied;

- The Trabzon and Batum conferences studied the open and secret discussions between the Ottoman delegation and the South Caucasus delegation, as well as the Azerbaijani, Georgian and Armenian representatives of this delegation, and revealed the true nature of the events and processes taking place;

- During the Batum conference, the idea of creating an independent Azerbaijan state and the differences that arose in the Ottoman government in relation to this idea, their consequences were studied, the causes and essence of these differences were studied and analyzed;

- All the details of the Ottoman-Armenian-Azerbaijan talks held within the Batum conference on the transfer of Irevan to the armenians and the establishment of the Armenian state in the Irevan region were revealed, investigated and extensively analyzed;

- All articles of the Batum treaties signed between the Ottoman Empire and the Caucasus republics were analyzed separately, comparisons and generalizations were made, the final results of these treaties for Turkey and the Caucasus countries have been identified;

- The relations established between the Ottoman Empire and the Republic of Azerbaijan in the political, military, economic and cultural spheres were studied, and the interests of the parties in these relations were clarified and analyzed;

- The struggle of the Azerbaijan government for the liberation of Baku in the summer of 1918 was studied against the background of

Ottoman-Azerbaijan relations and the international struggle for oil, the international deals around Baku oil were studied and analyzed;

- Territorial and border problems between the Caucasian countries after the declaration of independence, mutual territorial and land claims put forward by Caucasian delegations to the Istanbul conference in the summer of 1918, diplomatic disputes on this issue and all this. the policy pursued by the Ottoman government in this regard has been investigated and analyzed;

- The diplomatic and political struggle of the Ottoman government to clarify the international situation in the Caucasus and the recognition of Azerbaijan's independence by Germany, Russia and Great Britain was studied and analyzed;

- The consequences of Mudros peace for Ottoman-Azerbaijan relations and the Caucasus as a whole were explained, the general results of the Ottoman Empire's policy towards the Caucasus during the First World War for Azerbaijan were determined, generalizations and analyzes were made.

#### **Theoretical and practical significance of the research.**

Numerous archival documents, periodicals, memoirs and scientific literature collected in the research, the final scientific results obtained and the proposals put forward have a certain scientific interest through the prism of a new approach to the problem. Submitted research work can play an important role In defining and conducting the Azerbaijani-Turkish relations and the foreign policy course of the Republic of Azerbaijan as a whole, in exposing the lies and fabrications of the historiography and ideological centers of Armenia and a number of other countries about the Azerbaijani policy and Ottoman-Azerbaijani relations of the Ottoman Empire during the First World War, in repelling the territorial claims of Armenians against Azerbaijan. In addition, the research can be used to write generalized works on the history of Turkey, the South Caucasus, as well as Azerbaijan during the First World War. The dissertation can also be used in the preparation of textbooks, lectures and special courses, students' courses and graduations, master's and doctoral dissertations.

**Approbation and application of research.** The main provisions covering the content of the dissertation have been reflected in 2 monographs of the author published in Azerbaijan and Turkey, abroad and 36 articles published in authoritative scientific publications (including 16 in foreign countries), as well as his reports at 14 international scientific conference (11 conference proceedings and 3 theses).

**Name of the organization where the dissertation work was carried out:** “History of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic” department of the Institute of History named after A.A.Bakikhanov of ANAS.

**The total volume of the dissertation** consists of 526547 characters (excluding the list of used literature), including “Introduction” part 54255, Chapter I 86730, Chapter II 150367, Chapter III 95206, Chapter IV 104278, “Result” part 31574 characters.

## II. MAIN CONTENT OF THE DISSERTATION

In the “Introduction” part of the dissertation, the relevance and scientific significance of the topic are substantiated, the degree of development of the problem is explained, the object and subject of research are indicated, goals and objectives are defined. Also, the research methods of the dissertation, the main provisions for defense, scientific novelty, theoretical and practical significance, approbation and application of the research, the name of the organization where the dissertation work is performed and the total volume of the dissertation are indicated.

The first chapter of the dissertation called “**Azerbaijan policy of the Ottoman Empire at the beginning of the first world war**” consists of five sub-chapters. The first half of the chapter called “**The Ottoman Empire's Caucasus Policy in the early years of war and Azerbaijan's position in this policy**” explains the reasons for

Turkey's entry into first world war, the formation of the Istanbul government's Caucasus policy and Azerbaijan's place and role in this policy. The Ottoman Empire sought to unite its Turks in Iran, the Caucasus, and Turkestan under its banner in order to maintain its territorial integrity and sovereignty by allying with Germany, strengthening its position in the Arabian Peninsula and the Suez Canal, continuing its leadership in the Islamic world, and regaining the state's lost credibility.

On August 6, 1914, the German ambassador to Istanbul, Wangenheim, provided a guarantee the Ottoman Prime Minister that “Germany would help Turkey redefine its eastern borders so that it could establish contacts with Muslims in Russia”. From the first days of first world war, according to German-Ottoman talks in both Istanbul and Berlin, the Germans undertook to cede the Caucasus to Turkey if the war ended in victory.<sup>25</sup> This commitment played a major role in shaping the Istanbul government's war goals and foreign policy.

As a result of the Ottoman Empire's war targets to the East, primarily the Caucasus, the declaration sent by the “İttihad ve Tarakki” Society to all sections of society on November 11, 1914, set specific goals in contrast to the jihad fatwa: “To destroy the enemy of Moscow and to gain our natural borders which will allow us to unite with all our compatriots in Russia”.<sup>26</sup>

The aim of the Ottoman Empire's military operations against Russia on the Caucasus front consisted of three stages. This plan which envisaged the liberation of Kars, Ardahan and Batum in the first stage, and the invasion of the Caucasus in the second stage was to be directed to Central Asia in the third stage and thus the “Turan idea” was to be realized. Although Georgian and Armenians were promised autonomy for certain tactical reasons for the successful implementation of this

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<sup>25</sup> Berlin Sefâret-i Seniyyesi Ateşemiliteri Cemil Bey'in Bâb-ı Âlî Harbiye Nezâreti'ne Telgrafı (Berlin: 3 Ağustos 1914) // ATASE, BDH, Klasör (K.) 243, Dosya (D.) 1009, Fihrist (F.) 7.

<sup>26</sup> Jaschke, G. Der Turanismus der Jungturken. Zur Osmanischen Aussenpolitik im Weltkriege // – Leipzig: Die Welt des İslams, – 1941. Band 23, Heft 1/2, p. 12.

plan, such promises were not made to Azerbaijanians and it was planned to include Azerbaijan in the Turan Empire.

The second half of this chapter is called **“Amiraslan khan Khoyski's visit to Turkey and the idea of creating Caucasian muslim state under the Ottoman patronage”**. This sub-chapter studies the discussions of Amiraslan khan Khoyski's visit to Turkey in February 1915 and his idea of “establishing Muslim state in the Caucasus” in his talks with Ottoman and German military and political figures.

The main purpose of A.K.Khoyski's visit to Turkey was to get the consent and assistance of Germany and Turkey in the establishment of an independent Swiss-type state in the Caucasus, independent of the Ottoman and Russian empires, but with military alliance agreements with Germany and the Ottoman Empire.<sup>27</sup> This state was to cover Terek and Dagestan with Baku, Yelizavetpol and Irevan provinces. If Germany and Turkey agreed to establish Muslim state in the Caucasus, such as Switzerland, the Muslims of the Caucasus would revolt against Russia in return.

Anwar Pasha, who experienced the catastrophe of Sarikamish was forced to make strategic changes in his plans for the Caucasus and its future status in order to take full advantage of the help of Turkish-Muslims living in the Caucasus, including Georgians in the war against Russia. The Ottoman government approved the creation of Muslim state in the Caucasus, covering Azerbaijan and Dagestan based on the project of A.K.Khoyski, as well as an independent Georgian state based on the project of Georgian immigrant G.Machabelli. In September 1915, the German ambassador to Istanbul, Wangenheim, also gave A.K.Khoyski a written guarantee of the independence of the Caucasus and the establishment of an independent Georgian state for the Georgian representative G.Machabelli.<sup>28</sup> In return for this guarantee, Caucasian Muslims and

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<sup>27</sup> Erzurum Vâlisi Tahsîn Bey'in Bâb-ı Âlî Dâhiliye Nezâreti'ne Telgrafı (Erzurum: 9 Şubat 1915) // BOA, DH.EUM. 2. Şb., Dosya (D.) 5, Gömlek (G.) 41, varak (v.) 4.

<sup>28</sup> Çolak, M. Alman İmperatorluğu'nun Doğu Siyaseti Çerçevesinde Kafkasya Politikası, s. 77.



Georgians had to revolt against Russia and try by all means to defeat Russia in the war.

The third half of the chapter studies the **“Ottoman Empire's policy of inciting Caucasian Muslims to revolt against Russia”** and states that the main purpose of the Caucasus in the face of the Ottoman special services Tashkilat-i Mahsusa was to turn Turkish-Muslims against Russia. For this purpose, in the first days of October 1914, an organization called the Caucasus Revolutionary Society was established. The main task of the Van branch of the Caucasus Revolutionary Society was to organize anti-Russian uprisings in the South Caucasus, such as Kars, Ardahan, Yelizavetpol, Baku and Dagestan, as well as a resistance movement against the Russians in Iran.<sup>29</sup>

In early October 1914, intelligence sent to the central government by Ottoman special services stated that *“Caucasian Muslims were pro-Ottoman and decided to take action against Russia as soon as the war broke out”*.<sup>30</sup> It was effect of such information which was transmitted to the military command by Mahsusa organization thus at the beginning of the war, Deputy Commander-in-Chief and Minister of War Anvar Pasha put forward idea on putting pressure on the Russians from the front with the 3rd Army, to strike the Russians from both sides with forces to be sent from Iran and the Black Sea, and to revolt and invade the Caucasus by the local Turkish-Muslim people “waiting for a sign” behind them.

In order to revolt the Caucasian Muslims against Russia, on December 11, 1914, under the command of Anvar Pasha Khalil Bey, he sent an expedition corps of 13000 people to South Azerbaijan and the Caucasus.<sup>31</sup> Although Khalil Bey's expeditionary corps, which had failed after the Sarıkamış disaster, was replaced with a new one, this

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<sup>29</sup> Teşkilât-ı Mahsûsa Reîsi Süleyman Askerî Bey'in Erzurum Vilâyeti'ne Telgrafı (İstanbul: 25 Ekim 1914) // ATASE, BDH, K. 246, D. 1022, F. 1-53.

<sup>30</sup> Erzurum Vâlî Vekîli Cemal Bey'in Bâb-ı Âlî Dâhiliye Nezâreti'ne Telgrafı (Erzurum: 4-5 Ekim 1914) // BOA, DH.ŞFR, D. 443, G. 26, v. 1.

<sup>31</sup> Harbiye Nâzırı Enver Paşa'nın Halil Bey'e Telgrafı (Köprüköy: 14 Aralık 1914) // ATASE, BDH, K. 17, D. 83, F. 3.

corps was defeated by the Russians at the Battle of Dilman on May 1, 1915 and had to retreat, thus failing to achieve its goal.

The issue of the uprising of Caucasian Muslims against Russia was the main topic of discussion during the visit of Amiraslan Khan Khoyski to Ottoman and German military-political circles during his visit to Turkey. In September 1915, expeditionary corps led by Omar Naji, Schaeuble-Richter and Amiraslan Khan was organized to send Caucasian Muslims to the region to revolt against Russia. Although these forces clashed with the Russians several times in Iran from the autumn of 1915 to the summer of 1916, they were unable to break through the positions of the Russian army and enter Northern Azerbaijan.

The fourth half of the first chapter called **“Azerbaijans' support for the Ottoman army and the establishment of volunteer battalions”** studies the support and assistance of Caucasian Muslims to the Ottoman army during the war. The mass joining of Caucasian Muslims to the Ottoman army was mainly from Caucasian immigrants living in Ottoman territory, while the participation of Turkish-Muslims living in the Caucasus was individual.

On December 1914, the first voluntary battalion of Caucasian immigrant Muslims in the Ottoman territories - the “Osmanjik Battalion” was formed. The “Osmanjik Battalion” commanded by Captain Jamil Bey consisted of 6 units and had a total of 600-650 volunteers in the battalion. The first battle of this battalion, which was sent to the Iraqi front, took place on January 20, 1915 known as the “First Rota War”. In this battle, the “Osmanjik Battalion” showed great heroism and the battle ended in victory. The Battle of Shuayiba, which took place on April 12-14, 1915, was the last battle of the “Osmanjik Battalion”. The British won the battle. The battalion killed 255 people and injured 275 others. The battalion which could no longer serve in the military was abolished.<sup>32</sup>

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<sup>32</sup> Albayrak, M. İrak Cephesinde Gönüllü Kahramanlar – Osmancık Taburu – 19 Ocak 2017. URL: [http://www.geliboluyuanlamak.com/732\\_irak-cephesinde-gonullu-kahramanlar-osmancik-taburu-muzaffer-albayrak.html](http://www.geliboluyuanlamak.com/732_irak-cephesinde-gonullu-kahramanlar-osmancik-taburu-muzaffer-albayrak.html)

“The Caucasus Volunteer Battalion” established at the beginning of the first world war and during the Balkan wars, was reorganized under the same name under the command of Ibrahim Jahangirzadeh and Bahadur Huseynzadeh. This battalion was first sent to the Dardanel front. After the situation on the Canakkale front stabilized, the battalion sent to the Iraqi front took part in the heaviest battles with the British armies on the Kut-ul Amara and Basra fronts.

In January 1915, under the leadership of Sheikh Sharafaddin, a voluntary battalion of Caucasian emigrants settled in Bursa. Within a short period of time, a battalion of 300 people consisting of 4 units was formed under the name “Dagestan Volunteer Battalion”.<sup>33</sup> Shortly afterwards, Sheikh Shamil's grandson Kamil Pasha was appointed commander of the battalion and Sheikh Sharafaddin was appointed his deputy. The battalion was sent to Aleppo in March and took part in operations there.

In 1916, a volunteer military unit of several thousand people, organized under the leadership of Amir Hashmat in the territory of South Azerbaijan, fought with the Russian army in the Urmia region. After entering the territory of South Azerbaijan, Omar Naji also strengthened his battalion to 5000 people at the expense of Azerbaijan volunteers. In addition, there were Caucasian Muslims who voluntarily joined the Ottoman side from the Russian army. In addition, there were Caucasian Muslims who voluntarily joined the Ottoman side from the Russian army, as well as serving the “Organization Mahsusa” as “sworn volunteers”. Caucasian Muslims supported the Ottoman state by all possible means.

The fifth half of the first chapter is called **“Propaganda activities of the Ottoman Empire in Europe on the fate of Caucasian Muslims”**. This subchapter studies the activities of the “Caucasian delegation” sent to Europe by the Ottoman government regarding the illegal status and future destiny of Turkish-Muslims living in the Caucasus and the Russian Empire as a whole and also touches on the activities of the “Turkish-Tatar delegation”. The heavy

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<sup>33</sup> Dağıstan Gönüllü Taburu (İstanbul: 25 Nisan 1915) // ATASE, BDH, K. 1830, D. 11, F. 1-1:1-76.

defeat of Russia by the German and Austro-Hungarian armies on the Eastern Front in the spring and summer of 1915 led the Istanbul government to conclude that Russia was already on the verge of defeat and that it would soon be possible to pursue a policy of turmoil in the Caucasus. To this end, Anvar Pasha raised the issue of conducting propaganda work in Europe and creating a political basis for the future status of the Caucasus and other Turkish-Muslim regions of Russia as a whole.

On November 18, 1915, Anvar Pasha, under the leadership of Fuad Pasha, sent a Caucasian delegation consisting of Aziz Meker, Isa Kotseki, Georgi Machabelli, Kamil Tavgridze and Salim Behbudov. Sent to Vienna and Berlin. The main purpose of the visit was to receive support and assistance from Germany and Austria-Hungary for the realization of the idea of creating a confederation of several autonomous countries in the Caucasus under the auspices of the Ottoman Empire, as well as to propagate this idea in Europe.<sup>34</sup>

The “Caucasian delegation” to Vienna and Berlin through the Ottoman ambassadors to Austria and Germany, met with officials from both countries and expressed the delegation's wishes and aspirations for the future status of the Caucasus. Officials from both countries told the delegation that they supported the struggle of the Caucasian peoples against Russia and supported the establishment of an independent Caucasian state.

Although Ali Bey Huseynzadeh took part in the “Turkish-Tatar delegation” which was sent to Europe at the same time as the “Caucasian delegation” he represented Crimea not Azerbaijan in this delegation. The “Turkish-Tatar delegation” had to ensure the support of the Central States, especially Germany for the idea of independence of Turkestan, Kazan and Crimea.<sup>35</sup> Although the German and Austrian governments told the delegations that they had accepted the secession

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<sup>34</sup> Bâb-ı Âlî Harbiye Nezâreti'nin Berlin, Viyana Sefâret-i Seniyyesi'ne Telgrafı (İstanbul: 18 Kasım 1915) // ATASE, BDH, K. 1854, D. 120, F. 1-27.

<sup>35</sup> Harbiye Nâzırı Enver Paşa'nın Budapeşte Başşehbenderliği'ne, Viyana, Berlin Sefâret-i Seniyyesi'ne Telgrafı (İstanbul: 18 Kasım 1915) // ATASE, BDH, K. 268, D. 1105, F. 4, 4-1, 4-2.

of some Muslim regions in order to weaken Russia in order to benefit from Turkish-Muslim assistance in Russia, they did not make any specific promises to annex or protect the territories. During these visits, European socio-political circles were informed for the first time about the general situation of Turkish-Muslims living in the Russian Empire, their desires and demands for cultural and political rights, as well as the position of the central states on these peoples.

The second chapter of the dissertation called **“Azerbaijan policy of the Ottoman Empire during international conferences”** consists of six half-chapters. The first half of the second chapter is called **“Current trends in the complex military-political situation in the South Caucasus and the fate of the Turkish-Muslim population”**. This sub-chapter shows that since the end of 1917, almost all political forces representing Azerbaijan have unequivocally provided Ottoman military assistance to the country in order to prevent the anarchy and genocide committed against the Turkish-Muslims by the Bolshevik-Dashnak alliance. The only difference of opinion was the nature of this assistance. The socio-political forces representing Azerbaijan were divided into two factions, the annexers and the independents, in relation to the nature of Ottoman aid and the future of the country. The anarchists saw the only way to save Azerbaijan by uniting it with the Ottoman Empire while the pro-independence movement believed that the Ottoman Empire should save the Azerbaijan people from Bolshevik-Dashnak aggression and help them gain and preserve their independence. In the spring of 1918, when the scale of the Bolshevik-Dashnak alliance's genocide against the muslim population expanded and spread throughout the country, not only the socio-political forces representing Azerbaijan, but the masses as a whole united in unequivocally annexing the country to the Ottoman Empire. The Muslim faction in the Seym which was fighting for Azerbaijan's independence (even there was division within this faction) was left as a small minority.

The annexes sent to the Ottoman government by the representatives of the annexation movement in connection with the annexation of the country to Turkey from almost all regions of

Azerbaijan were organized by the Istanbul government itself and these actions were based on the Istanbul government's own turanist policy. The Istanbul government itself disagreed on whether Azerbaijan should be annexed to the Ottoman Empire or become independent under the auspices of the Ottoman Empire. Although members of the annexation movement based on Anvar Pasha's directives expressed distrust in muslim faction of the Seym during the Batum conference and later in The National Council of Azerbaijan, the Istanbul government decided to establish an independent countries in Azerbaijan under its auspices and keep issue on annexation it a little later.<sup>36</sup> This decision meant that the first stage of the struggle between the annexers and the independents on the fate of Azerbaijan resulted in the victory of the latter. The second stage of this struggle took place during the June crisis of 1918 and the third stage took place during the liberation of Baku. During the June crisis, a compromise was reached between the independents and the annexers on the condition of forming a new government on a parity basis. After the liberation of Baku, changes in the course of world war did not allow Azerbaijan to be annexed to the Ottoman Empire.

The second half of the second chapter called “**Caucasian Policy of the Ottoman Empire during the Brest-Litovsk Peace Conference**” studies the policy of the Istanbul government towards the Caucasus during the conference.

In the first three stages of the Brest-Litovsk peace conference the Istanbul government was occupied by Russia. He tried to persuade Soviet Russia to vacate the Eastern Anatolian provinces and the Kars, Ardahan and Batum provinces which he was forced to cede to Russia as a result of the Russo-Turkish war of 1877-1878. After these demands were accepted by the allies of the Ottoman Empire and an ultimatum was given to the Russians at the last stage of the conference (February 28-March 3, 1918) the Istanbul government made a new demand and raised the issue of the fate of Caucasian Muslims. The

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<sup>36</sup> Batum'da Heyet-i Murahhasa-ı Osmâniye Reîsi Halîl Bey'in Sadrazam Talat Paşa'ya Telgramı (Batum: 28 Mayıs 1918) // BOA, HR.SYS, D. 2371, G. 6, v. 88-89.

instruction sent from Istanbul to Hakki Pasha, the Ottoman representative in Brest-Litovsk called for the adoption of the following demands regarding the Caucasus on February 27, 1918:

1. The commitment of the existing nations within the Caucasus to self-determination and not to interfere in their internal affairs in any way;

2. Acceptance of the freedom of self-determination of other Muslim governments to be formed within Russia.<sup>37</sup>

Although the Ottoman government insisted on the independence of the Caucasus until the last day of the conference, its demand was not supported by Germany and Austria-Hungary and the Germans insisted that the Istanbul government abandon this demand. Therefore, the Ottoman government came to the conclusion that the demand for the Caucasus was impossible to fulfill under the current conditions and on March 3 withdrew this demand.

During the period in question, the Ottoman government sought to persuade Russia to accept the fate of the Caucasus at the Brest-Litovsk peace conference, but also to establish relations with the existing South Caucasus government, recognize its “independence”, and urge allies and Russia in Brest.<sup>38</sup> However, the Tiflis government rejected the Ottoman government's proposals.

The existence of a buffer state in the Caucasus between Turkey and Russia was in the interests of the Istanbul government. However, the Istanbul government wanted to see the state not as an example of the South Caucasus Commissariat, where Georgians and Armenians, a minority in the Caucasus, played a dominant role over the Muslims, but as an “Islamic state” dominated by Turkish-Muslims who make up the majority of the region's population.

The third half of the second chapter is called “**Trabzon Conference and Ottoman-Azerbaijan Discussions**”. This sub-chapter studies the Trabzon Conference (March 14-April 14, 1918)

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<sup>37</sup> Bâb-ı Âli Hâriciye Nezâreti'nin Brest Litovsk'ta Berlin Sefiri Hakkî Paşa'ya Şifresi (İstanbul: 27 Şubat 1918) // BOA, HR.SYS, D. 2296, G. 1, v. 61-62.

<sup>38</sup> Harbiye Nâzırı Enver Paşa'nın Üçüncü Ordu Kumandanı Vehib Paşa'ya Telgramı (İstanbul: 12 Ocak 1918) // ATASE, BDH, K. 340, D. 1366, F. 1-48.

between the Ottoman Empire and the South Caucasus Seym, and focuses on the secret meetings held within the conference.

The Ottoman government's policy towards the South Caucasus Seym during the Trabzon conference was that it primarily encouraged the Seym to declare the independence of the South Caucasus, to accept the provisions of the Brest-Litovsk treaty on the South Caucasus and at the same time the North Caucasus. He sought to ensure the Muslim majority in the Caucasus Seym and government and the muslim supremacy over the Georgians and Armenians and to take this state under his protection.

The Trabzon conference failed because the South Caucasus Seym, on the one hand, considered itself part of the de facto non-existent "Russian Republic" and did not want to declare independence, on the other hand, did not accept the Bolshevik government and refused to fulfill the terms of the Brest-Litovsk agreement.<sup>39</sup> Although the Seym took up arms against the Ottoman government's demands for the Brest-Litovsk Treaty, it failed to achieve its goal. The Ottoman government captured Kars, Ardahan and Batum provinces by war. Defeated in the war, the Seym was forced to accept Turkey's demands and on April 22, 1918, declared the independence of the South Caucasus and declared its acceptance of the Brest Treaty. However, this delayed step led to the hardening of the position of the Ottoman government at the Batum conference, as a result of which the South Caucasus Republic, proclaimed by Turkey, could not come to a unified position even in the face of its demands.

The general talks between the Ottoman and South Caucasus delegations at the Trabzon conference were merely protocol and all major issues were discussed and resolved in separate secret meetings between the Turkish delegation and the Azerbaijani and Georgian representatives of the South Caucasus delegation. The discussions and decisions taken in these separate negotiations show that the representatives of all three nations represented in the South Caucasus

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<sup>39</sup> Trabzon Konferansı İctimâ-ı Umûmî Protokolü (Trabzon: 1/14 Mart - 22 Mart / 5 Nisan 1918) // BOA, HR.SYS, D. 2371, G. 7, v. 47-69.



have trampled and sold the interests of other nations in order to protect the interests of the nation they represent.

Secret meetings with Azerbaijan representatives within the Trabzon conference played a very important role in providing information to the Ottoman delegation and brought flexibility to its activities. At the same time, these meetings hastened the arrival of Ottoman military aid to Azerbaijan.

The fourth half of the second chapter, called **“Batium Conference and the organization of the Independent Republic of Azerbaijan”** studies the negotiations held within the Batium conference and comments on the political processes that led to the collapse of the South Caucasus and the emergence of independent states in the region.

At the first and last general meeting of the Batium conference on May 11, the head of the Ottoman delegation, Khalil Bey Mentesh presented a draft agreement containing Turkey's demands to the South Caucasus delegation. In addition to the borders set out in the Brest-Litovsk treaty, Turkey demanded a number of new territories and privileges in exchange for the sacrifices made on the battlefield. These requirements include Akhiska and Akhalkalaki districts of Tiflis province, Alexandropol and Surmali districts of Irevan province, Sardarabad part of Echmiadzin district, Kemerli, Ulukhanli and Vedibasari regions of Iravan district, Sharur part of Sharur-Daralayaz district, as well as Sharur part of Nakhchivan-Ordubad and Ordubad districts – Kars-Alexandropol-Echmiadzin-Nakhchivan-Julfa railway was included. In addition, during the war against Britain, Turkey had to be given the right to use the entire railway network of the South Caucasus and at the request of the Ottoman government, the Tiflis government had to hand over to the Ottoman Empire vehicles belonging to the Caucasus government in the Caspian Sea.<sup>40</sup>

After the South Caucasus delegation got acquainted with the draft agreement submitted by Khalil Bey, the existing differences and contradictions in the delegation, as well as in the Seym, began to

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<sup>40</sup> Üçüncü Ordu Kumandanı Vehib Paşa'nın Batium'da Birinci Murahhas Halil Bey'e Müracaatı (Batium: 10 Mayıs 1918) // BOA, HR.SYS, D. 2399, G. 1, v. 1-2.

deepen. This, in turn, led the Azerbaijan, Georgian and Armenian representatives of the South Caucasus to hold separate talks with Turkey and Germany.

Georgians who took refuge in Germany in the face of Turkish demands, on the recommendation of the Germans decided to declare Georgia's independence on May 20. At that time, the Ottoman government instructed its delegation in Batum to “sign separate friendship agreements with Georgians and Muslims in the event of the dissolution of the South Caucasus Seym”.<sup>41</sup> The Republic of South Caucasus collapsed on May 26 with the withdrawal of Georgians from the Seyms. On the same day, the independence of Georgia, Azerbaijan on May 28 and Armenia was declared on May 30.

Conditions arising from the military-political situation in the South Caucasus, as well as the disruptive activities of Germany did not allow the plans to turn the South Caucasus state into a state where Muslims dominate Georgians and Armenians acting as a buffer between Russia and Turkey and have been in close alliance and influence with the latter. In this case, the Ottoman government agreed to the dissolution of the South Caucasus Federation and decided to unite the entire Caucasus outside Georgia and create a muslim state under the auspices of the Ottoman empire and in close alliance with it. However, this line was the position of the political wing of the Ottoman government. The military wing of the government, on the other hand did not consider formulas such as patronage and alliance acceptable in the nature of the Caucasus's relations with the Ottoman Empire, and advocated the annexation of the region to Turkey. These disagreements later led to many problems.

The fifth half of the second chapter called “**Establishment of the Armenian state in the territory of Azerbaijan and the issue of Irevan**” highlights the discussions on the establishment of the Armenian state within the Batum conference.

When the inevitability of the collapse of the South Caucasus Seym became apparent, one of the main topics of discussion at the

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<sup>41</sup> Sadrazam Talat Paşa'nın Batum'da Heyet-i Murahhasa-ı Osmâniye Reîsi Halîl Bey'e Telgramı (İstanbul: 25 Mayıs 1918) // BOA, HR.SYS, D. 2372, G. 3, v. 75.

Batumi conference was the establishment of the Armenian state. Although Talat and Anvar Pasha spoke out against the establishment of the Armenian state, Khalil Bey and the Georgian and Azerbaijani representatives at the conference insisted on the importance of establishing an Armenian state.

On May 20, Khalil Bey, in a meeting with M.H.Hajinski and M.A.Rasulzadeh, recommended that “Azerbaijan allocate some territory to the Armenians”.<sup>42</sup> At a meeting between Azerbaijan and Armenian officials the next day, it was agreed that the Armenians would renounce their claims to part of the Yelizavetpol province, specifically to Karabakh, in return for which the Azerbaijan side agreed to establish a special Armenian canton in the South Caucasus within Alexandropol province.<sup>43</sup>

Both Georgians, Azerbaijanians and Khalil Bey himself rejected Talat and Anvar Pasha's proposal to “create a Muslim state in another part of the Caucasus and prevent Armenians from establishing a state, to divide the territories inhabited by Armenians between Muslims and Georgians” if an independent Georgian state is established. Khalil Bey and the representatives of Azerbaijan tried to create an Armenian state with Alexandropol as the center, but the Ottoman chairman decided to create an Armenian canton with Irevan as the center.<sup>44</sup>

Following bilateral and trilateral talks between the Ottoman, Azerbaijan and Armenian representatives, in exchange for Irevan's concessions and the establishment of an Armenian state in the Irevan region, the Armenian side undertook the following obligations to Turkey and Azerbaijan: 1) Armenians must eliminate hostility against Turkish-Muslims; they had to take him out and contact Shaumyan to ensure the security of the muslim population in Baku; 2) The massacres of Muslims by Armenian armed forces in the accidents in

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<sup>42</sup> Batum'da Heyet-i Murahhasa-ı Osmâniye Reîsi Halîl Bey'in Sadrazam Talat Paşa'ya Telgramı (Batum: 20 Mayıs 1918) // BOA, HR.SYS, D. 2398, G. 5, v. 91.

<sup>43</sup> Авалов, З. Независимость Грузии в международной политике 1918-1921 гг. Воспоминания. Очерки. – Париж: Navarre, – 1924, с. 57.

<sup>44</sup> Sadrazam Talat Paşa'nın Batum'da Heyet-i Murahhasa-ı Osmâniye Reîsi Halîl Bey'e Telgramı (İstanbul: 23 Mayıs 1918) // BOA, HR.SYS, D. 2372, G. 3, v. 69.

Azerbaijan had to be stopped; 3) The Armenian government was to ensure the right of Muslims remaining in Irevan and other territories of the newly established Armenian state to receive free religious worship, culture, politics and education in their mother tongue; 4) The Armenians had to give up their territorial claims to a part of Yelizavetpol province, specifically to Karabakh.<sup>45</sup>

At the meeting of the National Council of Azerbaijan on May 29, 1918, a final decision was made on the transfer of Iravan to the Armenians. There was no quorum to make a decision, as only 20 out of 44 members of the National Council attended this meeting.<sup>46</sup> However, the Iravan issue was resolved in Batumi. The National Council formalized this decision simply to complete legal proceedings.

According to the agreements reached at the Batum conference, the newly created Armenian state was to cover an area of 9000 km<sup>2</sup> between the new borders of the Ottoman Empire and Goycha lake. After the Ottoman, Armenian and Azerbaijan representatives reached a final agreement on this issue in Batum on May 30 and informed the Armenian National Council in Tiflis (Georgia) on the same day the Armenian Milli Council issued a declaration declaring Armenia's independence. In the words of A.Khatisyan, a head of the Armenian delegation to the Batum conference, “Turkey played the role of eternity in the birth of Armenia”.<sup>47</sup>

The sixth half of the second chapter, entitled “**Batum Treaties**”, examines and analyzes the Batum treaties signed between the Ottoman Empire and the Caucasian republics.

Even after the collapse of the Republic of South Caucasus, the Ottoman government did not back down from its demands to the Batum Conference, and accepted these demands separately from the

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<sup>45</sup> Qafarov, V.V. Batum konfransında Ermənistanın təşəkkülü və İrəvanın ermənilərə verilməsi məsələsi (11 may – 4 iyun 1918) // – Bakı: Bakı Universitetinin Xəbərləri, Humanitar elmlər seriyası, – 2019. № 1, – s. 88.

<sup>46</sup> Протокол № 3 заседания Мусульманского Национального Совета (Тифлис: 29 мая 1918 года) // ARDA, Fond № 970, siyahı № 1, iş № 1, vərəq – 51.

<sup>47</sup> Azərbaycan-Ermenistan Hudüd Meselesi // Haftalık Gazete. – 1334, 4 Temmuz. – s. 7.

newly formed republics. The Ottoman Empire signed a total of 21 treaties and agreements with the Caucasian republics within the framework of the Batum Conference. Republics of Azerbaijan, Georgia and Armenia while accepting the articles of the Brest-Litovsk peace concerning the Caucasus and confirming the transfer of Kars, Ardahan and Batumi to the Ottoman Empire, with the exception of Abastuman and Askueri of Tiflis province, including the accident center of Akhiska and Akhalkalak districts, Alexandropol district of Iravan province, confirmed that the western part, Sardarabad part of Echmiadzin district, Surmali district completely, Kemerli, Ulukhanli and Vedibasars districts of Iravan district, Sharur part of Sharur-Daralayaz district and Nakhchivan district (except Ordubad) passed to Turkey.<sup>48</sup> They confirmed that he had moved to Turkey. During the preparation of the text of the agreement, the head of the Ottoman delegation made small territorial concessions in favor of all three South Caucasus republics from the territorial claims put forward by Turkey as the beginning of friendly relations between the parties. As a result, the Abastuman and Askueri territories of Akhiska district were ceded to Georgians, Along with the eastern territories of Alexandropol district, such as Agbulag, Hamamli, Hanvali and Garakilsa, Alagoz Mountain in the south of the eponymous district, Alikochan territory of Echmiadzin district and Upper Karabakh territory of Iravan district were given to Armenians and Alichin territory of Nakhchivan district to Azerbaijanians. The Ottoman Empire occupied a total of 45500 km<sup>2</sup> under the Batum Treaties. Of this, 25500 km<sup>2</sup> were the provinces of Kars, Ardahan and Batum, which passed to the Ottoman Empire under the Brest-Litovsk Peace Treaty, and the remaining 20000 km<sup>2</sup> were newly acquired territories under the Batum Treaties.

The Ottoman Empire de facto recognized the independence of the newly formed Caucasian republics by signing the Batum Treaties. The Caucasian republics became the subjects of the international

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<sup>48</sup> Saltanat-ı Seniyye-i Osmâniye ile Azerbaycan Hükûmet-i Cumhûriyesi Beyninde Mün'akid Muhâdenet Muâhedenâmesi (Batum: 4 Haziran 1918) // BOA, HR.SYS, D. 2373, G. 4, v. 3.

community with the Batum agreements. Based on the Batum Treaties, the Ottoman Empire gained a wide range of freedoms and privileges in the Caucasus republics including Azerbaijan.

The Batum agreements created the legal basis for providing Ottoman military assistance to Azerbaijan. By providing this assistance to the country, the Azerbaijan representatives who were in great need of the military assistance of the Ottoman Empire, prevented the physical destruction of the Azerbaijan people and at the same time managed to preserve the existence of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The third chapter of the dissertation called **“Ottoman-Azerbaijan political, military, economic and cultural cooperation”** consists of four half-chapters. The first half of the chapter called **“Political Relations between the Ottoman Empire and the Republic of Azerbaijan”** studies the political relations between the two countries and draws attention to the problems in the nature of these relations.

The Istanbul government viewed the relations between Turkey and the Caucasus republics established by the Batumi agreements as temporary and after clarifying the international situation in the Caucasus and achieving recognition of its secession from Russia by Germany and Russia, it would annex the entire Caucasus except Georgia. This factor was also the reason why the Istanbul government did not ratify the Batum agreements.

According to the Istanbul government, even in the interim period before the annexation, Azerbaijan's independence had to be formal, the Azerbaijan government had to be completely under the control of the Ottoman Empire and even this government had to be formed by the Turks themselves.<sup>49</sup> The failure of the Azerbaijan government to accept formal independence under the auspices of the Ottoman Empire and its insistence on its principled position on the country's independence and sovereignty resulted in the June 1918 crisis. The National Council of Azerbaijan, in the person of the national committees in the regions under the influence of the Istanbul government, made concessions in order not to fall into a climate of

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<sup>49</sup> Batum'da Heyet-i Murahhasa-ı Osmâniye Reîsi Halîl Bey'in Sadrazam Talat Paşa'ya Telgramı (Batum: 6 Haziran 1918) // BOA, HR.SYS, D. 2398, G. 5, v. 170.

public distrust and overcame the crisis by forming a government on a parity basis from the independence and annexation.

At the root of the problems between the Azerbaijan government and the Caucasus Islamic Army Command in the following period was Nuru Pasha's rude interference in the internal affairs of the country and the government's tough stance against it. Related to this issue, the Prime Minister F.K.Khoyski wrote in the coded part of the letter dated August 23, 1918 sent to M.A.Rasulzade, who was in Istanbul at that time: *“Relations with Turkey must be settled decisively and once and for all. Nuru Pasha's policy is increasingly aimed at interfering in our internal affairs. It is necessary to carefully study the policy of Istanbul and take the necessary measures to protect our independence.”*<sup>50</sup> Evaluating the establishment of dual power in the country as a serious threat to state sovereignty, the Azerbaijani government, seeing the inefficiency of the staff in Istanbul on this issue, decided to send A.Topchubashov to Istanbul as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary on August 20, 1918. A.Topchubashov arrived in Istanbul in late September 1918. However, since Turkey was already in crisis on the eve of defeat, there was no need to clarify the nature of Ottoman-Azerbaijani political relations.

The end of the world war with the defeat of the Ottoman-German block without clarifying the international situation in the Caucasus did not allow Azerbaijan and the Caucasus as a whole to be annexed to Turkey.

The second half of the third chapter called **“Ottoman-Azerbaijan military cooperation and the establishment of the national Azerbaijan army”** studies the issues of military cooperation between the two countries and the existing problems in this area. Military cooperation between the Ottoman Empire and the Republic of Azerbaijan was a key pillar of relations between the two countries. Before the Batum agreements were signed, on June 1, 1918, the Azerbaijan representatives at the conference appealed to the Ottoman government for military assistance, referring to the agreement, the text

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<sup>50</sup> Письмо Фатали Хана Хойского Мамед Эмин Расулзаде (Гянджа: 23 августа 1918 года) // ARPIİİSSA, Fond № 277, siyahı № 2, iş № 7, vərəq – 22a.

of which was ready.<sup>51</sup> On the same day, the Ottoman government responded positively to this appeal. Thus, a legal basis was created for the arrival of Turkish troops in Azerbaijan.

Nuru Pasha entered Ganja on May 25, 1918, before the independence of Azerbaijan was declared, and established his headquarters there. On June 9-12, 1918, the Ottoman 5th Caucasian Division<sup>52</sup>, consisting of 7733 men (225 fighters, 105 non-combatants, 330 officers and 5277 fighters, 2126 non-combatants, 7403 soldiers), and on July 6-11, the 15th 38th Regiment<sup>53</sup> of the Division consisting of 2540 people (65 officers and 2475 soldiers, all combatants), 107th Regiment<sup>54</sup> of the 36th Division consisting of 1200 soldiers and officers on August 8-13, 5732 people (all combatants) on August 29-September 7 The 15th Division (56th Regiment of the 15th Division and 106th Regiment of the 36th Division), consisting of 191 officers and 5541 soldiers, was infiltrated into Azerbaijan.<sup>55</sup> The total number of Ottoman regular troops entering Azerbaijan since the beginning of June 1918 was 17205, of whom 586 were officers and 16619 were soldiers.

On June 22, 1918, the total number of regular military forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the front line was 860 people (30 officers, 4 non-combatants, 34 officers and 727 fighters, 99 non-combatants, 826 soldiers). 152 of them (1 combat officer, 143 combat soldiers, 8 non-combat soldiers) were Ottoman prisoners of war.<sup>56</sup>

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<sup>51</sup> Azerbaycan Şûrâ-yı Millîsi Reîsi Mehmed Emîn Resûlzâde'nin Osmânlı Heyet-i Murahhasası Reîsi Halîl Bey'e Müracaatı (Batum: 1 Haziran 1918) // BOA, HR.SYS, D. 2398, G. 7, v. 63.

<sup>52</sup> Beşinci Kafkas Fırkası Kıtâatının 15.7.34 Tarihine Mahsuben Tanzim Edilen Muhtasar Kuvve-i Umûmiye Cetveli (Şamahı: 22 Temmuz 1918) // ATASE, BDH, K. 3827, D. 38, F. 144-1.

<sup>53</sup> Dokuzuncu Ordu Kumandanı Mirliva Şevki Paşa'nın Kafkas İslam Ordusu Kumandanlığı'na Şifre Telgramı (Kars: 6 Temmuz 1918) // ATASE, BDH, K. 3827, D. 38, F. 45.

<sup>54</sup> Türker, Y.R. Birinci Dünya Harbi'nde Bakû Yollarında 5nci Kafkas Piyade Tümeni. – Ankara: Genelkurmay Basımevi, – 2006, s. 150.

<sup>55</sup> Harp Ceridesi (4.9.34) // ATASE, BDH, K. 3822, D. H-1, F. 1-3.

<sup>56</sup> Türker, Y.R. Birinci Dünya Harbi'nde Bakû Yollarında 5nci Kafkas Piyade Tümeni, Ek 5, s. 241.



As a result of conscription and mobilization work implemented by the Azerbaijani government together with the command of the Caucasus Islamic Army, the number of regular Azerbaijani military forces was increased to 6500-7000 in September 1918. As a result of Ottoman-Azerbaijani military cooperation, Baku was liberated on September 15, 1918 and the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan was restored.

On July 1918 the Ottoman government began to pay special attention to the command and control of the Azerbaijan army, both de facto and legally. For this purpose, in early July 1918, the Istanbul government prepared draft Ottoman-Azerbaijan military agreements. One of the draft Ottoman-Azerbaijan military agreements consisted of 8 articles for 20 years and the other consisted of 14 articles and was intended for 90 years.<sup>57</sup> According to these draft agreements, the Ottoman government undertook the organization of the Azerbaijan army and received the right to take over the Azerbaijan army at the right time, but the Ottoman side was free to assist Azerbaijan and did not make any commitments. In addition, the Ottoman government provided supreme control over the Azerbaijani army and the right to allow the Ottoman army to enter Azerbaijan at the right time. This, in turn, meant, in fact, the complete subordination of the Azerbaijan army to the Ottoman government and its subordination to its interests.

The policy pursued by the Caucasus Islamic Army Command towards the Azerbaijan army and the steps taken were nothing more than the implementation of the provisions of the draft agreement. Nuru Pasha's order to abolish the Azerbaijani corps dated August 13, 1918 was in fact due to the need to abolish the relative independence of the Azerbaijani corps. The independence of this corps could hinder the implementation of the Ottoman military command's plans for Azerbaijan in the next stage. At the same time, these forces were to be used in operations outside Azerbaijan for the Ottoman Empire's turanchi policy.

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<sup>57</sup> Osmânî-Azerbaycan Mukâvele-i Askeriye Layihası (İstanbul: 11 Temmuz 1918) // BOA, HR.SYS, D. 2373, G. 2, v. 138; v. 135.

Despite all this, the defeat in first world war did not allow the Ottoman government to implement its plans for Azerbaijan and the Caucasus as a whole, but the Azerbaijan government was able to achieve its goals in the field of Ottoman-Azerbaijan military cooperation.

The third half of the third chapter called “**Ottoman-Azerbaijan Economic Cooperation**” studies economic relations between the two countries. The basis and legal basis of economic relations between the Ottoman Empire and the Republic of Azerbaijan were the Batum agreements signed between the two countries on June 4, 1918. According to the Ottoman-Azerbaijan Supplementary Agreement No. 1, the share of agricultural and industrial products produced in Azerbaijan, including oil exceeding domestic demand was to be exchanged with Turkey by the end of world war. With the Batum agreements, the Ottoman Empire gained freedom of action in Azerbaijan, both in the military-strategic and economic spheres. During the war, Azerbaijan's economy became a kind of annex to the Ottoman Empire, serving its military orders.

According to the Ottoman-Azerbaijan agreements signed on July 14, 1918, the operation of the Azerbaijan railways was placed at the disposal of the Ottoman Empire for a period of five years and Azerbaijan government has also undertaken to provide Turkey with the oil and oil products it needs and it has not been stated how long this commitment will last.<sup>58</sup> The oil contract, signed on July 14, 1918, was not as temporary as the June 4 supplementary contract, was indefinite, and included the obligation to provide the Azerbaijani government with the oil needed by the Ottoman Empire.

According to the Ottoman-Azerbaijani trade agreement signed in Istanbul on September 16, 1918, Azerbaijan had to sell 2 million liras worth of agricultural and industrial products to Turkey and the Istanbul government had to give Azerbaijan an advance of 500000 Ottoman liras at 5 percent per annum.<sup>59</sup> Although more than 2 million

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<sup>58</sup> Osmânî-Azerbaycan Mukâvelenâmeleri (Gence: 14 Temmuz 1918) // BOA, HR.SYS, D. 2373, G. 1, v. 46; v. 47.

<sup>59</sup> Osmânî-Azerbaycan Mukâvelenâmeleri (İstanbul: 16 Eylül 1918) // BOA, BEO, D. 4532, G. 339882, v. 2; v. 3.

liras worth of goods were exported from Azerbaijan to Turkey after the liberation of Baku, only 25000 liras were given to the Azerbaijan side out of the promised advance of 500000 liras.<sup>60</sup>

The fourth half of the third chapter called **“Ottoman-Azerbaijan Cultural and Educational Cooperation”** studies the relations between the two countries in the field of education and culture. Ottoman-Azerbaijan cooperation in the field of education mainly covered the education of Azerbaijan youth in Turkish universities, sending Turkish teachers to Azerbaijan organizing the training of local teachers, providing schools and gymnasiums in the country with textbooks, teaching aids and programs published in Turkey.

On August 28, 1918, the Azerbaijan government decided to nationalize schools. In order to successfully implement this decision, work has been done to bring textbooks and teaching aids and pedagogical staff from Turkey to Azerbaijan. Already in 1919, the number of Turkish teachers working in Azerbaijan was more than 50. There were women among them. Along with civilian schools, Turkish officers of the Caucasus Islamic Army played a special role in the establishment of military schools in Azerbaijan and the organization of the educational process in these schools.

The issue of Azerbaijan youth studying in Turkish universities also had a special place in Ottoman-Azerbaijan cooperation in the field of education. As a result of negotiations between M.A.Rasulzade and A.Topchubashov with the Ottoman Minister of Education, it was agreed that Azerbaijan youth should receive higher education in Turkey. Some time later, on September 1, 1919, the Azerbaijan Parliament decided to send 100 Azerbaijani students to study at foreign universities at public expense.<sup>61</sup> Eight of these young people were sent to Turkish universities.

The conferences organized by M.A.Rasulzadeh, A.Agaoglu, A.Huseynzadeh and other intellectuals at the “Turkish Hearth” in

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<sup>60</sup> Доклад Финансовой миссии (Баку: 9 января 1919 года) // ARPIİİSSA, Fond № 277, siyahı № 2, iş № 21, vərəq – 15.

<sup>61</sup> Azərbaycan Xalq Cümhuriyyəti (1918-1920). Parlament (Stenoqrafik hesabatlar): [2 cildə]. – Bakı: Azərbaycan, – c. 2. – 1998, s. 74-75.

Istanbul played an important role in informing the Ottoman public about the political, economic, social and cultural history of Azerbaijan. The theatrical troupe of Muslim artists in Tiflis, which went on tour to Turkey in October 1918 under the name “Azerbaijan Turkish Drama Operetta Company”, also rendered invaluable services in promoting Azerbaijan culture in Turkey.

The fourth chapter of the dissertation called **“The struggle for Baku oil and the problem of international recognition of Azerbaijan”** consists of four half-chapters. The first half of the chapter called **“Azerbaijan Movement of the Caucasus Islamic Army and the Diplomatic-Political Struggle for Baku Oil”** studies the diplomatic-political struggle for Baku oil against the background of the Caucasus Islamic Army's Azerbaijan Movement.

On June 2, 1918, the Ottoman military command ordered the launch of operations to clear Baku and its environs of the Bolsheviks.<sup>62</sup> The Ottoman government also had a number of military, strategic, political and economic interests in sending troops to the region to liberate Baku. At that time, Russia was trying to control Baku, and Britain was trying to seize the oil city. At the same time, Germany was fighting for control of Baku oil. Thus, the struggle of the Azerbaijan government with the help of Turkey to liberate the country's capital became the object of both inter-group and intra-group struggle.

Although Germany linked the movement of Turkish troops in the direction of Baku to the violation of the Brest-Litovsk peace, the Ottoman government had already stated that Russia had to come to terms with the new political situation in the South Caucasus.<sup>63</sup> In fact, the Berlin government did not want the Ottoman Empire to own Baku alone. However, the Germans violated the Brest-Litovsk agreement before Turkey signed a number of agreements with the Georgians on May 28, 1918 and sent their military contingent to Georgia.

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<sup>62</sup> Üçüncü Ordu Kumandanı Vehib Paşa'nın Başkumandan Vekili Enver Paşa'ya Telgramı (Batum: 2 Haziran 1918) // ATASE, BDH, K. 2922, D. 512, F. 27.

<sup>63</sup> Harbiye Nâzırı Enver Paşa'nın General Feld-Mareşal Hindenburg'a Telgramı (İstanbul: 5 Haziran 1918) // BOA, HR.SYS, D. 2373, G. 2, v. 63-64.

Soviet Russia's appeal to Germany to stop the movement of Turkish troops in the direction of Baku opened up favorable conditions for the Berlin government to be at the center of negotiations on Baku. German-Russian negotiations in Berlin which began in June 1918 resulted in the signing of an additional treaty to Brest Treaty made on August 27 between Germany and Soviet Russia.<sup>64</sup> According to the agreement, Germany will not allow Turkish troops to cross the expanded demarcation line along the borders of the Baku region to the east, in return for which Russia promised to give Germany a quarter of the oil produced in Baku.

However, it was not possible to fulfill these contractual obligations. Because the Baku Soviet Socialist Republic which could not withstand the attacks of the Caucasus Islamic Army, collapsed on July 31, 1918 and the Eser-Menshevik-Dashnak bloc usurped power in Baku and invited British troops to Baku. At that time, the Soviet government itself could not buy oil from Baku.

Despite all this, on September 15, 1918, Baku was liberated by Ottoman-Azerbaijan forces, and the intense struggle between the Ottomans, Russia, Germany and Britain for oil Baku ended with the victory of Turkey and Azerbaijan.

The second half of the fourth chapter is called **“Territorial-border problems between the Caucasian republics and the policy of the Ottoman Empire”**. This chapter studies the territorial and border disputes between the republics of the South Caucasus after the declaration of independence, the diplomatic struggle between the Caucasian delegations to the Istanbul Conference on this issue and the policy of the Ottoman Empire.

The statements made by the delegations of the Caucasian republics attending the Istanbul conference on the territories covered by their states revealed that there were serious territorial and border disputes between these republics. The statement submitted by the head of the Azerbaijan delegation M.A.Rasulzade to the embassies of foreign countries in Istanbul on July 17, 1918 stated that “Azerbaijan,

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<sup>64</sup> Документы внешней политики СССР: [В 22-х томах] / Ред. коллегия: И.Н.Земсков [и др.] – Москва: Госполитиздат, – т. 1. – 1957, с. 437-445.

Baku and Ganja provinces which declared independence on May 28, 1918, Zagatala district and it covers part of Tiflis and Irevan provinces with a total area of 100600 km<sup>2</sup> and a population of 3400000”.<sup>65</sup>

At that time, the countries that made serious territorial claims against Azerbaijan were Georgia and Armenia. Territorial land disputes between Georgia and Azerbaijan covered Borchali, Sighnaghi and Tiflis districts of Tiflis province, Gazakh district of Ganja province and Zagatala district. Along with the diplomatic struggle, the Georgian government with the help of the German military mission in Tiflis, tried to seize the territory by force of arms. M.A.Rasulzade wanted to meet with Georgian representatives in Istanbul and discuss territorial and border issues between Azerbaijan and Georgia. However, no positive results were obtained.

On July 20, 1918, the Armenian delegation in Istanbul appealed to the Ottoman government, as well as to the embassies of Germany, Austria-Hungary and Bulgaria in Istanbul, with a note “On the national division of the South Caucasus and the demarcation of borders” and made territorial claims against Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Turkey. At the Batum conference, the Armenian delegation which did not want to agree with the 9000 km<sup>2</sup> allocated to Armenia, in its note proposed the division of the South Caucasus into three parts on national grounds and “justified” it. The territorial and land requirements of the Armenians were to increase the territory of Armenia to 52500 km<sup>2</sup>, the territory of Azerbaijan to 70700 km<sup>2</sup> and the territory of Georgia to 61500 km<sup>2</sup> at the expense of the lands of Turkey, Georgia and mainly Azerbaijan. Territorial claims against all of Armenia's neighbors totaled 43500 km<sup>2</sup> which was about five times the territory of Armenia. According to these requirements, the whole territory of Irevan province, part of Javanshir, Shusha, Zangazur, Yelizavetpol, Karyagin and Gazakh districts of Yelizavetpol province, Akhalkalak

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<sup>65</sup> Azerbaycan Heyet-i Murahhasası Reîsi Mehmed Emîn Resûlzâde'nin Beyânâtı (İstanbul: 17 Temmuz 1918) // BOA, HR.SYS, D. 2303, G. 4, v. 10-11.

district and part of Borchali district of Tiflis province were to be given to Armenia.<sup>66</sup>

Azerbaijan and Armenian delegations on the territorial claims of Armenia were published in the Istanbul press. These demands were also discussed among the representatives of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Ottoman and Germany in Tiflis. Despite its military superiority in the region, the Ottoman government did everything in its power to resolve the territorial disputes between the countries of the South Caucasus peacefully. However, due to the unconstructive position of the Armenians, it was not possible to resolve this issue diplomatically.

The third half of the fourth chapter called **“The Ottoman Empire's Struggle for Azerbaijan's International Recognition”** studies the Istanbul government's negotiations with Germany and Russia on the recognition of Azerbaijan's independence and its attempts to negotiate with Britain on this issue.

The Ottoman government tried to achieve the recognition of Azerbaijan's independence by Germany and then Russia. The issue of recognizing the independence of the Caucasian republics was discussed at a meeting of the Ottoman Ambassador in Berlin Ibrahim Hakki Pasha with the German Foreign Minister Kulman on June 30, 1918. Kulman said that the Berlin government would influence Russia in the Caucasus and try to convince it, but if the Russians do not agree, Germany will not immediately and unconditionally recognize the independence of the Caucasus republics.<sup>67</sup> Thus, Germany linked its decision to recognize the independence of the Caucasus republics to Russia's position on this issue.

On July 8, 1918, Anvar Pasha demanded that the Chief of General Staff of Germany, General Hindenburg, defend and protect the four governments formed in the Caucasus against Russia and affirm the independence of these republics without any conditions or

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<sup>66</sup> Mâverâ-yı Kafkas Kıtasının Millî Bir Sürette Tahdîd ve Taksîmi Hakkında Ermeni Heyet-i Murahhasası'nın Notası (İstanbul: 20 Temmuz 1918) // BOA, HR.SYS, D. 2372, G. 1, v. 60-74.

<sup>67</sup> Berlin Sefiri Hakkî Paşa'nın Bâb-ı Âli Hâriciye Nezâreti'ne Telgramı (Berlin: 1 Temmuz 1918) // BOA, HR.SYS, D. 2373, G. 1, v. 22.

distinctions.<sup>68</sup> Taking into account Germany's interest in Baku oil, Anvar Pasha sent another telegram to General Hindenburg on July 17, urging the Germans to share Baku oil until the end of the war, provided that the rights of the Azerbaijan people are protected.<sup>69</sup> However, the Berlin government took the path of recognizing Georgia's independence from the Caucasus republics and introducing it to Russia, recognizing Azerbaijan as Russian territory and receiving a share of Baku oil instead of it.

Against the background of extremely tense Ottoman-German relations over Baku, the Ottoman Prime Minister who visited Berlin in September 1918, worked hard for the recognition of Azerbaijan's independence by Germany. As a result, Talat Pasha was able to convince the Germans that Baku belonged to Azerbaijan, that Turkey was free to operate in the Caucasus and that Germany had no objection to the Ottoman government's recognition of Azerbaijan's independence. All this was established in the Ottoman-German secret protocol signed between the parties on September 23, 1918.<sup>70</sup> Also, according to this protocol, the German government undertook that it would seek the recognition of Azerbaijan's independence by Russia and if it was recognized by Russia, it would recognize the independence of Azerbaijan. Under the conditions of the time, this was a victory equal to the recognition of Azerbaijan's independence.

However, the Turkish-Russian talks held in Berlin on the recognition of Azerbaijan's independence were not successful. Although the Ottoman government said it was ready to withdraw its troops from the South Caucasus if Russia recognized Azerbaijan's independence, the Soviet government's unreasonable demands for “the surrender of Baku to the Soviet authorities” and “compensation” led to the failure of these talks.

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<sup>68</sup> Harbiye Nâzırı Enver Paşa'nın Berlin Sefiri Hakkî Paşa'ya Telgramı (İstanbul: 9 Temmuz 1918) // BOA, HR.SYS, D. 2371, G. 5, v. 25-26.

<sup>69</sup> Harbiye Nâzırı Enver Paşa'nın Alman Erkân-ı Harbiye-i Umûmiye Riyâseti'ne Telgramı (İstanbul: 17 Temmuz 1918) // BOA, HR.SYS, D. 2373, G. 1, v. 42.

<sup>70</sup> Osmânî-Alman Gizli Protokolü (Berlin: 23 Eylül 1918) // BOA, HR.SYS, D. 2303, G. 14, v. 1.



On the eve of the defeat in first world war, Anwar Pasha tried to achieve British recognition of Azerbaijan's independence by giving certain economic concessions to the British in Azerbaijan and involving Azerbaijan in an alliance with the Entente against Bolshevism. These attempt were connected with Anvar Pasha's future plans - to come to Azerbaijan and start the Turkish national liberation movement from there, however, failed.

The fourth half of the fourth chapter called **“Mudros peace and evacuation of Ottoman troops from Azerbaijan”** commented on Turkey's defeat in First World War and the signing of the Mudros peace, the evacuation of Turkish troops from the South Caucasus and the Istanbul government's Azerbaijan policy.

Shortly after Talat Pasha's cabinet resigned on October 8, the government of Ahmad Izzet Pasha decided to withdraw Turkish troops in the Caucasus before starting official peace talks with the Entente. The Ottoman primeminister ordered the withdrawal of Turkish troops from Iran, outside the limits set by the Brest-Litovsk Treaty on October 21, 1918.<sup>71</sup> As a result of this decision, both the Eastern Army Group and the Caucasus Islamic Army were disbanded and the Turkish troops to be evacuated from the Caucasus were to be placed at the disposal of the 9th Army.

On October 30, 1918, the Ottoman government was forced to sign a peace treaty with the Allies. This defeat not only dragged the Ottoman Empire into disaster, but also made the Republic of Azerbaijan, its mainstay in the Caucasus, the subject of the Mudros Peace. Articles 11 and 15 of the Mudros Peace were directly related to Azerbaijan. According to Article Eleven, the Ottoman army was soon to leave South Azerbaijan and the Caucasus. According to Article 15, the South Caucasus Railway came under the control of the Allies, the Allies gained the right to occupy Batum and the Ottoman government had no objection to the occupation of Baku by the Allies.

On November 3, 1918, A.Topchubashov met with the Minister of the Navy Rauf Bey, who signed the Mudros Reconciliation from

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<sup>71</sup> Başkumandanlık Erkân-ı Harbiye Reîsi Ahmed İzzet Paşa'nın Sadâret-i Uzmâ'ya Tahriratı (İstanbul: 21 Ekim 1918) // BOA, BEO, D. 4539, G. 340383, v. 2.

the Turkish side, and protested against the inclusion of articles in the Mudros Reconciliation Agreement on Baku and Azerbaijan Railways without the participation of the Azerbaijani representative. Rauf bey noted that we tried not to negotiate about Baku, but they accepted this article on the grounds that there was a Turkish army there.<sup>72</sup> In a telegram sent to F.K.Khoyski on November 11, Grand Vizier Ahmad Izzet Pasha also stressed that the terms of the agreement were dictated and said that under the Mudros agreement, the Ottoman government undertook to withdraw its troops from the South Caucasus and not to protest the occupation of Baku by allies.<sup>73</sup>

On November 10, the Azerbaijan government hosted a reception in honor of Nuru Pasha with the participation of 400 prominent intellectuals, servicemen and politicians.<sup>74</sup> After that, the Turkish army began to withdraw from the territories of Azerbaijan with echelons loaded with weapons. The last echelons of the Ottoman troops in Azerbaijan arrived in Batum on January 26, 1919.

The defeat in World War II thwarted the Ottoman state's plans for Azerbaijan and the Caucasus as a whole. However, no one in Azerbaijan was able to get the results of the victory achieved by the liberation of Baku as the main mission of the Ottoman army in the Caucasus movement. This was the greatest result of the Ottoman Empire's Azerbaijan policy.

In the **“Results”** part of the dissertation, the research was summarized, the main provisions of the research were summarized and the obtained results were analyzed.

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<sup>72</sup> Топчибашев, А.А. Дипломатические беседы в Стамбуле 1918-1919 гг. – Баку: “Эргюн”, – 1994, с. 34.

<sup>73</sup> Sadrazam Ahmed İzzet Paşa'nın Azerbaycan Hükûmet-i Reîsi Fethali Han Hoyski'ye Telgramı (İstanbul: 11 Kasım 1918) // BOA, HR.SYS, D. 2397, G. 6, v. 21-22.

<sup>74</sup> Банкет в честь Нури паши // Азербайджан. – 1918, 12 ноября, № 33. – с. 3.

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