

Political situation in the Caucasus at the beginning of the 20th century.

Turkish Caucasian Islamic army

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Abstract

The period in question is one of the most difficult, glorious and glorious period in the national history of Azerbaijan in military and political terms. The great leader Heydar Aliyev said in the opening ceremony of the monument to the hero of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic in honor of the Turkish soldiers killed in the martyr's alley in Baku in 1999: "The people of Azerbaijan in the twentieth century His fate has gone through very hard times. After the collapse of Russian imperialism, Azerbaijan faced many great threats and tragedies in history. The Armenians have repeatedly carried out their aggression against the Azerbaijani people. The worst of them is the genocide committed on 31 March 1918 in Baku. At that time, not only in Baku, but in many regions of Azerbaijan such genocide was committed, thousands, tens of thousands of casual people were murdered. The study covers the year 1918, the end of the 1917th. Within the framework of this chronological framework, the Caucasus policy of the Ottoman Empire, the functioning and collapse of the South Caucasus Siege after the October Revolution of 1917, the proclamation of the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan, the Batumi Dialogue and its results, and the deportation of the Caucasian Islamic Army The issue of the Turkish army leaving Azerbaijan after the Mudros contract is included in the chronological framework of the research.

Keywords: Azerbaijan history, armenians, Baku, Turkish Islamic Army, Caucasus, historical Azerbaijan territories

Introduction: Although at the end of the First World War were written a number of works about the Caucasus

Islamic Army's activities in the Northern Azerbaijan, but the role of the Islamic Army of the Caucasus in Azer-

baijan's struggle for independence did not almost comprehensively studied in Turkish sources. However, it should be noted that the problem which is studied have been extensively studied in the Azerbaijan national historiography on the basis of the archival documents, scientific literature and periodical press materials of 1918-1920. Here is a special place of the works specifically designed and published by the scientists from the Institute of History named after A. Bakikhanov ANAS, History faculty of Baku State University and other scientific institutions. [4; 5; 6; 7; 8; 9; 10; 11].

There are some valuable information about the problem in Jamaladdin Taskiran's [89], Bayur Y.Hikmet [37; 38; 39; 40], Belen Fahri [41; 42], Gokay Bulent [59], Nimet Kurat [73], İhsan A. Sabis [81], Taylan M. Sorgun's [87] Works.

The Ottoman Empire's history of the struggle for the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan Democratic Republic and Caucasus took place in Mustafa Cholak [51], Mustafa Goruryilmaz [60], Nasir Yujeer [103], Reha Yilmaz [102], Mustafa Budak's [47] Works.

The officer of the State Archives of the Prime Ministry of the Republic of Turkey, docent-doctor Mustafa Budak has touched the complicated socio-political situation in Asian-Caucasian front, as well as the South Caucasus and the Northern Azerbaijan, then, all aspects of Nuru Pasha's activities after his giving a summarized description of preparation the conditions of expected aid from the Ottoman Empire, in his work on "Nuru Pasha's report about the Islamic Army of the Cau-

casus" [39] which was published in Caucasus Research Center.

This work looks as a reliable document and source. It should be considered very rich and valuable source about the main events of the period and current rich conditions.

Source of the study: Taking into account that this issue is a research related to the history of movement of the Islamic Army of the Caucasus, the main source includes the materials of Turkish Armed Forces Head of the General Staff Military History and Strategic Studies Archive (ATASE Archive) [13; 14; 15; 16]. Here were reviewed about 3.50000 archival materials relating to World War I and a large number of papers related to this problem was put into scientific circulation. In the dissertation were analyzed these documents for the first time. In addition, in the study have been used enough the archives, newspapers of the period and journals [25] of the Prime Ministry State Archives [12], National Defense Department [18], the Republic of Turkey Retirement Fund [19], Turkish Military Academy [20], Kazim Orbay [18], Turkish Grand National Assembly [21; 22; 23; 24].

One of the major works used in writing of the research are the memories written by army commanders who are in the movement and order of the Islamic Army of the Caucasus, as well as the documentary materials and travel notes compiled on the basis of their memories. These Works are used as a source in the dissertation due to their memoir character.

Among these Works, Ismayil Berkov's work "Our activities in the North Caucasus during the Big war and

the movements and wars of 15 sect” [43] reflects a wide range of activities of the Turkish army in this region. In addition, there were used Tevfik Biyiglioglu’s “The results of the Armistice of Mudros [46], Kaymakan Rushtu’s “The Caucasian movement of 5th Caucasian Infantry Division” [67], as well as Suleyman Izzat [55], Kazim Karabakir [64; 65; 66], Fahraddin Kirzioghlu [71], İlhan Seljuk [84], Naghi Keykuru’s (Sheyh zamanli) [70] memorials, besides the above mentioned there were used the Works of the political leaders of that period as Mammad Amin Rasulzadeh and Jahangir Zeynaloghlu. Along with all of these, in dissertation was widely used Nuru Pasha’s report on the Islamic Army of the Caucasus. Nuri Pasha has prepared this report by own will. But this document has emerged after the request of the Commission of Military History under the General Military Headquarters in 1930 from Nuru Pasha about the military construction Works and the events occurred in the South Caucasus since the Armistice of Mudros until the occupation of Northern Azerbaijan by Soviet Russia.

Discussion: The main purpose of the study is comprehensively research of the role of the Islamic Army of the Caucasus during Azerbaijan's struggle for independence on the basis of Turkish sources. In order to achieve this goal, the following tasks are intended to carry out:

analyze the emergence of the idea of the Islamic Army of the Caucasus;

Description of the events in the Caucasus on the eve of the declaration of independence;

investigate the cause of Nuri Pasha’s appointment as the commander of the Islamic Army of the Caucasus;

comment on the issues as Nuru Pasha’s arrival in Ganja, his start of the organizational Works, the obeying of Armenians in Ganja and collection of weapons;

analyze the results of the battles fought for Goychay and Salyan;

The move of the 5th Caucasian Division of the Islamic Army of the Caucasus to the East, the release of Aghsu, Kurdamir and Shamakhi;

analyze the events occurred until the first and second attack of Islamic Army of the Caucasus to Baku;

comment on the second attack to Baku, release of Baku and the activities of the Islamic Army of the Caucasus in Karabakh;

analyze separately the Armistice of Mudros and the withdrawal of the Islamic Army of the Caucasus from the Northern Azerbaijan.

The role of the Islamic Army of the Caucasus in Azerbaijan's struggle for independence on the basis of Turkish sources become the object of an independent study in the Azerbaijan National historiography for the first time;

-After the October Revolution in 1917, the political situation in the Caucasus was researched as a whole;

The Islamic Army’s arrival in Ganja and the first phase of the struggle for the territorial integrity of the Northern Azerbaijan were comprehensively commented;

The role of the Islamic Army of the Caucasus in Azerbaijan's struggle for independence on the basis of Turkish sources was systematized, analyzed and deduced the relevant conclusions.

Theoretical and practical significance of the study: The dissertation has a theoretical and practical significance. The main provisions and research results of the dissertation can be used:

- while conducting special courses on “The role of the Islamic Army of the Caucasus in Azerbaijan's struggle for independence (on the basis of Turkish sources)” in the faculties of history and international relations at universities;

- during the lessons of military history of Azerbaijan

- future studies on the history of modern Azerbaijan;

- in the lectures and professional development courses related to the topic;

- in deeper study and strengthening of military cooperation between Ottoman Turkey and Azerbaijan Democratic Republic;

- during the holding of scientific seminars and conferences on the historical theme;

- also can be used in educational institutions of the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Turkey and the Republic of Azerbaijan;

- in daily activities of enterprises, institutions and organizations that engaged in this field between these two countries.

The events occurred in Azerbaijan on the eve of independence

At the beginning of the XX century the great empire Russia lost to Japan which did not attract anyone's attention, consequently, in the true sense of the word, the panic gripped in Caucasus as in many regions of the empire, the wishes of independence of the peoples living in the region began to in-

crease. As a result, Russia that weakened in the war, was in a such position that was not able to intervene in conflicts that occur between the people of province. In such condition, tsarist Russia began to create hostility among the peoples of the region in order to strangle the trends of freedom emerging in this region, and to destroy the national liberation movements. In this case, czarism conducted a politics of “divide and rule” which was a reliable means tested repeatedly, and consequently, it was led to the slaughter that resulted in the hatred of nations to each other and the murder of thousands of people. [13, BDH, Kol., K. 3823, D. 22, F. 7-2].

Although the Ottoman Empire was passing very difficult period, but under such circumstances, it showed the sensitivity towards the Muslim peoples of the Caucasus, closely observed the event, helped them as possible. In addition, the Ottoman Empire that closely observed the massacres against the muslim people in Caucasus, warned Russia to be more attentive. For this purpose, the Ottoman Empire expressed its protest to the Russian government because of the burning of houses and looting of hundreds of Muslims by Armenians in Ganja on December 14 1903 and 1905, and highlighted its willingness to cooperate for protection of Muslims [12, İradei Hususi, No: 56, 1905].

During the First World War peoples of the Caucasus raised in order to gain independence, resorted to various means to achieve their goals. At that time, when armenians could not get what they wanted from Russia, turned to the European countries, but the

georgians, Azerbaijanis and Turks in Dagestan turned to the Ottoman Empire. Even Georgians who hesitantly approached to the Ottoman Empire at first, then believed that Georgia can be under the protection of the Ottoman Empire [13, BDH, Kol., K. 3823, D. 22, F. 7-2].

During that period the Western countries have developed different plans to seize the resource-rich region. Germany which was the biggest ally of the Ottoman Empire supporting the idea of establishment of independent states in the Caucasus, also took an active part in this struggle and tried to get especially Azerbaijan under its control [73, p. 477].

After the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, Germany was faced with its ally the Ottoman Empire as a result of the struggle for the South Caucasus. Despite all this pressure, the Ottoman Empire has organized the army and named it as “the Islamic Army of the Caucasus” in order to ensure the independence of the Caucasian Muslims and to support the Caucasian Muslims in this independence movement.

The emergence of the idea of the Islamic Army of the Caucasus

Under the influence of the European countries, particularly Russia, the declaration of independence of Balkan nations as a result of nationalist movements between the Balkan peoples forced the Ottoman government to think. The measures taken by the Ottoman Empire to prevent the movement arose in Balkans did not give any results. However, these events led to the start of Turkish nationalism. Thus, the revolution of the Young Turks began in 1908 paved the way for this. The

Osmanism and Islamism did not effective for the unity of the state and to keep the eternal power of the state. At that time, the idea of Anatolian and Balkan Turks’ taking the stage under the banner of Turkish nationalism, began to gather more and more supporters. In this regard, Anvar pasha began to realize the idea of Turkism when the Ottoman Empire entered the First World War. When it entered the First World War, thought to move to the Central Asia via the Caucasus and Iran, as well as to defeat the Britons in India in order to realize the idea of Turan. German Ambassador Vangenheim stated in the letter sent Said Halim Pasha on August 6, 1914 that “If the Germany will win the war and force its enemies to sign agreement, then I guarantee to help Turkey to establish relations with Russia and redraw the Eastern borders”. As the result of this guarantee Anvar Pasha immediately joined the war [50, s. 133]. At that time, the turkish poets as Takin Alp mentioned in their Works written in 1915 that they joined the war not only to defend themselves against enemies, but also unite with the Turkish people who are their national ideals, as well as escape the Islamic world from atheists. [51, p. 133].

After the Bolsheviks’ coming to power in Russia, new government halted the military operations in Petrograd and left the First World War, and so realized the hopes of the Ottoman Empire. At this time, the Turkish army had favorable conditions to strengthen in the region without encountering any resistance. Deputy chief of delegation of Germany general Ludendorf wrote about it in his memorials: “Turks with

all their strength and love tried to fill the political vacuum in the region with the army sent to the Caucasus and wholeheartedly implement their plans to spread the idea of panturansim” [51, p. 135-137].

Friendly relations, which began in December 1917 between Russia and Germany and its allies, increased the interest of the Ottoman Empire in the Caucasus. Their main target was to unite Anatolian Turks and Muslims in the Caucasus [59, p. 20]. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Ottoman Empire Ahmad Nasimi stated during his speech in the Parliament on February 21, 1918 that 7 million of 11 million people living in the Caucasus are Muslims, as well as the new state will have an Islamic government. This statement showed that the policy of the Ottoman government leaders on the Caucasus was towards the Turanism. Because the bridge which connected the Ottoman Empire with the Muslims living in Russia was the Caucasus. The occupation of the Caucasus was the main tool for the implementation of Turan idea.

At that time, the delegation organized to study the region, in October 1917 arrived at the headquarters of the 6th Army which is situated in Mosul. The staff captain Ismail, captain Sarigozelli Mithat, the artillery lieutenant Muzaffar were sent to the Caucasus to study and explore the region on the spot. After coming back from the Caucasus, he has presented a report that it is an appropriate time to send the army in this direction by the artillery lieutenant Muzaffar [84, p. 357-358].

Thus, the withdrawal of the Russian Army from the Caucasus after the October revolution in Russia, realized

Anvar Pasha’s ideals and expectations. Another event which inspired Anvar Pasha to move towards the Caucasus was the meeting hold on December 29, 1917 between the 6th Army commander Khalil Pasha and Australian lieutenant colonel who was captured by Russia, but then passed to Turkey using the chaos in Russia. During the meeting with Khalil Pasha the Australian lieutenant colonel stated that it is an appropriate time to start the operation towards the Caucasus. After the talks with lieutenant colonel, Khalil Pasha sent him to Istanbul to meet with Anvar Pasha. Australian lieutenant colonel’s data related to the Caucasus attracted Anvar Pasha’s attention. About these issues he wrote in the telegram which sent to the 6th Army commander Khalil Pasha on February 16, 1918: “As it can be seen, it is clear from the information provided by the Australian lieutenant colonel about the situation in Baku that Azerbaijani people ready to unite and fight against the enemy. I clarified the reason of the absence of the leadership who will unit and manage them, and in this regard their inability to take action” [14, TAR. Kol. K. 1, D. 1, F. 1-121].

At that time, another officer was senior lieutenant Husamaddin who provided information to Enver Pasha about the situation in the Caucasus and wanted him to start moving in this direction. Mr. Husamaddin escaped from captivity in Russia, and before came to Baku and then to Ganja. For a while he worked in Ganja with Nasib bay Yusifbayli the head of the National Committee and the head of the Turkish Adami-Central-Musavat faction. In order to provide Vahip Pasha and Anvar

Pasha with information about the situation in the Caucasus and to help the Turkish army, Mr. Husammaddin went to Istanbul in January 1918. Firstly, he came to the headquarters of the 3rd Army situated in Sushehr and gave a detailed report to Vahip Pasha. In the report which he wrote about the situation in the region was stated: "as the result of the Bolshevik propaganda, Russian soldiers and officers left the army and returned to their homes, in the front there is no force of the Russian army. The trains which carried the Russian army who wanted to go to Russia via Azerbaijan were stopped by the local people near Ganja and their weapons were taken either voluntarily, or forcibly. Baku, as well as whole Azerbaijan is under threat of armenian-bolshevik's attacks, and the genocide of local Turks is still going on in the region . Azerbaijanis with great hope are waiting the Turkish army which is the only force preventing the threat of genocide in the country. By the decision made with the participation of political parties and National Committee of Ganja representing Azerbaijan, they sent (to Istanbul)a representative in order to invite the Turkish army.

Although the Ottoman Empire got the provinces of Kars, Ardahan and Batum according to the treats signed in Brest-Litovski and Batum, it promised do not cross the line. However, it was necessary to seize the Caucasus and in the first instance drive out the enemy's forces from Baku in order to realize the idea of Turanism prepared by Anvar Pasha and his comrades. They are even thought to establish the Turkish-Islamic states in the Caucasus or further away from this region [73, p. 508].

At that time, Germans in accordance with their own interests began negotiations not only with Georgia, but also with Soviet Russia to prevent the pass of the Caucasus, in particular Baku into the hands of the Turks. According to the agreement signed with Georgians, they had to prevent the move of the Turkish army by controlling the Batumi-Tbilisi railway. With an additional item to the treaty of Brest-Litovsk, Soviet Russia promised to give about one-fourth of Baku oil to Germany, if Germany will prevent the Turkish army's pass over the Kura river, or if the army will pass then it has to provide their retreat. [13, BDH kol. K.3820A, D.11, F.7-04].

Thus, as a result, we can say that these talks were the first steps taken to protect the independence and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. The main factors of creation the Islamic Army of the Caucasus which will be responsible for the mission to ensure the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, to protect it and form the Azerbaijani army during this period, can be enumerated as follows:

At the start of the World War I, the idea to establish the independent Turkish-Islamic state in the Caucasus and Middle Asia which was Anvar, Talat and their comrades' ideas of Turanism; the desire to create an Islamic state here by occupation the Caucasus due to the way to these regions pass from this region, and the idea to seize and control the region's natural resources, in particular the Baku oil;

creation of favorable conditions for the realization of this idea by the coup in Russia; increase in the genocide committed by Armenians in the Caucasus, particularly in Baku; simul-

taneously, there were created conditions for the aid request of Azerbaijan, which declared its independence (as well as the states of the South Caucasus) from the Ottoman Empire. For this purpose, they named this military unit as the "Islamic Army of the Caucasus" for do not doubt Germany. Although there were Azerbaijani national forces in the Islamic Army of the Caucasus, but the main part of the army is consisted of the 5th Caucasian Division and 15th Infantry Division. However, Nuri Pasha's uncle Halil Pasha who was the commander of the Eastern Army Group, has directed the army because it was belonged to the Eastern Army Group and provided the necessary support to his nephew. At the same time, the main direction of the army's movement was under the personal control of Anvar Pasha.

Nuri Pasha's appointment as the commander of the Islamic Army of the Caucasus

Anvar Pasha re-arranged his foreign policy in the direction according to the ideas to get back his loss during the First World War. In this regard, the ideologists of that period oriented the government's foreign policy in a direction of "Turanism" under the influence of events in the final days of the Ottoman Empire. [13, BDH. Kol. K. 3823, D. 22, F. 7]. Either with Germany's promotion, or calls for help of Caucasian nations, which were under the authority of Russia, as well as the main direction of the government's foreign policy was towards the Caucasus. The Ottoman leadership implemented the policy of "Turkism" and used it as the main direction for the Turkish and other nation in the Cauca-

sus. Anvar Pasha who has carried out his Caucasus policy, created a powerful army by a special group. This policy is failed because of the serious resistance of Russians, and there were new historical conditions after the destruction of tsarist Russia as a result of the bolshevik's coup in October 1917. So, for the Azerbaijan's territorial integrity, there was realized the creation of the Islamic Army of the Caucasus and an historical ideal as the Caucasus trip.

Nuru Pasha's arrival in Ganja and start the organizatin affairs

In order to protect the territorial integrity and independence of the newly established Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, there was signed a Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between the Ottoman Empire and Azerbaijan on June 4, 1918 in Batum. Minister of Justice of the Ottoman Empire Khalil bay and the commander of the Eastern Army Group Vahib Pasha, as well as the head of the National Council of Azerbaijan Mammad Amin Rasulzadeh and the Minister of foreign affairs Mammad Hasan Hajinski signed the treaty. According to this treaty, Rasulzadeh asked the Ottoman Empire for military assistance in order immediately to stop the massacre against the turkish-Muslims people in the Caucasus [45, s. 555]. Anvar Pasha who has with great enthusiasm received this request, began to carry out his plans of "Turkism" and "Turanism".

Nuru Pasha carried out this request and at the beginning of January, 1918 arrived in Istanbul from Misrata the center of African teams, through submarine by Pola to discuss the situation in Trablusgarp (Libya). [14, TAR. Koll. D. 22, F. 6-132].

When Nuru Pasha returned to Istanbul, on February 6, 1918 he was awarded with the "Ottoman Badge with Sword" of the third rank for bravery in Trablisgarp and Bingazi. [18, F.6]. Very soon, Nuru Pasha has been appointed as the commander of the Islamic Army of the Caucasus by Anvar Pasha as the result of Kazim Gara Bakir's disagreement and abandonment of Prince Faruk.

The formation of the structure of the Islamic Army of the Caucasus was accompanied by an event which left a certain impression in social and political life of Azerbaijan. It was related to the activity of annexes. The annexes who were proponents of joining the Ottoman Empire by the arrival of the Turkish army in Azerbaijan, significantly strengthened the impact on Nuru Pasha and people around him, as well as on the socio-political life, thus led to the political crisis in the state. Husein Baykara, who was one of the researchers of the struggle of Azerbaijan for independence wrote about this event, "Although Nuru Pasha the commander of Islamic Army of Azerbaijan was a wise man but the annexes tried to use him" [36, p. 240].

As soon as Nuri Pasha entered the territory of Azerbaijan, he spreaded a decree addressed to the Muslims of the Caucasus, which the king had given him. According to the memorials of Nuri Pasha, he came to Yevlakh on the route of Jabrail-Aghdam-Tartar. On May 24, he was greeted with great joy in Yevlakh with the accompany of the delegation from Ganja who has meet him while he was in Garabagh [13, BDH, Kol., K. 3823, d. 22, f. 7-1].

Nuru Pasha came to the region and decided to place the headquarters of the Islamic Army of the Caucasus firstly in Nukha (current Shaki). But because of the armenian groups were very active in Nukha and this city were far from the main transport path, he considered that it would be appropriate if the headquarters will be in Ganja. On May 24, 1918 in the evening Nuru Pasha left Yevlakh and on May 25 entered Ganja [13, BDH, Kol., K. 3823, d. 22, f. 7-1]. From the moment Nuru Pasha arrived in Ganja, on the one hand he started to work on creating of a regular army, on the other hand ensure the order in the country. The government of Azerbaijan which was occupied and was not able to continue its work in Baku, situated in Ganja as a temporarily capital [45, p. 556]. In this period Ganja was the second largest city of Azerbaijan next to Baku with its 55-60 thousand people.

After settling in Ganja, Nuri Pasha, immediately contacted the various stations and began to organize the resistance groups in these settlements in order to ensure the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. In this regard, in Nuru Pasha's memorials was stated that there were established centers of departments and command in order to ensure the tranquility in the East part of Ganja-Gazakh, Zagatala, Nukha, Aghdam, Jabrail, Garabagh and Zangazur [13, BDH, Kol., K. 3823, d. 22, f.7-3].

Before Nuru Pasha's coming to Azerbaijan, in different settlements of the country were organized armed groups of volunteers by Turkish officers who escaped from the russian captivity. The volunteer group organized in Nukha was headed by the turkish

officers Badri and Sidgi afandi. After the occupation of Shamakhi, due to the bolshevik-dashnak army's moving in direction towards Goychay and Gutgashen (present-day Gabala) continued, special attention was given to strengthening the resistance group in Nukha. For this reason, Badri afandi was appointed as the commander of the Shaki region after Nuru Pasha's arrival in Ganja. Sidgi afandi was sent to the region in order to organize resistance groups [43, p. 10-11]. Haggi afandi and Aladdin afandi headed the groups of volunteers organized in Zagatala. Defense groups organized under the supervision of Turkish officers in order to ensure the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, received great support from the local population and it generated enthusiasm among them.

In the instructions given local militia groups of Turkish army in order to ensure the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, was stated that: "it is necessary to establish police posts for the protection of eleven communication stations from Poylu to Ganja via Jalaloghlu, Voronsovski, Sadakhli, Gachagan, Shikhli villages. As well as Mr.Reza from Ganja and his comrades should be involved in the activities related to the communication"[67, p. 16].

When the Turkish military units which ensured the security of Ganja-Gazakh transportation hubs, began move, ie on June 4, 1918 there was emerged the necessary of sending to Azerbaijan not only defence forces, but also the forces which are able to perform operational tasks. In this regard, the Caucasian Division was subordinated to the Islamic Army of the Caucasus by the order of Vahib Pasha [13,

BDH Kol., H. 1, F. 1-18]. According to the order, the 9th, 10th, 13th Infantry Regiments of Division and the artillery regiment immediately had to hand over their positions and move to Azerbaijan.

9th Infantry Regiment, as well as the 2nd Cavalry Regiment that were sent for defence of Ganja-Gazakh road, entered the Azerbaijani territory before the 5th Caucasus division which came to the region to protect the independence of Azerbaijan, started to move with its main staff. The 2nd Cavalry Regiment that was under the command of the military leader Zehni bay, who performed the task of preventing any invasions and provocations by the German military units on the Gazakh-Ganja way, entered Azerbaijani territory on June 6 and settled in positions that are required for the implementation of the entrusted task [15, BAF Kol., K.1141, D. 582, F. 1-2].

The Islamic Army of the Caucasus liberated Baku

39 days after the defeat in Baku on August 5, the 5th Caucasian Division gathered the additional forces on September 13, 1918 in order to strengthen. In addition, the 15th Infantry Division came to the region as an additional force and settled in the northern part of the front. Now, the chances of success of the attack towards Baku were high. In the order given for the attack towards Baku by the commander of the Islamic Army of the Caucasus Nuru Pasha on September 13 at 17.11 was stated: "1. The attack towards Baku will be started on 14.9.34 (on September 14, 1918) in the morning Biavnillahikarim (With the help of God)".

2. The 5th Sect Infantry will move from Hajihasan village to Saarihachli Church on 14.9.34 at 2 o'clock (at 02.00) in the morning, will attack and occupy the first positions of the enemy and will stay here. This line mainly will be occupied by the bomb and bayonet.

3. After the occupation of the first stations of the enemy, our army will occupy the second line simultaneously. To move further they will wait the sunrise and support of the artillery fire, then will send reconnaissance groups. There were placed one seized and even enough machine guns.

4. During the moving of our infantry, the artillery will not fire. Enemy can not know in advance the attack of infantry. The main force, the second and third branches of enemy, the main roads and artillery points will be fired for preventing their move. Therefore, the fire departments should be explored. At that night when the first line of the enemy will be occupied by the attack, even the artillery will not fire in this direction. As soon as the sun will rise, our infantry will attack further. The accompanying artillery will be ready to move at any moment.

5. the 106th and 107th Regiments will be ready to move at any moment. The commanders of the regiment will be around the point of observation of the army.

6. The fifth sect will move the armored train to the Haybat station in the morning and will attract the enemy's attention in Velchivorot station and then will guard the right side of the sect.

7. The fifteenth sect will send the reconnaissance groups to Bilajari,

Balakhani, Surakhani and Ahmadli from the midnight, and then with the support of the artillery regiment will explore the stations of its enemy and will occupy Ahmadli. [13, BDH Kol. K. 3820 A, D. 11, F. 7- 040].

In the morning of September 15, the 56th Regiment along with the 9th and 13th Caucasian regiments, which moved with the support of the artillerymen, came to the edge of the city. The enemy continued to fire from houses and streets. The enemy soldiers who attempted to run away by ships were fired by artillery batteries. At that time the commander of the Islamic Army of the Caucasus Nuru pasha sent this order by telegram: "Fires grow in the city. In particular, fuel tankers were burned by the enemy. Necessary measures will be taken immediately to extinguish fires. Surrendered Armenians will be protected" [55, s. 47-48]. However, the city have not been seized yet and nobody of Armenians has surrendered. The 15th Infantry Division along with the 38th and 107th Regiments easily captured the Armenikand. At 08:30 Cherniqorod position of Baku was brought under control. But the enemy strengthened with additional forces in this region and inflicted heavy losses on the 38th and 107th Regiments by the fire of the machine gun in the roofs and the sides of buildings. The enemy retreated under pressure of artillery fire.

The occupation of Baku by Turks had a serious impact on the allied states. After the occupation of Baku by Turkish Army, the Soviet government notified the German government of its decision to cut its ties with Turkey and on September 20, 1918 sent a note to

Turkey. In the note was stated that – because of the occupation of Kars, Ardahan and Batum by Turkey, as well as the occupation of Baku by the Turkish Army is contrary to the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, that's why the treaty of Brest-Litovsk was not recognized by the Soviet government.

The occupation of Baku by the Turkish Army hit England in panic. When the Turkish Army on the one hand moved from Dagestan to the north, and on the other hand to Tabriz, they decided to gain a foothold in the Caspian Sea and defend Baghdad-Anzali way.

One of the members of the Eastern Commission of the British Commonwealth General Smuts wrote about the danger of the situation: “Although at other fronts of the battle, we have forced the enemy (Turkish-German) to retreat back, but their move forward in the Caucasus, Caspian region and the North-West Iran continue. This situation very closely concerned England and the position of the United Kingdom in Asia. If the enemy will arrive in Central Iran and Afghanistan the next spring, then the situation on the borders of India will make our military presence paralyzed in the region from Thessaloniki and Palestine to the Middle Asia” [6, TAR Kol., K. 1, D, 1, F. 1-12].

Activities of the Islamic Army of the Caucasus in Azerbaijan after the peace of Mudros

When Nuru pasha received an order from the Ministry of the Ottoman Military about the liberty of Baku, on November 8, 1918 he wrote a letter to the British command in Anzali and stated that he began to release the terri-

tory but there were some difficulties during resettlement: “The Ottoman Army began to recede to Batum. The mentioned command was specifically informed about the withdraw of the Army in the Northern Caucasus which is not under my command. Due to some financial problems during transport the operation of the withdraw will be extended and the plan will to be executed within the specified time. The army in the Northern Caucasus is forced to withdraw via Baku. It is impossible to determine when the last Ottoman soldier will leave Baku. The time of the surrendering of Baku to you was not expressed in the order sent to me. In my opinion the issue of Baku belongs to the current Republic of Azerbaijan and its army. As a result of negotiations with the government I understood that they are not opposed England and allies. I would like to add that the issue of ensuring the peace in the country is under the control of the government” [17, KO B VI – 152].

According to the 15th article of the Armistice of Mondros, Baku had to be surrendered English, but the Turkish Army surrendered Baku to its real owner - the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Firstly, the Britons refused to recognize the legitimacy of the Azerbaijani Republic and government. Then Baku was invaded again by English. The Ottoman government recommended the Government of Azerbaijan to abandon the secret activities, to get along well with Britons and its neighbors [73, p. 585-586].

Meanwhile, 10 days after the peace of Mondros, English demanded to release Kars, Ardahan and Batum using the weakness of the Ottoman

government against the unfair wishes of the Allied powers on Mosul and Iskandarun. Officer, who represents the British government which is under the sea control of the Ottomans, stated in his note sent directly to the Sadaret (current the Ministry of Internal Affairs) of the Ottoman government on November 11, 1918: "It is an honor for me to inform you about the following telegram received from the British Central Headquarters. This is an additional item to the 11th article of the armistice.

The instructions about the fully pulling back all Turkish troops and workers who were in the edge of the pre-war boundary line between Turkey and Russia, had been received by the British government. Holding of the existing units in Azerbaijan is not right, no way. For completion of this transportation is necessary the withdraw of Turkish officers and soldiers served in the Islamic Army and Nuru and Khalil Pashas', as well as Anvar's father Ahmad's army.

- the British government persistently commands until the completion of the implementation of this article of the Armistice, only after the completion of above-mentioned. I ask you to inform me about the time of order and completion of release" [17, KO B VI - 98].

The British general Thomson wrote in the letter sent on November 10, 1918 to Nuru Pasha in response to his letter sent on November 3 and 8, 1918: "On November 3 and 8 I received the letter from Nuru Pasha. On November 17, at 10.00 I will arrive in Baku. I want that there will no force of the Turkish army when I will come to

Baku. You can not deceive us by keeping the Turkish army under the name of the Azerbaijani government. If it breaks the cease-fire, then will be punished severely" [17, KO B VI -120]. Due to the British military delegation that brought the letter did not recognize the government of Azerbaijan, they met with Nuru Pasha as the commander of the Ottoman Army. Nuru Pasha said them about his resignation from the army and added that now he serves in the Government of Azerbaijan, that's why they should meet with Mursal Pasha. But the delegation insistently mentioned that the Azerbaijani government is a toy and they will not recognize it. The British staff stated that they will occupy Baku on November 17, and demanded to retreat from Baku. In response, Nuru Pasha expressed that he will hold consultations with government of Azerbaijan on the occupation of Baku, and because of he serves in this government, if the government will order, then he will defend Baku. In this case, Nuru placed the 4, 15-kilometer long coastal artillery towards the sea. He started to place them and some other reinforcement activities [18].

British General Thomson stated in his letter sent to Nuru Pasha on November 17: "to pull the Ottoman units out of Baku on November 17 in the morning. They have to leave Baku before the army in the Northern Caucasus will enter the city; and Nuru Pasha also has to go with his army" [17, KO B VI -120].

Thomson did not accepted the extension of the period of retreat, as well as Nuru Pasha's joining the Azerbaijani Army and his stay in Azerbaijan.

Three days before the day of the occupation, the government of Azerbaijan sent the delegation which consisted of N.Y. Yusufbayov, A. Aghayev and M. Rafibayli to Anzali for holding talks with General Thomson. Results of the negotiations in Anzali were not hopeful for Azerbaijan. Thus, the English did not want to recognize the Azerbaijani government. During the talks with Azerbaijani delegations, English general said that: "it is not a state formed by the will of Azerbaijani people, this is a government that established with the support of the Turkish Army. If you claim otherwise, then we will make decision in situ" [17, KO B VI -99].

So, after long negotiations, on November 17 the British ships and the fleet of Tsarist Russia came to Baku. The Minister of Foreign Affairs met General Thomson. At that time Thomson said that he came to say that the war ended and to provide the peace. But in the declaration which he signed after two days, he expressed his thanks to Russian people for great contribution to the victory. These negotiations had a negative impact on the Muslim population. When the Britons came to Baku, 500 soldier of 1500-man army of Azerbaijan served in Baku, and the other part served in different regions of Azerbaijan. [18].

Conclusion: Azerbaijan is a center that has deep roots either in science and culture, or industry and commerce both in the East and the Turkic world. It has played an important role as a bridge on the roads leading to the Caucasus and Central Asia. Approximately four months Baku's blood shed to escape it from the enemy, and finally,

could be seized after a struggle that lasted 36 hours through the Turkish military forces and weapons. Not only Armenian dashnaks and Russian Bolsheviks groveled to the Turkish Army. Although General Denustervel rescued Russians and Armenians who were in Iran and the South Azerbaijan, but the Britons under his command also were among the losers.

British military forces, seemingly came to Baku to help Armenians and Russians. If so, the British troops had to go to Armenia to help. But in fact, they came to Baku to stop the Ottoman Turks who moved to the Middle Asia and the Caucasus in order to ensure the unity and integrity of the Turkish nations.

The Britons regarded that the unit of the Ottoman Turks and a great Turkish population in the Middle Asia will be a real threat to its large colony India. He wanted to make the Turkish Army stay in Baku, and so, prevent their move to the Eastern and Northern shores of the Caspian Sea. All sense and purpose of Britons are aimed to protect the British colonial empire and India.

Armies of "the empire on which the sun never sets" had suffered defeat near Baku as it was in Chanagala and Gut. This army lost its commander in this defeat, Thomson substituted Denusterville. According to the military sources, the Britons who were equipped with all kinds of weapons and ammunition, as well as did not suffer from the lack of food and clothes, lost one-third of delegation that came to Baku and they had to return.

Russia deprived the nations living in the Caucasus of any kind of

rights and freedom. The nations living in the region faced with a policy of assimilation and Russification nearly 100 years. After the collapse of the Russian Tsardom in the First World War, Azerbaijanis in the Caucasus rose up in order to gain freedom, they declared their independence and established the first Parliamentary Republic in the East. Although some difficulties, European country and the United States of America recognized this movement of independence.

The Turkish armed forces fought with an unprecedented dedication. It was a step took for the liberation and awakening of Turks when there was need for soldier, firstly the 5th Caucasian Division, and then the 15th infan-

try Division were sent to Azerbaijan. The Turkish Islamic Army of the Caucasus could reach the 9th Army in Tabriz in the South Azerbaijan via Baku-Lankoran. From here they could move to Turkustan. Also it was not taken into account that military troops in Dagestan are away from the main army. This sacrifice of the Ottoman Empire which was in tough situation, should be especially noted. However, it could be obtained new human sources in political point of view and interms of the same interest of the common people. Sons of the same nation shed the blood together and it also strengthened the unity and solidarity among the Turkish people living in Anatolia and Azerbaijan.

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