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Qarabağ xanlığının siyasi coğrafiyası

Xülasə

Bəhs olunan məqalədə Azərbaycanın dövlətçilik tarixində mühüm yer tutan Qarabağ xanlığının siyasi coğrafiyası və sərhəd məsələləri dərinlən nəzərdən keçirilir. Elmi araşdırmalar sübut edir ki, xanlığın yerləşdiyi tarixi coğrafiya qədim zamanlardan etibarən Kür və Araz çaylarının qovuşduğu strateji arealı, həmçinin bu çaylar arasındakı bərkətlili düzənlikləri və uca dağlıq zonaları tam şəkildə əhatə etmişdir. Antik dövrün mənbələrinə əsasən, Qarabağ bölgəsi Qafqaz Albaniyasının ayrılmaz tərkib hissəsi olan Uti və Arsak vilayətlərindən ibarət idi. Albaniyanın sağ sahil əraziləri hesab edilən bu torpaqlar orta əsrlər boyu müxtəlif siyasi proseslərin mərkəzində olmuşdur. Dövrün mürəkkəb siyasi şəraiti və hərbi münaqişələri nəticəsində Qarabağın inzibati sərhədləri zaman-zaman dəyişmiş, əraziləri gah daralmış, gah da genişlənmişdir. Azərbaycan Səfəvi imperiyasının yüksəlişi ilə bu ərazidə geniş səlahiyyətlərə malik Qarabağ bəylərbəyliyi təsis edildi. Bu nəhəng inzibati vahid daha sonra müstəqil Gəncə və Qarabağ xanlıqlarının yaranması üçün fundamental ərazi-idatəetmə bazası rolunu oynadı. Pənahəli xanın əsasını qoyduğu Qarabağ xanlığı məhz Kür və Araz çayları arasındakı tarixi torpaqlarımızda müstəqil dövlət qurumu kimi bərqərar oldu. Tədqiqat işində xanlığın 21 mahal və 5 məliklikdən təşkil olunmuş daxili inzibati idarəetmə sistemi, paytaxt Şuşa qalasının unikal məhəllə strukturu və əhalinin demografik tərkibi ilkin mənbələr əsasında geniş təhlil edilir. Məqalədə xanlığın sərhədləri, tərkibindəki mahalların coğrafi hüdudları və tarixi əhəmiyyət kəsb edən məntəqələri elmi dəqiqliklə təsvir olunur.

Açar sözlər: *Qarabağ, vilayət, ərazi, xanlıq, mahal, qala, şəhər, sərhəd.*

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Political Geography of Karabakh Khanate

Abstract

The article examines the political geography of the Karabakh Khanate. It is clear from the researches that the territory where the Karabakh Khanate was located since ancient times covered the mountainous and lowland areas between the Kura and Araz rivers. In ancient times, the Karabakh region formed the Uti and Arsakh provinces of Caucasian Albania. These provinces were located on the right bank of Albania. During the Middle Ages, the borders of Karabakh underwent a certain change, and under the dictates of the political conditions of the period, its territories sometimes decreased and sometimes increased. With the establishment of the Safavid State of Azerbaijan, a new administrative-territorial unit, the Karabakh beylerbeylik, was established in this geography. However, the Karabakh beylerbeylik covered a wider geography. Later, Ganja and Karabakh

khanates were formed in the territory of beylerbeylik. Karabakh Khanate was formed between Araz and Kura rivers. The research describes in detail the complex administrative structure of the Karabakh khanate, consisting of 21 mahals (districts) and 5 (meliklik) principalities, as well as the neighborhood system and demographic landscape of the capital city of Shusha. All this is investigated in the article on the basis of sources of the period, historical literature, the boundaries of the territories, districts, historically distinguished territories included in the Karabakh Khanate are indicated.

Keywords: *Karabakh, province, territory, khanate, mahal (county), fortress, city, border.*

Introduction

After the collapse of the Empire of Nadir Shah Afshar, the political conditions of the period and the influence of socio-political processes left a deep imprint on the subsequent historical development of Azerbaijan. The territories of Azerbaijan entered the world political history not as a single and centralized state, but as fragmented. This process, which began in the 40s of the XVIII century, continued until the beginning of the XIX century. During this period, 20 khanates, 5 sultanates and 5 meliklik were established in the territory of historical Azerbaijan and continued their existence in a certain period of time. One of such khanates formed in the northern territories of Azerbaijan was the Karabakh Khanate.

Investigation

The geographical area of the Karabakh Khanate in the period of ancient and Middle Ages. The territory of Karabakh covers the mountainous and lowland areas of Azerbaijan between the Kura and Araz rivers from ancient times. The favorable natural and geographical conditions of the region served as the basis for the emergence of a primordial civilization here, the passage of a great evolutionary path. Caves such as Azykh, Taglar, Zar existed in Karabakh were included in the geography of places where people lived in the most ancient times (Azərbaycan arxeologiyası, 2006, p.55-56).

The territory of Karabakh formed the territory of Uti and Artsakh provinces of Albania, one of the ancient states of Azerbaijan in antiquity and early Middle Ages. After the Arab occupation, Uti, located mainly on the plain, began to be called Aran, and Artsakh-Agwan (Mustafazadə, 2009, p.22).

The Uti and Artsakh provinces were located on the Right Bank of Albania and were called nahangs (giants). Uti province was bordered by Paytakaran province of Albania in the east and Artsakh province of Albania in the south. And in the north it was surrounded by the Kura River. The province extended to the Iberian borders in the west (Məmmədova, 1993, p.90). According to Musa Kalankatli, the city of Barda, the capital of Albania, built in the 5 century, was located in this province. Since 551 the city of Barda has become a permanent residence of the Albanian catholicos, and since 630-the residence of the great Albanian Princes Varaz-Grigor, Javanshir and others from the Mehranid dynasty (Məmmədova, 1993, p.90-91).

Albanian historian M.Kalankatli writes that the Uti province of Albania was inhabited by uti, gargars and savdeys, who were considered descendants of the eponymous ruler of the lowlands. And this allows us to consider the utis, gargars and savdeys as the most ancient local tribes that were part of the Albanian Union (Məmmədova, 1993, p.91).

Albanian scientist F.Mammadova writes that Uti province was under the rule of Albanian rulers Arshakis in the I-VI centuries, and Meharnis in the VI-VIII centuries. At the beginning of the IV century, Christianity became the state religion in Uti, as in the whole country. There were two large and important bishoprics here. One of them was the bishopric of Barda and the other Girdiman (Məmmədova, 1993, p.91). Musa Kalankatli writes that Uti province was subjected to the crusade of the Huns in the 5 century. Later, the province was transformed into a Sassanid-Byzantine Arena (Kalankatli, 2006, p.19-22).

One of the provinces of Right-Bank Albania was Arsakh. The area covered the mountainous part of Karabakh and part of the mile plain. Artsakh was divided into 12 small provinces. The population of the region was mainly gargars, uti, hunns and khazars. The province was politically dominated by

Albanian Arshakis in the I-VI centuries and Mehranis in the VI-VIII centuries (Məmmədova, 1993, p.94).

Thus, the analysis and study of the primary sources shows that the geographical area where the Karabakh Khanate was located was the rightshore provinces of Albania during the ancient and medieval periods, and covered mountainous and flat areas between the Kura and Araz rivers.

It is known that since the VII century, the territories of the South Caucasus were attacked by Arabs. From this period, the territories of Azerbaijan came under the rule of the Arabs, the independence of Albania was put an end. The Karabakh region of Azerbaijan was subordinated to the Arabs. After the weakening of Arab domination in Azerbaijan in IX century, independent states began to be established in the territories of Azerbaijan. One of such states that appeared on the territory of Azerbaijan was the state of Shaddadids. The territory of this state mainly covered the Kura River in the north, the Araz River in the south, Beylagan region in the east, and Arran lands stretching to the Khunan fortress in the west (Azərbaycan tarixi, 1993, p.138).

After the fall of the Shaddadid state, the territories of Azerbaijan came under the control of the Seljuks. In 1136, the Atabey state was established in the territories of Azerbaijan. In this regard, Z.Bunyadov writes that Shamsaddin Eldaniz subjected to his authority a huge territory stretching from the Caucasus Mountains to the Iranian Gulf. The territory under the rule of Eldeniz stretched from the gates of Tbilisi to Makran. He mastered Azerbaijan, Arran, Shirvan, Jibal, Hamadan, Gilan, Mazandaran, Isfahan, Rey (Bünyadov, 2007, p.56). As can be seen from the data, the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan was among the territories of the Azerbaijani Atabeys since the beginning of the XII century.

Since the middle of the XIII century, the period of Hulaguids has begun in the political history of Azerbaijan, including its Karabakh region. The Karabakh region, like many other territories, is subordinated to the Hulaguides and almost certainly becomes one of the regions where the Hulaguides pay the main attention. Speaking about the political geography of the Karabakh region, the prominent Azerbaijani historian Vagif Piriyeu writes that the name of Azerbaijan applied to the picturesque areas between the Kura and Araz Rivers is associated with the arrival of the Mongol-Turkic tribes in the country and the acquisition of power by the Hulakus. This territory was the territory of Caucasian Albania, it mainly included the provinces of Arsakh, Sunik, Uti, Sakasena and Paytakaran, and was also known by this name. The central part of the territory became known under the Mongols as "Arran Karabakh". This term is first mentioned in connection with the interpretation of the events of 1284. In F.Rashidaddin's work "Jame at-tevarikh" he writes that in the same year in Arran Karabakh they executed Hulagi Prince Kongurt. It is no coincidence that this territory is called "Arran Karabakh". Because under this name there are places in many countries of the East (Piriyeu, 2002, p. 99).

Speaking about the medieval political geography of Karabakh, V.Piriyeu writes that medieval authors in many cases equate Karabakh with Arran. However, studies show that Arran covered much wider areas. Unlike the Arran of the Arab period, The Late Medieval Arran only covered the area between the Kura and Araz rivers. Its border passed through Lake Goycha, and the border with Georgia passed through the Debed river through the Hunan fortress. Karabakh covered a certain part of The Late Middle Ages Arran (Piriyeu, 2002, p. 100).

Azerbaijani historian Abu Bakr al Ahari writes that Karabakh was the capital of Arran. Hamdullah Qazvini noted that Karabakh stretched to the Araz River. A trade route passed through it, which began at the junction of the Kura-Araz River and extended to Tbilisi. The author further writes that the section of the Karabakh trade route to Tbilisi was 54 farsangs (Piriyeu, 1993, p. 98-99). H.Qazvini also lists the main cities and settlements on that road.

In the mountainous part of Karabakh, in the territories of Artsakh and Uti, the Principality of Khachin existed in the XII-XIII centuries. It was a county within the Arran of the cross and included mountainous and wooded areas. Khachin fortress, located on the territory of Agdam, on the Right Bank of Khachinchay, was the center and main fortification of the Principality. It covered the territory of Javanshir District of about the beginning of XX century (Piriyeu, 1993, p. 100).

The territory of Karabakh was one of the 13 provinces of the Safavid state of Azerbaijan, which was established at the beginning of the XVI century, and had the status of beylerbeylik. The city of Ganja was the center of the beylerbeylik (Bayramlı, 2006, p. 101). Referring to the Persian-language sources of the time, Z.Bayramlı writes that the territory of the Karabakh beylerbeylik included such districts as Zayam, Barda, Akhlabad, Javanshir, Bargushad, Karaagaj, Lori, Pambak, Arasbar, Suma and Targvar. For the first time this name is found in the work of Hamdullah Mustofi Qazvini "Nuzhat Al-qulub" (Bayramlı, 2006, p. 104). According to V. Minorsky, this geographical invasion was associated with the name of the Turkic province of the same name, which once lived here, today there are no traces of it (Bayramlı, 2006, p. 104).

The outstanding Russian Orientalist I.P.Petrushevsky, talking about the Karabakh beylerbeylik, writes that the central city of the ancient Arran land, located between the Araz and Kura Rivers, was Ganja. The territory of the beylerbeylik stretched to Tbilisi. After 1554, Gazakh and Shamshaddil, Zayam from the time of Shah Abbas I, and in the last years of the rule of the Safavids, Kakheti and Zangazur were also subordinated to Karabakh beylerbeylik (Петрушевский, 1949, p. 117). However, the territory and borders of Karabakh underwent changes in the XVI-XVII centuries. One of the main reasons for this was the occupation of Karabakh by the Ottomans in the course of the Safavid-Ottoman Wars, The transfer of the territory or district of individual administrative units from one province to another. In the 40s of the XVIII century, Karabakh and Ganja khanates were formed in the territory of Karabakh beylerbeylik.

The territory of the Karabakh Khanate in the XVIII-early XIX centuries. One of the main sources of attention on the territory and borders of the Karabakh region is the "Gence-Qarabagh eyaletinin mufessel defteri" ("Detailed notebook of the Ganja-Karabakh province"), the Ottoman source of the XVIII century. From the information of the detailed book it is clear that the territory of Karabakh began from Beylagan and stretched to Tbilisi (Gəncə-Qarabağ əyalətinin müfəssəl dəftəri, 2000, p. 6-7).

According to the detailed book of Ganja-Karabakh province dated 1727, changes took place in the north-west and south regions of the province in territorial and administrative terms. According to the division, the province consisted of 37 Livas (pins) and two wrecks, connecting 5 districts. The borders of the province continued along the Kura River in the north, from the confluence of the Kur with the Araz river to the west along the Araz River, to Bargushad, and from here in the north, through the eastern part of Goycha lake, to the north again, to the southern part of Borchali, which entered the Tiflis province, and to Lori (Gəncə-Qarabağ əyalətinin müfəssəl dəftəri, 2000, p. 7).

From the detailed notebook dated 1727, it is clear that there were such areas in the province as Talysh, Gulustan, Yevlag-Garamanli, Barda, Incarud, Sir, Bayat, Khachin Sighnag, Chilabard, Koshtek, Varanda Sighnag, Dizag, Kocharz, Zaris, Keshtasf, Arasbar, Hakari, Bargushad, Chilandar (Gəncə-Qarabağ əyalətinin müfəssəl dəftəri, 2000, p. 7). Thus, from the Ottoman sources of the XVIII century, it can be seen that the territory of the Karabakh region covered a vast territory, starting from the Kura River and ending with Tbilisi.

In the 40s of the XVIII century, under the influence of political and economic processes in the region, the territories of Azerbaijan lost the centralized state administration apparatus. As a result of all this, Azerbaijan entered the scene of political history fragmented, small states and khanates appeared on the territory of Azerbaijan. The Karabakh Khanate was formed in the territories of Azerbaijan between the Araz and Kura rivers.

The territory of the Karabakh Khanate was divided into 21 districts, including 5 melikliks. The county was ruled by the naibs. Some large mahals were ruled not by one, but by two judges. The Khanate included such districts as Sisyan, Demirchihasanlı, Kupara, Bargushad, Bagabyurd, Kabirli, Tativ, Javanshir, Talish, Khachin, Kolanilar, Chilabyurd, Khirjapara Dizag, Pusyan, Dizag Javanshir, Otuziki, Karachorlu, Varanda, Dizag and Acnan Turk (Abasov, 2007, p. 64).

It is clear from the investigations that the Sisyan District of the Karabakh Khanate was located in the southwestern part of the Khanate. During the period when the Khanate was abolished, this district

included 9 villages (Описание Карабахской провинции, 1866, p. 59). These villages were Pirnaut, Akhlatiyan, Shikhlar, Arafsa, Sisyan, Uz, Ruth, Gurts, Dastekirt.

One of the districts of the Karabakh Khanate was Demirchihasanlı. Eight villages were located in the county (Описание Карабахской провинции, 1866, p. 65).

6 villages were located in Kupara District of Karabakh Khanate. Bargushad District of the Karabakh Khanate was located on the left bank of the Araz River, in the south-western part of the Khanate. From the data of 1823 it is clear that there were only 5 villages in this county (Описание Карабахской провинции, 1866, p. 77-92).

Part of the Kabirli District of the Karabakh Khanate fell into the Mil plain, the other part into the mountainous part of Karabakh. Kabirli district was ruled by two people. In total, 902 families lived in the county (Описание Карабахской провинции, 1866, p.134).

One village, 32 oymags, was located in Javanshir District of Karabakh Khanate (Описание Карабахской провинции, 1866, p.150). There were 9 carvings in Kolanilar District of Khanate. Khirdapara Dizag district consisted of 12 villages. 18 villages and 617 families lived in Dizag Javanshir district (Описание Карабахской провинции, 1866, p. 162).

The Varanda District of the Karabakh Khanate started from South Kirs mountain in the west and extended to Shusha River and Khalfali in the north. To the East, the county's land also covered part of the Mile plain (Описание Карабахской провинции, 1866, p. 207). Mirza Yusif Garabaghi, one of the Azerbaijani historians of the XIX century, describing the borders of the Varanda Principality, writes that the Varanda district starts from Mount Kirs and extends to the Alibaba plain. The width reaches the Kirs River and the Caliphate. This is a very fertile area (Qarabağnamələr, 1991, p. 12).

Describing the Khachin District of the Karabakh district M.Y.Karabagi writes that Khachin district starts from the river eni Garagar and ends in Gabarti. The long one goes from Girkhgiz and Mikhtokan mountain to The Bayat forest (Qarabağnamələr, 1991, p. 13). The author also widely talks about the Chilabord District of the Karabakh Khanate. He writes that the length of the Chilabord district begins at Forty, and ends at the edge of Barda and Bayat forest. The width of the district extends from Khachin and Gabarti Rivers to Tartar River. The fortress called the Charmikh is located in this county (Qarabağnamələr, 1991, p. 14).

The Dizag District of Karabakh Khanate started from Hekari River and Kultepe and stretched to Maltepe in the East, and started from Araz River and reached Khurat mountain in the South. M.Y.Garabaghi writes that the population of Dizag district moved from Anatolia and settled here (Qarabağnamələr, 1991, p. 12).

The political and administrative center of the Karabakh Khanate was the city of Shusha. According to the data of 1823, the city of Shusha was divided into 3 parts. These were Tabrizli, Gazanchali and Ayisli (Описание Карабахской провинции, 1866, p. 8-22).

Each quarter had its own head, which was called the head of the quarter (Abasov, 2007, p. 66). At the beginning of the XIX century in Shusha were Gurdul, Seyidli, Julfullular, Quyluk, Chukhur, four Gurd, Haji Yusifli, Dordler Chinar, Chol Qala, Mardinli, hourly, Kohreli, Maman, Hoca Mirjanli, Demirchi, Hallag Gabar and Taz neighborhoods (Abasov, 2007, p. 58).

Conclusion

Thus, the research shows that the territory of the Karabakh Khanate is one of the regions of Azerbaijan that continues historical, political and cultural relations of succession. This region was called as Uti, Arsakh, Agvan, Arran in historical sources, and since XII century it began to be mentioned as Karabakh in sources. In a certain historical period, the territory of the Karabakh region was gradually reduced under political conditions, and certain territories were included in one or another region. However, during the khanates, the territory of Karabakh covered the territories between the Kura and Araz rivers.

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