

Southern Khanates of Azerbaijan in the Documents of the Russian State Military Historical Archive

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Abstract

Starting from the beginning of the 19th century, Azerbaijan became the battlefield of two great powers, Russia and the Qajar Empire. After 30 years of intermittent war, the territory of Azerbaijan was occupied and divided by these two states. The Russo-Iranian war also resulted in the division of the historical territory of Azerbaijan into two parts. As the result, the concepts of North and South Azerbaijan were created. Since 1828, eleven Azerbaijani khanates located in the south of the Aras River fell under Qajar rule. However, in spite of this, in the 80 years of their existence, these khanates implemented an independent internal and foreign policy and had political weight in the region. The economic, political and cultural life of the khanates has been the subject of research at different times. Various sources, including foreign ones, were used in these studies. Russian sources stand out among these sources. Thus, a valuable document base has been collected in the archives of the Russian Empire, which began military expansion in the region from the beginning of the 18th century. Among these archives, the Russian state military-historical archive stands out. Since the archive specializes in the protection of military documents, the documents of military operations carried out by Russia in the Caucasus are preserved here. Documents also contain information about the Southern khanates of Azerbaijan. This information is mainly about the political, economic, geographical, cultural and social life of the khanates. The article is dedicated to researching the history of Southern khanates based on these materials.

Keywords: Russian Empire, khanates, archive, fund, material, monograph, territory, war

Introduction

In the second half of the 18th century, shortly after the death of Nadir Shah (in 1747), the Afshar state, founded by him, collapsed. As a result of the collapse of the state, independent khanates headed by local feudal lords emerged in the historical territory of Azerbaijan, which was included in the empire of Nadir Shah. New independent states such as Karabakh, Sheki, Guba, Shirvan, Talish, Iravan, Ganja, Baku,

Nakhichevan, Derbend, Qaradagh, Tabriz, Khoy, Maki, Urmia, Maraga, Sarab were formed on the territory of Azerbaijan (Mustafazade, 2002). These new khanates had a strong economic and political base. For this reason, Azerbaijani khanates conducted a fairly independent policy in the years of their formation.

Starting from the end of the 18th century, the independent Azerbaijani khanates began to be attacked by the Russian and Qajar empires of the neighboring great powers. The struggle of these two states for Azerbaijan led to two major wars. After the war of 1804-1813, the Treaty of Gulistan in 1813 (Mustafazade, 2002; Shukurov, 2006) and after the war of 1826-1828, the territory of Azerbaijan was divided between Russia and the Qajar state in 1828 with the Treaty of Turkmenchay (Shukurov, 2006). New borders between both empires were defined along the Aras River. The part of Azerbaijan in the Transcaucasia was united to Russia, and the part south of the Aras River to the Qajar state. Bridges of Khudafarin on the Aras River became an important junction located on transcontinental roads (Chingizoglu, 2014).

With the division of the territory of Azerbaijan into two parts at the beginning of the 19th century, the south territories of the Aras River, which formed the region historically known as Azerbaijan, became the new north western border of the Qajar Empire, and later Iran. As a result of this division, the North and South Azerbaijan provinces were gradually formed. The territory of North Azerbaijan began to be called the part located north of the Aras river, and South Azerbaijan was called the part located south of Aras. For this reason this is why, the expressions North and South Azerbaijan khanates began to be used in Azerbaijani historiography.

Starting from the middle of the 20th century, the history of the Azerbaijani khanates located north of Aras was involved in extensive research. Many monographs and works were published on the political, economic and cultural life of the khanates. However, the Azerbaijani khanates located south of Aras, unlike the Northern khanates, were not involved in extensive research. In the historiography of Azerbaijan during the Soviet period, South Azerbaijani khanates were mainly reflected in the researches of Hasan Dalili, Seyidagha Onullahi, N. Iskhaqi, H. Abdullayev. In the years of independence, several monographs of J. Mustafayev, Anvar Chingizoglu and Tofiq Mustafazade were dedicated to the history of the Southern khanates (Bayramzade & Rahimli, 2014; Dalili, 1976).

In these studies, the researchers mainly touched upon the political, economic and cultural life of the Southern khanates. The researchers wrote down the information about the khanates mainly from Russian, Persian and local sources. The sources we

mentioned are documents related to khanates and materials that provide general information about the social, economic, political, social and cultural life of that time.

The main source base in the study of the southern khanates

In addition to Persian sources, Russian sources also have an important data base for the study of the history of the southern khanates of the 18th-19th centuries. Thus, in the archives of the former Russian Empire, documents can be found providing sufficient information about the political, economic and cultural life of the khanates. These data are mainly categorized and classified military documents of the empire, correspondence, spy reports, memorial diaries, etc. Starting from the 18th century, official state documents reflecting the military expansion of the Russian Empire to Azerbaijan are currently kept in the Russian state archives. Some of the materials related to the southern khanates are among the documents preserved in the Russian State Military History Archive. The archive also preserves documents and letters of the army sent on a trip to the Caucasus, personal affairs of officers and soldiers, and materials reflecting the political situation of Azerbaijan (Mustafazade, 2020). The documents in the RSMHA funds include official diplomatic correspondence between the Qajar dynasty, the Southern Khans of Azerbaijan and the Russian Empire, military letters, spy reports, requests to the emperor, trade agreements and reviews (History Institute named after A.A. Bakikhanov, Scientific Archive, 1750). Moreover, the documents preserved in the funds contain information describing the local geographical conditions, economic, political and cultural situation in detail (Dmitrochenkova, 2009).

Most of the documents related to concerned with Azerbaijan are the 846th of RSMHA preserved in the fund (Military Scientific Archive collection). Since fund No. 846 is an organizing fund, there are also funds within it. Documents showing the course of military operations against Iran and Transcaucasia in through the years 1803-1813 are kept in storage folder 1 of fund 475 included in fund 846. Among these documents, there are materials reflecting the political and economic situation of the southern khanates. In the 17 storage folders of the 476th fund, there are also documents related to the Russian-Iranian war of 1826-1827. The march of the Russian imperial army to the southern khanates and the progress of military operations in them were reflected in the documents (Garkusha, 2011). Among all these documents, place materials concerned with South Azerbaijan khanates have received special attention. Among the documents of the archive, the names of Urmiya, Rasht, Ardabil, Tabriz, Khoy, Garadag khans appear in the register of

Azerbaijani khans (History Institute named after A.A. Bakikhanov, Scientific Archive, 1803).

It should be noted that in addition to the official state correspondence in the archive, overviews and descriptions can also be considered as valuable historical sources. In this regard, one of the most interesting documents on the history of the Southern khanates stored in the Russian state military history archive is a 23-page short volume published in Kursk in 1793 by the Tsarist army colonel and spy Stepan Burnashev. His work is called "Description of Azerbaijani provinces in Persia and their political situation". In the work, Burnashev provides general information about Azerbaijani khanates and important political forces. Burnashev writes that the land called Azerbaijan is bordered by Kartli-Kakheti kingdom from the north, the Caspian Sea and Gilan province from the east, and the Ottoman Empire from the west (Mustafazade, 2020). In his description, S. Burnashev mentions the names of Garadagh, Ardabil, Tabriz, Maragha, Urmiya, Khoi khanates and gives a brief reference about them. He also lists the city of Mishkin as a serious political force, as well as tribes such as Shagghi and Shahsevan (Mustafazade, 2020).

A large number of reports and letters of Stepan Burnashev, who acted as both a military representative and a spy in the territory of Azerbaijan, are stored in the archive. In these documents signed by Burnashev, it is possible to get information about the political and economic situation of all Azerbaijan, including the khanates located south of Araz. Burnashev, who served as Russia's military representative in Tbilisi, constantly sent information about the political situation in the South Caucasus to Emperor Paul I (Burnashev, 1773).

The archive also contains a collection of documents that reflect the strengthening of Russia's political influence over the Azerbaijani khanates, especially during the wars between the Russian Empire and the Gajar state. During the wars, the correspondence between a group of the southern khanates of Azerbaijan and the Russian emperor and the heads of the army sent by him allows for a deep study of their foreign policy. It is clear from the letters that the Khans wanted to secure their independence from the Russian Empire. The Russian side also promised to help them. But the subsequent course of events showed that this was only a promise. Correspondence with the Russian Empire of the Khans of Tabriz, Ahmed Khan, Najafgulu Khan, (History Institute named after A.A. Bakikhanov, Scientific Archive, 1830) Ardabil Khan Nazareli Khan, (History Institute named after A.A. Bakikhanov, Scientific Archive, 1750) Khoi Khan Jafargulu Khan, Sarab Khan Jahangir Khan, Garadag Khan Abbasgulu Khan, and Maragha Khan Ahmad Khan are preserved in the archive (Dalili, 1979).

Description of Major Matushevich

In terms of studying the history of the southern khanates at the beginning of the 19th century, another valuable document is kept in the archive fund No. 846. The document "Description of the roads from Artik to Tabriz" dated September 10, 1806 by Major Matushevich is about the main transport routes between the northern and southern khanates of Azerbaijan. In his description, Matushevich mainly talks in detail about the roads passing through Karabakh, Iravan and Nakhchivan khanates and their condition. The main road to Tabriz is described. Major Matushevich states that the road from Ertak settlement located in the territory of the Yerevan Khanate to Tabriz passes through Nakhchivan and Ordubad along the left bank of the Araz River, and then goes in the direction of Mehri and Gafan. He notes that artillery can pass through these roads only in the summer months. He writes that there is an easy way from Nakhchivan to Tabriz. He writes that the shallowest place of Araz is near Julfa (Agayaan, 1972).

When Matushevich describes the road from Artik to Tabriz in his report, he names all the settlements along this road. It clearly describes the city of Nakhchivan and the fortress. He writes that the city of Nakhchivan is located where the height of the Karabakh mountains decreases towards the Araz river. According to him, the city is located 1 ½ trees (9 versts) from the Araz river. He states that there is a distance of 12 trees from Nakhchivan to Khoy. 1 ½ trees of this is the distance to the Araz river. The road is suitable for transporting heavy artillery. Araz is not deep and its stream is calm, so it is not difficult to cross it (Agayaan, 1972).

The distance from Nakhchivan to Tabriz along the old Julfa road is only 6 trees. The shallowest place in the area is near Julfa, and the most convenient crossing over the river is located here. There is a ferry on 6 boats. 50 people and several horses can pass over it. There are also such ferries in the villages of Yajci and Barashi in front of Ordubad city. The distance from Julfa to Yaycı village on a small road in Ordubada is 2 trees. There is a distance of 4 trees from Yajci to Ordubad. The road is good, some parts are paved with stones. There are 4 villages between Yajci and Ordubad. In the city of Ordubad, there is a naryn-kala on a high hill like in Nakhchivan. The walls of Naryn-kala are so old that they are about to collapse. There are no defense walls like the ones found in Nakhchivan. Ordubad, located 1 tree away from Araz, is one of the main sources of income of Nakhchivan Khan. More than 1000 families live here. There is a horse road from Ordubad along the coast of Araz, passing through Mehri and Khudafarin. Two branches of the road

from Julfa to Tabriz pass through the village of Alamghercham. The part of the road through the village is in very good condition. However, the sanitary condition of ½ of the trees on the road is in poor condition and should be cleaned. There are mills that open to the road. From here to the village of Tatarzami, there is a distance of 1 ½ trees. There are 400 houses in Tatarzami village (Agayaan, 1972).

There are 3 trees and a road in a good condition from Tatarzami village to Maran. Along the road there are many rivers, Tatar and Armenian villages are located. He writes that the city of Marand is surrounded by a small fortress. The castles have small constellations and indicates the presence of a large number of gardens. He writes that there are 1000 families in Marand, and 500 houses around (Abdullayev, 1982).

Sapian village with 100 households 6 trees away from Marand. He writes that there is a good caravanserai and a guest house at a distance of 2 ½ trees from Sapian in the direction of Marand. It says that there is a distance of 7 trees from the village of Sapian to Tabriz. He notes that this road is straight and of good quality, there are many villages, fields and gardens along the road (Agayaan, 1972).

On the road from Tabriz to Orduba, the village of Lilo is 4 trees away, and the village of Bashiri along the Kurdash river is 2 trees away. It is possible to cross the heights along the road on horseback. So, here there are natural conditions for both water and feeding of horses. There is a distance of 3 trees from Bashir to Mujambar village. Sabalan village is 3 trees away from this village towards Tabriz (372). From that spot, there are 3 wooden roads to Tabriz. The road is suitable for horses. Food and water are plentiful. When you reach Tabriz, you will find the Aci river. Bitter tea is large. But it is not difficult to pass it. The water of the river is bitter, so the population does not use its water. Since there are many springs around, the population uses their water. There are many villages along the road from Tabriz to Nakhchivan. There is no forest along the way. There is a distance of 24 trees from Tabriz to Khoy. To go from Khoy to Nakhchivan, you need to travel 12 trees (Agayaan, 1972).

According to Matusevic's description, Tabriz is a large commercial and cultural city. He writes that the city of Tabriz is located in a plain and open place. He states and describes the city itself as surrounded by fortress walls with small, round towers. The castle walls were built to protect against the attacks of nomadic tribes. They are built of red brick and stand alone. 12,000 people live in the city. There are many gardens here. Tabriz is not defensive because of its size. The townspeople are mainly engaged in trade and painting (Agayaan, 1972). Matusevic's records of the residents of Tabriz being engaged in painting are also reflected in other sources. In general,

the city of Tabriz had a rich artistic tradition. In the 13th-17th centuries, Tabriz gained fame as the center of calligraphy and musical culture (Seyidagha Onullahi, 1982).

Reports of the funds of the Military Scientific Archives collection

Documents from 1726-1916 are stored in the 446th fund of the 846th organizing fund (Military Scientific Archive collection) in the collection No. 3.1.68 under the title of Iran. These files include 366 storage units. The collection includes territories that were independent at the time, but are currently included in the geography of Iran. A special place was given to the southern khanates of Azerbaijan in the mentioned collection. Fund 446 preserves a collection of official documents covering the political, economic and social life and geography of the southern khanates (Garkusha, 2011).

In 1979, Hasan Dalili authored "Southern Azerbaijan khanates" In his monograph, he compiled a political and geographical map of the southern khanates based on the documents of the Russian state military-historical archive. The map shows the borders of the khanates, rivers, caravan routes in the lowlands and partly plains, secondary mountain roads, the capitals of the khanates, and the centers of the districts. The border between the southern and northern khanates of Azerbaijan was defined along the Aras river. Dalili compiled the map based on the documents stored in fund 446 (Dalili, 1979).

In the archive, the documents reflecting the political history of the southern khanates are dominated by the correspondence of the khan palaces with the Tsarist government. Descriptions and reports of officials sent by the Russian government to the region were included among these correspondences. In the reports and descriptions, the representatives wrote their observations about the history and political situation of the khanates. In the fund, it is possible to study the history of Khoy, Garadag, Ardabil and Urmiya khanates.

In fund 446, the document "People's Road Letters of Ardabil Khanate" compiled by a Russian representative from 1828 describes the political and economic life of the Khanate. It is written in the document states that after the death of Nadir Shah, the Shahsevan tribe leaders regained their independence. The center of the independent khanate was the ancient city of Ardabil. Khanate was ruled by Badir Khan's son Nazarali Khan. During his reign, economic life of the khanate was relatively revived

(Burnashev, 1773). The Shakhsevan tribes formed the main political and military forces of the Ardabil Khanate (Tapper R. 1997).

Nazarali Khan Shahsevan

According to the information contained in the document, Nazarali Khan managed the khanate until 1792. According to those documents, Nazarali Khan was able to unite the Shahsevan tribes living in Ardabil, Khalkhal, and Mughan under an inseparable and unified state. In Ardabil Khanate, Meshgin, Namin and Mughan districts were of great importance due to their large territory and economic position. Meshgin was the second city of the province, and Namin was its largest settlement (Tapper R, 1997) After the death of Nazarali Khan, his son Nazirali Khan sat on the throne came to the power of Ardabil Khanate. In his time, as in his father's time, the Shahsevans were subject to a single center (Burnashev, 1773; Tapper R, 1997).

The document contains interesting information about the political situation of the khanate. Thus, it is written there that the complicated situation prevailing in the country after the death of Nazirali Khan led to the division of Ardabil Khanate into four parts (Burnashev, 1773). The Shahsevan tribe living in Ardabil province resisted the Qajar state for a long time even after the Turkmenchay peace treaty (1828). Finally, with the full help of Russia, the Qajars were able to subjugate the Shahsevans (Dalili, 1979). Because in 1828-1829, as a result of further military victories over the Qajar and Ottoman empires, Russia spread its influence to the entire Caucasus region and became the main military and political force. Russia extended its external borders to the Ararat Plain and "Turkish Georgia" (Akhaltsikhe Pashalyk). (Tsutsiev, 2014).

Ardabilli Farajulla Khan entrusted the largest district of the province, Meshgi, to Ata Khan, and the region of Talysh Mountains to Khudaverdi Khan. Relatives appointed to the position were given the title of khan at the same time (Burnashev, 1773).

It is possible to get information about the political administration of the khanate in the document "Public Road Letters of Ardabil Khanate" kept in the archive. The document shows that in the khanates, the clergy who belonged to the highest rank had greater privileges. Most of them have turned into large feudal lords by appropriating waqf (foundation) lands. In addition to the income from these lands, the spiritual feudal lords collected religious taxes. The khans, who were somewhat dependent on the clergy, were forced to tolerate their arbitrariness. In some places, including the city of Ardabil, which is considered the cradle of Safavid sheikhs, the chief cleric behaved almost like a completely independent judge, and the khan was forced to put up with this and settle accounts with him (Burnashev, 1773).

The central state apparatus that managed the khanates was called "Divankhana". Divankhanas were composed of high officials and their assistants, headed by khans with unlimited rights. It is known that there were positions such as vizier, mustovfi, galabayi, divanbey, gazi, treasurer head, mirza, farrash head, darga and yasavul in the khanate divan house. In addition to these, there were secondary positions in the divankhana, such as shatırbaşı and tūfangdarbaşı (Russian State Military Historical Archive, 1830).

The archive contains materials that indicate that the city of Khoi, which was the capital of the Khoi Khanate, expanded over time and was divided into two parts, like other large cities of the time - the inner part of the fortress that was built first and the surrounding parts that were formed later. The documents show that there were 8300 houses, 15 mosques, 70 shops, 6 caravanserais, many baths and other buildings of public importance in the part inside the fortress walls (Russian State Military Historical Archive, 1830).

It is possible to get information about trade and occupation of the population in the documents showing the economic and administrative situation of Khoi Khanate. Thus, in case No. 171, it is stated that the caravan route from Erzurum to Bayazid passes through Khoi. It is written that the population of Khoi district is mainly engaged in agriculture and partly cattle breeding. We get information from the document that the khanate was divided into eleven districts. Districts were ruled by influential gentlemen appointed by khans. The permanent place of residence of a group of those gentlemen was the city of Khoi, the center of the province (Sinkevich, 1828).

The archive contains documents with information about the districts and cities of the khanate. The city of Salmas, which was part of the Khoi Khanate, was surrounded by fortress walls. There were three gates in the walls of the castle opening to the north, south and west sides. Wide and deep trenches were dug around the fortress wall. In the city of Salmas, the constructions were mainly made of clay, and the archive documents show about a thousand houses here. In the city of Salmas there were 6 mosques, 82 shops and two stone caravansaries. There were also several dye shops, tanneries and other craft workshops (Sinkevich, 1828).

According to the information on sheet No. 5 of file No. 171 in the 446 fund of the archive, Aland district included in the Khoi Khanate was the smallest district of the Khanate. The district included the villages of Tikhaj, Barasur, Cakhmaq, Yarpagli, Cengishir, Gizylogul, Tudon and Baghdarsu. Chors district – located in the southeast

of Khoy district. Dargah district was also one of the smallest districts of the khanate. It included the villages of Goshabulaq, Hindivan, Almali, Garanlig, Kükurd, Klet, Habashi Ibrahim Khan, Habashi-Khutan, Rovayyan, Zeri and Isteran (Sinkevich, 1828). Khoi Khanate was ruled by Jafar Gulu Khan. (Bournoutian, 2021).

In the folder No. 171 of the fund No. 446, there is also interesting information about the history of the khan of Tabriz. Thus, among the documents of the folder, the information about the districts of Tabriz khanate is particularly noteworthy (Sinkevich, 1828). The document mainly describes two districts of economic and political importance. Guney district - located between Arvanag district, Mishodaği, Selmas district and Lake Urmiya. Its climate is healthy even though it is very hot in summer. The population was mainly engaged in agriculture and horticulture. In the summer, the population sent their cattle to the foothills of Mt. Misho (Sinkevich, 1828). The city and khanate of Tabriz was one of the most important Azerbaijani khanates south of the Araz river. During the Russo-Persian War (1804–1813), Abbas Mirza's main headquarters was located in Tabriz (Bournoutian, 2021).

There is no forest in the district, and there are few pastures and meadows. The most famous of them is the meadow called "Kabla meadow" located on the shore of Lake Urmiya. The population prepares firewood from the trees they grow artificially and takes it to Tabriz for sale. The fuel they used was mainly cattle waste (Dalili, 1979). Craftsmanship is widespread in the southern district. The shawl made especially in Shabustar was famous in the neighboring provinces for its quantity and quality (Sinkevich, 1828). The villages of the district were supplied with spring water flowing from the mountains. Part of this water was poured into underground springs, and the other part was poured led traced into the fields. A tenth of the annual grain obtained in the whole district was sent to the Khan Diwan as a tax (*malu jahat*). In addition, the Southern district had to pay a certain amount to the treasury.

Guney district included 32 villages and 6 small settlements, excluding Tasuj district. The center of the district was the village of Shabustar, which was famous for its size and productivity. The district included the following villages: Chillakhana, Sofian, Sakbin, Khorlu, Sefidkamar, Nematulla, Serkanaddizac, Kundur, Gilava, Mirzakara, Nazarli, Sarvankuna, Sas Alishah, Diza, Khalilli, Vayagan, Shindava, Shanajan, Binis, Novchada, Hazmina, Daryan, Kuzegunan, Köşk, Kemal-ul-mulk Meshin, Alibayli, Heris, Sharabkhana and Haft chesme (Dalili, 1979).

Also, the names of small settlements belonging to South district was drawn. The names of the villages of the Tasuc district, which is included in the South district, are also given. Tasuj, the center of the district, had 1100 houses, a prosperous market

and beautiful gardens. Compared to other villages of the district, grain cultivation was more widespread here (Sinkevich, 1828).

Among the documents of RSMHA, there is also a lot of information about the Ardabil Khanate, which differs among South Azerbaijani khanates due to its political and economic importance. These documents contain information about the political history, economy and geographical situation of the khanate. There is a historical reference about the city of Ardabil in folder No. 4219 in fund 846. It is written in the reference states that there are different opinions about the date of the establishment of the city of Ardabil. According to the document in the archive, its foundation was laid during the reign of the Achaemenid ruler Cyrus (Chernozubov, 1909). It is possible to get information about the social composition of the population of Ardabil city from the document No. 4319. So, according to the information on the 3rd sheet of the document, almost half of the population of Ardabil were clergymen and their families. For this reason, they were exempted from all taxes (Chernozubov, 1909).

Information about Meshkin district, the largest district of Ardabil Khanate, can be found in the document called "Military-statistical description of Meshkin district" dated 1828. The document states that it is bordered by Zakir mountain ranges, Talysh khanate from the north, Karabakh khanate from the west, Savalan mountain from the south and southeast. Ardabil as a boundary of Dujag river Meshgini on the south side separates from the district (Chingizoglu, 2014) The air of Meshkin district to other places of Ardabil relatively warm. The climate is healthy. There is enough clean and drinkable running water in Meshkin district. The district was divided into two parts: Lower Meshkin and Yukhari Meshkin (Russian State Military Historical Archive, 1830). The document provides detailed information about the geographical position of Meshkin district (Russian State Military Historical Archive, 1830). Meshkin district was strategically and commercially important because it was located on the road to Tabriz and Ardabil (Russian State Military Historical Archive, 1830). Meshkin district paid taxes in kind and money to Ardabil Khanate. The center of the district was Meshkin village of the same name. There were few defensive fortifications here (Russian State Military Historical Archive, 1830) The 6th page of the document gives a geographical description of Astara district. It is written that it is surrounded by dense forests (Russian State Military Historical Archive, 1830).

In the documents of the archive, which provide information about the social and economic life of the southern khanates, the main focus is on the occupation of the population. The main occupation of sedentary peasants living in Azerbaijani khanates was agriculture. According to local conditions, grain was cultivated in two

ways, artificial irrigation and demya. Grain was obtained through irrigation in almost all khanates. However, the cultivation of damya was widespread in mountainous areas, especially in Garadagh, Urmia and Ardabil. In many khanates, the grain harvest was more productive. For example, in the Southern district of Tabriz, 4 halvars of seeds were sown, on average 10-11 halvars were obtained per year (Sinkevich, 1828).

In the khanates, not only semi-nomads, but also the sedentary population kept cattle along with agriculture. Due to the presence of large meadows and pastures in Khoy, Garadag, Adebil and Urmiya khanates, a large amount of cattle, mainly sheep and goats, were kept in these territories (Chingizoglu, 2013) In the Khoy khanate, the people of Adyan, Shabanli and Gorukh villages around Garasu were engaged in cattle breeding rather than agriculture (Dalili, 1979). In the second half of the 18th century, one of the main occupations of the population was horticulture and horticulture. A large number of various types of fruits and melons were grown in individual khanates (Dalili, 1979). In the corresponding period, cereal plants, especially grain, cattle, oil, cheese, vegetable oils, and various agricultural products were brought to Russia from the southern khanates of Azerbaijan (Sinkevich, 1828). The Khoy Khanate's trade products included livestock, hemp, dried fruits, cotton, etc. It was sent to Russia via Shahtakht, Julfa, Nakhchivan and Yerevan (Sinkevich, 1828).

Conclusion

In nutshell, we come to the conclusion that the materials of the Russian state military history archive have an important database for the study of the political and economic life of the southern khanates of Azerbaijan. The documents stored in the archive allow to analyze the political and economic situation of the time, these documents make it possible to draw important historical conclusions:

- Unlike local and Persian sources, Russian sources took a partially neutral position when reporting on the khanates in the early days. This greatly increases the importance of information obtained from Russian sources in terms of historical research. Especially during the Russo-Persian War, the Russians treated the khanates as independent state structures and tried to get a lot of information about their political, economic and geographical situation.
- The documents stored in the Russian state military historical archive allow to fully create the historical picture of the period and complete

its research in the study of the economic, political and cultural life of the Southern khanates of Azerbaijan, along with information from other sources.

Most of the documents related to Azerbaijan are preserved in fund 846 of the archive (former Military Scientific Archive collection). Fund No. 846 includes several collections. Documents showing the course of military operations against Iran and Transcaucasia in 1803 and 1813 are stored in 23 cases of collection 475 included in fund 846. 17 cases of the 476th collection contain documents related to the Russo-Persian War of 1826-1828. These documents reflect the march of the imperial army to the southern khanates and the progress of military operations in them. (Garkusha, 2011) Among all these documents, materials related to South Azerbaijan khanates have a special place. From these materials, it is possible to get complete information about the First and Second Russo-Persian War, to learn about Russia's plans and attitude towards the Southern khanates:

- Since Russia was planning to expand its borders to the south, it intended to occupy the northern territories of the state of Qajar (Iran). The imperial court was making plans to gain access to India and the "warm seas".
- By occupying the parts below the Aras River, Azerbaijan aimed to get closer to the Anatolian part of the Ottoman Empire, with which the Russians were constantly fighting. As a result, Russia, while waging war against the Ottoman Empire, planned to attack Eastern Anatolia, one of its main strongholds, and gain support from the Christian population living there.
- The imperial court included the Southern Khanates of Azerbaijan in its plans as a raw material base for Russia's developing industry. So, most of the documents in the archive are related to the geography and natural conditions of the region.
- The study of these documents shows that Russia's desire to subdue the South Azerbaijani khanates was not realized. Thus, this intention did not come true due to the resistance of the state of Qajar, the threat of the Russians approaching India, the main colony of the British Empire, and the interests of the British themselves in the Middle East and Iran.
- After the Russo-Persian War that took place in 1826-1828, the Russian Empire could not capture the Southern Khanates. However, instead of this, Russia provided military and political support to the

Qajars, causing them to lose their independence and become part of the Qajar state.

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