

HISTORY OF THE SHAMAKHI KHANATE IN THE DOCUMENTS OF THE RUSSIAN STATE MILITARY HISTORICAL ARCHIVE

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ABSTRACT

The article is based on materials from the 18th century Russian State Military History Archive of the Shamakhi (Shirvan) Khanate, which covers the North-Eastern region of Azerbaijan. Thus, starting from the beginning of the 18th century, the Russian Empire, which was interested in the South Caucasus and the Caspian coast, sent merchants, scientists, travelers and consuls to the area to study and explore the region. These representatives studied the region, prepared various reviews, reports, and lectures. These documents are currently stored in Russian archives. In the funds of the Russian State Military History Archive, it is possible to find information about the policy of the Russian Empire towards Azerbaijan, including information about Azerbaijani khanates, cities, fortresses, villages, population, economic life, roads, bridges, etc.

Keywords: Archive, Fund, General geography, Climate, Population, City

INTRODUCTION

Shirvan region, which has been one of the most important political, economic and cultural centers of Azerbaijan since ancient times, holds a special place in the history of our country. During the Safavid Empire, the Shirvan region, which was an important region of Azerbaijan, was located in a wide geography. On the eve of the fall of the Safavid state and the collapse of Nadir Shah's empire, the Shirvan region consisted only of Shamakhi and the surrounding areas.

After the assassination of Nadir Shah Afshar in 1747, the Afshar Empire he founded collapsed shortly after. About 20 small feudal states were formed in the territory of Azerbaijan. Several of these states were established in the historical territory of Shirvan. The Shamakhi, Guba, Baku, Salyan, and Javad khanates were historically established in the Shirvan region, which covered a large geographical area. Although Salyan and Javad lost their independence shortly after, the Shamakhi, Guba, and Baku khanates played an important role in the history of Azerbaijan in the 18th and 19th centuries. In the 18th century, the Shamakhi Khanate stood out as one of the political centers of the South Caucasus.

The Shamakhi Khanate is located on the southeastern slope of the Greater Caucasus Mountains in present-day Azerbaijan, north of the Kura River. Its favorable geographical position has led to the region's ownership of trade routes since ancient times. Trade routes from Georgia, the Black Sea coast to Iran and the south passed through here, which made the region an important trade hub. Moreover, since the most convenient passage over the Kura River (Javad Pass) was here, the North-South trade route passed through it. In the 18th century, Shirvan, one of the most important political, economic and geographical regions of Azerbaijan, was in the sphere of interest of both internal and external political forces. The region, which covered the eastern coast of the Caspian Sea, controlled trade routes from the north and west. The Volga-Caspian highway, one of the safest trade routes, especially important for Russian merchants, passed through the region. It is no coincidence that when the Russian Empire began its military expansion to the Caspian coast at the beginning of the 17th century, one of the first regions to be noticed was the Shirvan region. Russia attached great importance to land routes in addition to sea trade. For this reason, Russia paid special attention to the occupation of the cities of Guba and Shamakhi, along with Derbent. The empire wanted to pass through here a new trade route connecting Europe and India. Therefore, capturing the Shirvan territories was a strategic issue for it. At the beginning of the 18th century, when Russia's interest in the region began to grow, the region was part of the Safavid state. After the collapse of the Safavid and Afshar states, the independent feudal states that emerged in the

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region fell into the sphere of interest of the Russian Empire (Abdullayev, 1982, p.12). Our main hypothesis is to show Russia's political and economic interests in the region based on archival materials.

Before Russia intervened militarily in the region, it began to explore the territory. For this reason, spies, especially military personnel, were sent to Shirvan and North-Eastern Azerbaijan under the guise of merchants, scientists, and diplomatic personnel. These spies explored the area and reported on its economic and military situation to the imperial court. Among this information are also comments on the geography, climate, natural conditions, population, and settlements of the region. These documents, in the form of reviews, reports, and lectures, are preserved in the Russian archives. These documents can be considered important sources in the study of the history of the region in the 18th century. The purpose of this research is to study the history of the Shamakhi Khanate based on the materials of the RSMHA.

Methodological basis of the study

The article is based on archival materials. The research used the funds of the Russian State Military Historical Archive and the Scientific Archive of the A.A. Bakikhanov Institute of History and Ethnology of the Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences.

Materials about the Shamakhi Khanate are stored in various archives of the Russian state, along with documents on the military expansion of Russia at the end of the 18th and beginning of the 19th centuries. Among these archives, the Russian State Military History Archive occupies one of the main places. The archive's documents play an important role in the study of the khanate period of Azerbaijani history and the Russian military expansion into Azerbaijan. Among the important documents reflecting the history of Azerbaijan in the 18th-19th centuries, there are also materials on the Shirvan Khanate in the RSMHA. Among these materials, one can find rich information about the economy, natural conditions and territory of the Shamakhi, Guba and Baku khanates.

In the mentioned archive, it is possible to obtain extensive information about the main cities of the Shamakhi Khanate, Shamakhi and New Shamakhi (present-day Agsu), as well as about the 18th-century fortress walls, palaces, caravanserais, baths, residential houses and other types of buildings. Through these documents, it is possible to study the urban planning and general architectural landscape of the period. Archival documents are a means of determining the general architectural and military character of cities, as well as providing detailed historical information about their economy, culture, demography, and political history.

The information about the Shirvan Khanate in the RSMHA funds mainly dates back to the late 17th and early 18th centuries. The archive's funds mainly preserve official diplomatic correspondence between the Shamakhi Khanate and the Russian Empire, military letters, spy reports, requests to the emperor, trade agreements, reviews and military campaigns, and military documents related to the war. The archive's fund No. 52, called Pyotomkin, contains documents expressing the interest of the Russian Empire in the South Caucasus. Among these documents, the official correspondence of Fatali Khan, the Khan of Guba, who annexed the territory of North-Eastern Azerbaijan, as well as the Shamakhi Khanate, is particularly noteworthy. From these documents it is possible to obtain detailed information about the political history of the Shamakhi Khanate in the 18th-19th centuries (Mustafazade, 2021, p. 76).

The documents related to the Russian army's march to Azerbaijan in the archive are included in the materials of the former VUA, current fund No. 846. Collection No. 468 of the Fund preserves documents from the Russian army's campaign against Azerbaijan in 1796-1797, and collection No. 475 preserves documents from the First Russian-Qajar War (Garkusha, 2011, p. 359). The documents in these collections contain information about the military campaign against the territory of the Shamakhi Khanate and its occupation.

The Scientific Archive of the A.A. Bakikhanov Institute of History and Ethnology stores the transcripts of the materials of the funds of the RSMHA. These materials are preserved in fund No. 1795. This fund includes 5 folders.

Although archival materials were used as a basis for the preparation of the article, scientific conclusions were obtained by comparing archival documents with other sources. In particular, the

information contained in the works of Azerbaijani and Western researchers played an important role in this comparison.

1. Information about the city of Shamakhi

The archive fund No.349, which specializes in storing military documents, stores documents of the Chief Engineer Department of the Ministry of War. Among these documents, plans and drawings of cities and fortresses predominate. Here are preserved drawings of plans of the cities and fortresses of Baku, Ganja, Shamakhi, Shusha, Sheki, Guba, Lankaran, Nakhchivan belonging to different years (Plans and descriptions of cities, fortresses, villages and other populated areas of the former Russian Empire, 1820, d. 3329, p.18). Documents related to the city of Shamakhi can be found in the fund. Through these documents, it is possible to study the urban development of Shamakhi and the general architectural landscape of the buildings in it.

The 21-28 sheets of the 6078 file of the 349th fund contain a plan of the city of Shamakhi drawn up in 1844 (Plan of the city of Shamakhi, 1844, d. 6078, pp. 21-28). Although Shamakhi is considered the main city of the Shirvan region, for some reason the plan differs from the plans of other cities in its inaccurate design. Thus, the plan mainly reflects the residential houses and neighborhoods of the city of Shamakhi in the first half and middle of the 19th century. The plan also shows the location of the khan's palace, which remained until the middle of the 19th century, and the remains of the city fortress walls (Salamzadeh, 1964, p. 207). The plan shows the city expanding downwards from a high hill.

Another interesting document about the city of Shamakhi kept in the archive are paintings. Thus, in the document No. 808, included in the collection No. 418 of the archive fund No. 846, the "Drawing of Old Shamakhi from the north" is stored (Description of the city of Shamakhi, 1835, d. 808, p. 473). Although the exact date is not indicated on the painting, the absence of new neighborhoods in the painting suggests that it was painted in the first half of the 19th century. In the picture, you can see two mosques with minarets and the remains of the fortress walls in the city.

The archive contains a large collection of documents on the history of the city of Shamakhi. They are mainly preserved in the fund 1105. The most interesting of the documents in list number 81 is related to the calculation and assessment of the damage caused to the local population during the 1828 Shamakhi earthquake. The documents included in the list mention the names of the masters who will participate in the restoration of the city. This helps us to clarify the names of the builders and architects of the buildings built in those years. Thus, on the 18th sheet of the work folder No. 81, the name of the builder Haji Taghi is mentioned, (Report of the Commandant of the Shirvan Province von Ascheberg to the Military Governor of Tbilisi General Nikolai Sipyagin, 1828, d.80, p. 81) and on the 81st sheet, the name of the master Yaqub. It should be noted that the architect of the Seven Domes Mausoleum built in Shamakhi during this period was Haji Tagi. Master Yayub is shown as the restorer of the collapsed bridge over the Zogalavay River in Shamakhi (Report of the Commandant of the Shirvan Province von Ascheberg to the Military Governor of Tbilisi General Nikolai Sipyagin, 1828, d. 80, p. 83).

In general, the archive contains a large number of documents about the earthquake that occurred in Shamakhi on July 28, 1828. One of them is a letter written by the Shirvan commandant von Ascheberg to the military governor of Tbilisi. It is thanks to this letter that we obtain detailed information about the earthquake. Based on this letter, we obtain detailed information about the earthquake (Report of the Commandant of the Shirvan Province von Ascheberg to the Military Governor of Tbilisi General Nikolai Sipyagin, 1828, d. 80, p. 14). The earthquake caused serious damage to the city, there were a lot of casualties, and a commission was created to eliminate the consequences, as reflected in several documents. Thus, on pages 14-15 of the 80th case file there is a report of the commandant. It is written there that 247 houses and 30 shops were destroyed in the city of Shamakhi and surrounding villages, and 197 houses and 20 shops were seriously damaged (Description of the city of Shamakhi, 1835, d. 808, p. 15).

One of the information reflecting the administrative and political situation of the Shamakhi Khanate preserved in the funds of the RSMHA is the information booklet prepared by the Russian army colonel S.D. Burnashev, who was an advisor and Russian consul to the Kartli-Kakheti Tsar Irakli II at

the end of the 18th century (1783). The booklet is of a general nature. The review names and describes the main political and state institutions in the territory of Azerbaijan. The document is called “Description of the Azerbaijani provinces in Persia and their political situation” (Burnashev, 1773, p. 1).

Burnashev's work was published in Kursk in 1793 as a booklet. In the section “Semi-separation of Azerbaijani possessions” of the description, Stepan Burnashev provides a brief overview of the khanates located on the territory of Azerbaijan (Mustafazade, 2020, p. 307). Burnashev mentions the Shamakhi Khanate in his work under its old name Shirvan. He describes Shirvan as a larger territory than it is today and shows the Safavid state as a province with access to the sea. He writes that it is currently located in Azerbaijan, its borders are with the Derbent Khanate (Guba Khanate - **author**) to the north, the Caspian Sea and the Baku Khanate to the east, the Kur River to the southwest, and the Nukha (Sheki) Khanate to the west. He notes that the Shirvan Khanate was ruled by two brothers, Muhammadsaid Khan and Agasi Khan, and their residence was located in New Shamakhi (Aghsu). He describes the khans as being powerless, unable to field 2,000,000 armed forces and unable to retain Lezgins as mercenaries, and notes that they were constantly oppressed by the Guba Khan, Fatali Khan. He explains the forced alliance with Fatali Khan against the Karabakh Khan Ibrahim Khan as being due to their weakness. Burnashov also specifically points out that, despite having extensive trade relations with Georgia, the khanate had no political relations with the Kakhetian Tsar Irakli II (Mustafazade, 2020, p. 311).

2. “Description of Shirvan” review

One of the most interesting documents about the Shirvan Khanate stored in the Russian State Military History Archive is the review “Description of Shirvan” prepared in 1796 by the Tsarist army officer Ober Quartermaster Ivan Dveryakin. The review consists of several parts. Ivan Dveryakin gives a detailed description of the Shirvan region in the review, attempting to study the economic and military power of the Shamakhi Khanate. Most likely, this description was a preparatory one, regarding how the army would use its supplies and infrastructure in the event of a possible military expansion of Russian troops into the region in the future. Because, there are many facts in the review that indicate this. Dveryakin notes the convenient route for the army to pass. He notes the army's food supply, horse feeding, and sources of fresh water.

The review includes sections entitled “Shirvan”, “Absheron”, “Salyan region”. Dveryakin notes that the mentioned regions are closely connected with the Shamakhi Khanate and states that, although they are currently separate khanate territories, they were eventually included in the Shirvan region.

The review is kept in the former VUA of the archive, currently in the 846th fund, in part II of the case number 18474. In the introduction to the 31-page review, Ivan Deveryakin states that the ruler of Shirvan was the Shamakhi Khan Mustafa Khan. The “Shirvan” part of the review consists of the following sections: “Administrative territory of Shirvan”, “Climate”, “Mountains, rivers, ports, lakes and water wells”, “Population, cities, villages and settlements of the population of Shirvan”, “Population management”, “Roads”, “Trade” and “Income of landowners from their properties” (Dveryakin, 1796, p. 2).

The Shirvan section begins with an indication of the borders and geographical location of the khanate. It is noted that it borders the Guba Khanate in the north through mountainous terrain, and in the east it covers the territory up to the Caspian Sea coast and the Yashma caravanserai. It is also explained in detail that the khanate bordered the Sheki Khanate from the mouth of the Kura River in the south along the Mughan steppe to the west along the Kura River and to the north of the Goychay River. The review states that the territory of the khanate extended 100 versts (1 verst - 1.06 km) from north to south, 150 versts from west to east, and thus the khanate had an area of 15,000 versts (Dveryakin, 1796, p. 3).

The section “Administrative territory of Shirvan” begins with the sentence that it was governed by the khan, whose main residence was Shamakhi. It is also shown that the Shirvan land consists of two parts: mountainous and plain. Dvaryakin's mention of Mustafa Khan's possession of ports on the Kur

and Goychay rivers is an example of the fairly developed transport and trade system in the khanate. The review mentions 6 large estates of Mustafa Khan. Dvoryakin does not mention the administrative divisions of the khanate, but lists the names of the estates that the khan ruled directly. The first estate is the historical Shamakhi lands located between the Kura and Goychay rivers, which encompass the mountainous area. The second estates are the territories between the Goychay and Girdman rivers, and the third is the territories between the Girdmanchay and Agsu rivers. The review included the Baku Khanate as the 4th civil war of Mustafa Khan (Dveryakin, 1796, p. 4).

The 5th estate mentioned in the review was the Caspian coastal areas seized after the death of Fatali Khan. It is noted that these territories previously belonged to the Guba Khan, where infertile clay soils prevailed. It is stated that only the Pirsaat River passes through the area, which is fed by seasonal waters and is of no benefit to the environment. The fact that this new estate has poor grass cover and that there is only one stone bridge over the Pirsaat River is also noteworthy. The Salyan district, which was mentioned as the 6th main estate of the Khan, was ruled by a sultan appointed by the Khan. The review noted that the Salyan district is located on both banks of the Kura River, covering the area up to the point where the Kura flows into the Caspian Sea. Previously, it belonged to the Guba Khan, but is currently among the possessions of Mustafa Khan. As can be seen, after the death of Fatali Khan, the Baku Khanate, Salyan and Javad Sultanates, which he had subordinated to himself, were seized by Mustafa Khan (Dveryakin, 1796, p. 5).

Historical literature contains extensive information about the names of 17 districts, which included various villages that existed in the Shamakhi Khanate from the 90s of the 18th century, who owned them, the geographical area they were located in, and the main occupations of their population (Bayramova, 2009, p. 18). It seems that Ivan Dvorakin did not go into the details of the administrative division of the Khanate, but only outlined the main territories that would be of interest to the tsarist court.

The section called “Climate” discusses the harsh climate of the Shirvan region. The description of the summer being very hot and the winter being sometimes terribly cold attracts attention. Dvoryakin, in addition to stating that the climate of the plains and the mountainous areas is different from each other, emphasizes that there are a lot of insects on the banks of the Kura even in November. He tries to show the high precipitation in the mountainous areas and the low precipitation in the plains, and the temperature of the air by season. He states that autumn and spring are mild, winter in the mountains is harsh, and in the plains it is mild. The fact that summers are too hot in the plains is one of the main points that Dvoryaki complained about (Dveryakin, 1796, p. 6).

Ivan Dvoryakin writes in the section “Mountains, rivers, ports, lakes and water wells” that the mountains in the Shirvan region are very high and have steep cliffs. He notes that “the tops of the mountains are always covered with snow and many rivers flowing in the area originate from these mountains. The rivers are abundant and flow from north to south. The Goychay River is the most prominent among the rivers. The distance between the river banks is 40-65 sazhens (1 sazhen – 50 cm-**author**). An important road to Shamakhi passes over the river. Ferries are used to cross from one bank of the river to the other. There are a large number of irrigation canals on the banks of the Goychay. Villages use these canals. The river flows into the Kura River (Dveryakin, 1796, p. 8).

When writing about the Girdman River, Dvoryakin states that it takes its source from Babadag. He writes that its banks are rocky and clayey and that it consists of three branches. The review states that the people of Shamakhi dug several canals from the river's branches. The canals are for irrigation purposes. One branch of the road to Ganja mentioned above also passes over the Girdmanchay (Dveryakin, 1796, p. 8).

The review also provides information about the Alijanchay, Turyanchay and Agsu rivers. Only the Agsu River is particularly distinguished. In addition to the extensive use of the river for irrigation, he also notes the existence of a fishery on its banks. Dvoryakin writes that Russian and Astrakhan merchants bought fish caught here for 18-20 thousand Derbent (Guba) coins per year. This, in turn, when converted into Russian rubles, amounted to 7 thousand 300 rubles (Dveryakin, 1796, p. 10).

In the section “Population, cities, villages and settlements of the population of Shirvan”, Dvoryakin writes that the city of Yeni Shamakhi is located in the estate of the Shamakhi Khan on the right bank of the Agsu River, on a flat place surrounded by stone fences. He notes that the fortress walls surrounding the city are built of red brick and have a thickness of 1 arshin to 5 arshin. It is surrounded by a moat 5 sazhens long and 2 sazhens deep. The length of the moat is about 270 sazhens. The city has three fortress gates. They are located in the north, west and south directions. The khan's palace and some of the residents' houses in the city are built of stone. But there are also a large number of houses made of reeds and clay. These houses are mainly located on the southern side of the city. The houses on the northern side of the city, located on the higher ground, are built of stone. Some houses are dugout-shaped and have only a chimney and no windows. The population living here mainly stays in these houses during the winter months. In the summer, they migrate to the mountains (Dveryakin, 1796, p. 11).

The Tsarist officer distinguishes the city of Shamakhi as the largest city of the khanate. He writes that there are 710 Muslim and 70 Christian houses in the city. In addition, 840 families living a nomadic life settled around the city. 25 canals were laid inside the city for water supply. Dvoryakin emphasizes that the Shamakhi Khanate had 38 villages and 2700 houses in them. From the review, we learn that there are 230 houses in 6 Christian villages. The review mentions all 38 villages and hamlets in the Shamakhi Khanate. The Tsarist officer groups the villages not by districts in the khanate, but by rivers. The villages are mainly listed along the banks of the Goyshay, Agsu, Pirsaat, Aljanchay, Turyanchay, Salut and Shamakhi rivers. Sometimes, the number of houses in the villages is also indicated by writing notes. He states that there are 23 houses in the village of Mochaghi, where Mustafa Khan lived (Dveryakin, 1796, p. 14).

Although the section on “Population Management” does not provide extensive information, it touches on the main occupations of the population. The main role of the ruling class in production relations in the khanate is noted. The section states that, the peasantry is mainly engaged in agriculture and pays taxes to the khanate. They store the grain they sow mainly in underground warehouses and grind it in mills. They and their pets are well fed. Grain is grown mainly in the plains of Shirvan and Absheron. Silk growing, one of the main occupations of the population in and around Shamakhi, did not escape Dvariaki's attention. The Tsarist officer wrote in his notes that there were a large number of mulberry gardens in the khanate. Silk was the main production area, and products were produced and sold from weaving looms in Shamakhi. Silk was the main production area, and products were produced and sold from weaving looms in Shamakhi. Not only textile, but also paper was produced from silk. The finished product was exported to foreign countries through the port of Baku (Dveryakin, 1796, p. 14).

Regarding the population of the Khanate, Dvaryakin writes that the local people are very hardworking and peaceful. The local population is not inclined to war, they are loyal to their beliefs and the Khan. Men play the main role in the family, women are completely dependent on them. The population is not friendly towards newcomers. If a stranger passes through their village, they do not show him hospitality (Dveryakin, 1796, p. 15).

The section of the review entitled “Roads” is about the roads leading to and from the city of Shamakhi. The author lists all the main transit routes through the khanate. The author lists all the main transit routes through the khanate. He mentions the first road as the difficult mountain road along which the Russian army came from Derbent to the khanate. He reminds us that there are difficult mountain passes on the road and that this creates additional difficulties for the army. The second road is the road from Baku. He notes that the condition of this road is also not good. The army may suffer greatly if it comes this way. The third road is from Baku and passes through a flat area. The road does not pose any difficulties as it passes through semi-desert terrain, but the sparse grass cover and lack of water along the road are some of the difficulties that pose problems. During the rainy season, the road is almost impassable. The road from Baku to Salyan is listed as the fourth road. This road is also undeveloped as it passes through flat and rugged terrain, but it is suitable for trailers to pass through (Dveryakin, 1796, p. 15).

One of the main roads mentioned by Dvaryakin is the road from Shamakhi to Ganja. This road attracts the attention of the Russian officer due to its military and economic importance. He writes that the road to Ganja is in relatively good condition, as it plays an important role in international trade. The

only drawback of the road is that it crosses several rivers and during the rainy season, when they overflow their banks, it becomes impassable. In addition to these main roads, Ivan Dvaryakin also mentions narrow paths from the capital city of Shamakhi to the villages. He writes that the roads are not wide, and that the local population mainly travels on horseback. However, one of the shortcomings of the section is that the author almost completely ignores the internal roads. He also writes that the roads from the fortress to the villages pass through flat terrain, adding the Baku roads. The only difficult road here is the mountain road to Guba (Dvaryakin, 1796, p. 16).

The author of the review does not ignore trade, which was the main source of income of the Shamakhi Khanate. In the section "Trade", he mentions the city of Shamakhi as a major trade center. It states that merchants and the population constantly flocked to the city to make purchases. Dvaryakin writes that silk, paper and grain were transported by caravans on camels and horses to Baku, and from there European goods, including iron, copper, lead, sugar, etc., were brought back (Dvaryakin, 1796, pp. 16-17). From the overview, it is clear that both domestic and international trade was very active in the khanate.

Since the Baku Khanate and the Salyan region were subordinate to the Shamakhi Khanate at the end of the 19th century, the review also provides brief information about these regions in the sections entitled "In Absheron" and "In the Salyan Circle". Dvaryakin mainly focuses on the sources of income, population and settlements in the Baku and Salyan territories. Most likely, the main purpose of the tsarist officer in compiling the review was to ensure future economic interests in the event of the Russian Empire's invasion of the territory. For this reason, the section of the review "Income from the landowners' estates" draws special attention. It is reported that the Shamakhi Khan collected taxes from the population under his control in the form of finished products. The population pays a tenth of the silk it produces as tax. When money is needed, he sends his tax collectors to their estates. From the nomadic population, he collects two animals for every 100 animals, two batmans of cheese, and one-fourth of honey from each village as a tax. The Khan collects taxes in the amount of 60 thousand per year from the city of Shamakhi, and 7 thousand per year from the coppersmiths (Dvaryakin, 1796, p. 18).

3. Documents reflecting Russian aggression

Among the documents reflecting the military expansion of the Russian Empire into the South Caucasus in the late 18th and early 19th centuries in the funds of the RSMHA, there are also materials related to the Shamakhi Khanate. These materials are mainly included in the archive's collection No. 52, called the Pyotimkin fund, and collection No. 475 of fund 846, which reflects the course of the First Russian-Qajar War. Also, collection No. 468 of fund No. 846 is an important source for studying the Russian army's march to Azerbaijan in 1796-1797 (Dmitrochenkova, 2009, p. 241).

Collection No. 468 of Fund No. 846 preserves documents of Russia's military expansion into Azerbaijan, which began in 1796 under the command of Count Valerian Zubov. These documents include instructions given to V. Zubov by the emperor and the palace, army supply documents, official correspondence and the count's travel diary. The documents allow us to obtain information about Zubov's attack on the Shamakhi Khanate during the campaign and about the city after the invasion. From the document "Instruction to General V.A. Zubov" dated February 18, 1796, consisting of 30 paragraphs, on sheets 1-7 of file number 2801 of list 1 of the collection, it is clear that before the start of the campaign, the Shamakhi Khanate was set as one of the territories to be captured in the first stage as a goal for Count Zubov (Zubov, 1796, p.2). For this reason, after capturing Derbent, Guba and Baku, Count Zubov moved on the Shamakhi Khanate (Zubov, 1796, p. 3; Bayramova, 2009, p.71). It is clear from the documents that before the march, in the February 19, 1796 instruction, after the capture of Baku, he was ordered to choose the Baku fortress as the main headquarters of the Russian army. Because the imperial court attached special importance to Baku. A project was being prepared to expand and strengthen the Baku port (Zubov, 1796, p. 5). However, Zubov, taking into account the geographical location and natural conditions of Baku, set off for New Shamakhi (Mamedova, 2003, p. 28). He believed that since there were no natural fortifications around Baku, he would not be able to organize the defense of the army during the attack. It is clear from the documents that the main place where Zubov

planned and organized operations during the campaign was the Shamakhi Khanate. Thus, after Zubov chose Yeni Shamakhi as his headquarters, he organized a march on the Ganja Khanate and chose the Mughan steppe, which was subordinate to the Shamakhi Khanate, for wintering (Mustafazade, 2013, p. 211).

In collection number 468, V. Zubov's appeal to the Khan of Shamakhi, as well as other Azerbaijani khans, against Agha Mohammad Qajar, is preserved. Responding to the appeal, Mustafa Khan stated that he was ready to gather all his forces against the Shah and unite with the Russian troops. Zubov's battle diary shows that Russian troops, who did not encounter any obstacles in Derbent and Salyan, entered Shamakhi. In early August, Russian troops took up positions on the Gurbulag plateau on the banks of the Pirsaat River near Shamakhi (Zubov, 1796, p. 224).

In the fall, when Russian troops under the command of Major General Platov were moving towards New Shamakhi, Mustafa Khan left the city. V. Zubov, who wanted to capture the Khan of Shamakhi, sent him a letter with a gift, stating that the Khan could feel completely safe. However, Mustafa Khan, who did not trust Russia, was forced to resort to certain diplomatic maneuvers to save and protect his khanate from the Russian threat. It is clear from the correspondence between Zubov and the Russian generals that the Tsarist generals did not believe in Mustafa Khan's "sincerity" and did not trust him. For this reason, General Valerian Zubov decides to use Mustafa Khan's cousin, Qasim Khan, against him (Bayramova, 2009, p. 72.)

Zubov removed Mustafa Khan from the khanate on November 2, 1796 and replaced him with his cousin Gasim Khan. However, the sudden death of Catherine II in November 1796 led to a change in Russia's Caucasian policy. Having come to power, Paul I canceled all his mother's measures and ordered the withdrawal of Russian troops from Azerbaijan. In the spring of 1797, the Russian military expedition led by V. Zubov left Azerbaijan. Taking advantage of this, Mustafa Khan returned to the Shamakhi Khanate. He quickly deposed Qasim Khan and became the Khan of Shamakhi again (Bayramova, 2009, p. 73; Register of Azerbaijani khans, who were supposed to be informed about the acceptance of the Georgian king under the protection of the Russian emperor, 1803, f.3, p. 49).

The process of annexation and liquidation of the Shamakhi Khanate by the Russian Empire is reflected in the documents in the funds of the RSMHA. Documents showing the military operations of the Russian army against the khanate and its occupation are preserved in collection 475 of the archive's fund No. 846. The collection includes documents reflecting the Russo-Persian War of 1804–1813 (Garkusha, 2011, p. 360). The documents reflect the course of the war and the march of Russian troops to the Azerbaijani khanates.

It should be noted that at the beginning of the 19th century, the Russian Empire set itself the conquest of the South Caucasus as one of its main tasks. Thus, the Russian Empire, which won the last Russo-Turkish war, already saw the Qajar state as the only rival to fight it in the South Caucasus. Thus, on page 53 of file No. 6165 of the archive fund 846, there is a rescript of Emperor Alexander I to Lieutenant General Karl Fyodorovich Knorring, the commander-in-chief of the Russian army in the Caucasus, dated September 12, 1801 (Agayaan, 1972, p.36). In the rescript, the emperor instructed the commander-in-chief to spread Russian influence in the region and ensure the loyalty of the Iravan, Ganja, Sheki, Shamakhi (Shirvan), and Baku khanates. One of the most striking points in the text of the document is the emperor's instruction to Karl Knorring regarding the Shamakhi Khanate. Alexander I considered it important to control the coastal regions of the Kura and Araz rivers, which were part of the khanate, in order to ensure the supply of the army to Georgia. Because the imperial court considered it more preferable to deliver the army and heavy artillery to Georgia by sea from Astrakhan via the port of Baku and the Kura River, rather than by road through the mountainous regions of the Caucasus again (Rescript of His Majesty Emperor Alexander I to Lieutenant General Karl Fedorovich Knorring, Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Army in the Caucasus, 1801, d. 6165, p. 568)

On September 12, 1801, Alexander I signed a Manifesto addressed to the Georgian people, which abolished the Kartli-Kakheti Tsardom and annexed Eastern Georgia to Russia. A Supreme Government consisting of Russian military and civilian officials was established in Tbilisi to govern Georgia. General Pavel Sisianov was appointed governor of Georgia in 1802 (Mustafazade, 2013, p. 298). In addition to

his position as governor, Sisianov was also the commander of the Russian army in the South Caucasus. The tsarist government had entrusted him with the occupation of Azerbaijani lands. On January 3, 1804, Ganja became the first Azerbaijani khanate to be occupied. In order to ensure supplies and convenient communication with the main territories of Russia, Prince Sisianov set as his main goal the subjugation of the Shamakhi Khanate and its dependent Baku Khanate (Iskenderova, 1999, p. 60).

Pavel Sisianov first of all began to exert military diplomatic pressure on the Azerbaijani khans. For this, he first of all chose the Karabakh, Sheki and Shamakhi khanates. Sisianov pursued his intention through threats, promises, and diplomatic means. After the occupation of Ganja, diplomatic correspondence between Sisianov and the Khan of Shamakhi Mustafa Khan took place for about a year. In the letters preserved in the archive, Prince Sisianov tried to persuade Mustafa Khan, wanting to subjugate the Shamakhi Khanate without using military force. It is clear from the content of the letters that Mustafa Khan refused to submit in any way and tried to protect the independence of the khanate. Finally, in order to subjugate the khanate, Pavel Sisianov began a campaign against Shamakhi on November 31, 1805 (Bournoutian, 2021, p. 46). The Russian army approached the new Shamakhi on December 11. Mustafa Khan took refuge in the Fitdag fortress to resist. However, seeing the destructive power of the Russian army, Mustafa Khan was forced to accept Sisianov's demands. Sisianov invited Mustafa Khan to his military headquarters on the banks of the Kurakchay River. On December 27, 1805, an agreement was signed at the headquarters on the acceptance of the Shamakhi Khanate as a subject of Russia. Like the Karabakh and Sheki Khanates, the Shamakhi Khanate, which joined the Kurekchay Treaty, also received guarantees from Russia for its internal independence (Review of the Political Situation of the Georgian-Imereti Province, the Caspian Region and the Derbent Military District Administration, 1840, f. 3, p. 273; Bournoutian, 2021, p. 48). The treaty guaranteed that the administration of the khanate would remain with Mustafa Khan and his heirs. Thus, the independence of the Shamakhi Khanate, albeit formally, ended.

The documents kept in the archive show that although the Shamakhi Khanate was subordinated to the Russian Empire, Mustafa Khan tried to maintain his power within the khanate for a long time. His independent behavior in the internal affairs of the khanate did not satisfy the Russian government officials, who tried to prevent it in every possible way. It is clear from the documents kept in the fund 217 that in 1818, Lieutenant General Velyaminov wrote to General Aleksey Yermolov, commander of the Caucasian Army, that "Mustafa Khan is preparing, the main goal of this preparation is to retreat to Iran, together with the local feudal lords. Therefore, I have ordered to seize the crossings of the Kura River to prevent the Khan from escaping." As can be seen from the document, the Russian government did not trust Mustafa Khan and tried to limit his power in the khanate at all costs (Report of General Aleksey Yermolov, Commander of the Caucasus Army, 1820, d.3045, p. 514).

Seeing that relations with Russia were deteriorating further, Mustafa Khan finally decided to leave the khanate and seek refuge in the Qajar state. It is clear from the document in the 217th fund that in order to prevent the khan from escaping, Yermolov sent Russian troops to the Shamakhi Khanate. Under the command of General Vlasov, an army consisting of 4 battalions, 1000 Cossacks, 6 cannons and artillery entered the territory of the khanate. On August 19, 1820, Mustafa Khan left the khanate. Mustafa Khan's independent behavior did not satisfy the commander of the Caucasian Army, General Aleksey Yermolov (Russian State Military Historical Archive, 1820, p. 523). In his report to Emperor Nicholas I, he proposed the abolition of the vassal Sheki, Karabakh and Shirvan khanates and the imposition of direct Russian control over these territories (Tapper, 1997, p. 8).

Thus, after Mustafa Khan left the khanate, the Shamakhi Khanate was liquidated, and all the khan's property was confiscated. The Shirvan province was created on the territory of the Khanate. The Russian government turned Shirvan into its military and economic center. Thus, the conduct of military operations against the Dagestan feudal lords was ensured from here (Review of the Political Situation of the Georgian-Imereti Province, the Caspian Region and the Derbent Military District Administration, 1840, f. 3, p. 468).

It should be noted that information about the Shamakhi Khanate is also found in the materials of the Second Russo-Qajar War in the archive. Documents of the Second Russian-Qajar War are preserved in collection 477 of fund 846 of the archive. This collection includes relations with the Qajar state,

preparations for war, reports of Russian army generals, etc. Among the documents, there are materials on the Shamakhi Khanate. On July 16, 1826, Abbas Mirza's army, which attacked the South Caucasus, included Azerbaijani khans who had previously been forced to flee to the South (Tsutsiev, 2014, p.14). From the document on page 28 of file 4294 of collection 477, it is known that Abbas Mirza sent Mustafa Khan and Bakuli Huseyngulu Khan with 3,000 cavalry to the Shirvan territory. The khans defeated the Russian Absheron regiment at the Javad crossing on the Kura River on July 26 (Iskenderova, 1999, p. 38). Mustafa Khan was able to liberate the city of Shamakhi from the Russians with the help of the Qajar army. However, the overall superiority of the Russians in the Second Russo-Qajar War forced Mustafa Khan to leave the Shirvan territory (Bayramova, 2009, p. 79). Thus, Mustafa Khan's attempts to restore the Shamakhi Khanate failed.

CONCLUSION

As a result of this study, we can make the following generalizations, that the materials of the Russian State Military Historical Archive have an important database for studying the political and economic life of the Shamakhi Khanate. The documents stored in the archive allow us to analyze the political and economic situation of the period, and these documents allow us to draw important historical conclusions:

- The Shirvan region came to the attention of a power like Russia from the second half of the 18th century. For this reason, the invasion of the Shamakhi Khanate was one of the main goals in Russia's aggressive plans in the South Caucasus. For this reason, it is possible to get the attitude of the empire towards the Shamakhi Khanate from the documents preserved in the Russian State Military Historical Archive.
- Unlike local and Persian sources, Russian sources took a somewhat neutral position when providing information about the Shamakhi Khanate in the early periods. This significantly increases the importance of information obtained from Russian sources in terms of historical research. Especially during the Russo-Persian War, the Russians treated the Shamakhi Khanate as an independent state structure, trying to obtain a lot of information about its political, economic and geographical situation.
- The documents stored in the Russian State Military-Historical Archive allow us to create a complete historical picture of the period and, along with information obtained from other sources, to complete the study of the economic, political, and cultural life of the Shamakhi Khanate.

Most of the documents related to the Shamakhi Khanate are preserved in the archive's fund No. 846 (the former Military Scientific Archive collection). Fund No. 846 consists of several collections. Documents showing the course of military operations against Iran and Transcaucasia in 1803 and 1813 are stored in 23 boxes of the 475 collection included in the 846th fund. 17 works of the 476th collection contain documents related to the Russo-Persian War of 1826-1828 (Garkusha, 2011, p. 361). These documents reflect the course of the military operations of the imperial army against the Shamakhi Khanate. Among all these documents, materials related to the Shamakhi Khanate occupy a special place. From these materials, it is possible to obtain comprehensive information about the First and Second Russo-Persian Wars, as well as learn about Russia's plans and attitude towards the Shirvan Khanate:

- The Russian Empire planned to expand its borders to the south, so it intended to occupy the South Caucasus and the Caspian coast. The imperial court was making plans to gain access to India and the "warm seas".
- By occupying the Shirvan region, the Russians intended to complete the conquest of Dagestan. Russian official circles, while preparing for military operations in Dagestan, were planning to use the Shirvan region as a military and economic base. Reports by the commander of the Caucasian Army, General Alexei Yermolov, allow us to study these plans in detail.
- Archival documents reveal the Russian Empire's intention to encircle the North Caucasus from all sides in order to subjugate it, especially to completely subjugate the only independent territory that bordered the region, with the intention of severing any ties with the Ottoman Empire.

- The Russian state attached special importance to the conquest of the Shirvan region, since it needed a safe and economically resource-rich region in case of any war with the Ottoman Empire, its only rival on its southern border.

- The imperial court included the Shirvan region in its plans as a raw material base for Russia's developing industry. Thus, most of the documents in the archive are related to the geography and natural conditions of the region.

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