

Elizavetpol is part of the Imereti Province of Georgia

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.15421/1723110>**Asgarova Khayala Israil**Senior Lecturer, <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0256-9984>, banucicek500@gmail.com*Ganja State University (Ganja, Azerbaijan)*

Abstract

Relevance. For many centuries, Russia has sought to seize and strengthen its power in the Caucasus. In this article we will tell about the invasion of the Russian Empire at the beginning of the XIX century in the South Caucasus, which was located on a strategically advantageous territory. But it should be noted that due to its strategic position, this region was a place of intersection of the interests of many powerful states of its time.

The purpose of the article is to reveal the essence of the Russian-Qajar wars and show their consequences.

In order to carry out its invasion, Russia first started a war with the Qajar state. Russian Russian-Qajar clashes that took place ended with the victory of the Russians in this war. The Qajar state recognized the Russian occupation of the South Caucasus under the Turkmenchay Peace Treaty. The Ottoman state, which did not accept Russia's invasion of the Caucasus, declared war on Russia. However, the Ottoman army, which was waging war on several fronts, was defeated on the Caucasian front. According to the Edirne Treaty of 1829, the Ottoman government had to recognize the Russian invasions of the South Caucasus.

Results. Having strengthened in the South Caucasus, the Russians first established a commandant's office, but since this management system prevented the full development of the region, a number of administrative reforms were carried out in the region in 1840 by royal decree. One of the most important reforms was the creation of the Georgian Imereti province.

Conclusions. The creation of the Imereti province in Georgia was connected with the political, national and economic interests of the Russian Empire and was aimed at dividing and weakening the Caucasus and subordinating it to the political interests of Russia, as well as weakening and displacing support for the Ottoman Empire in the region. As a result of numerous wars, only after the death of Javad Khan and his son in battle, Russia managed to break the military spirit of one of the strongest Azerbaijani khanates, the Ganja Khanate, and achieve its subordination, in order to further divide its territory and strengthen its strength in the Caucasus.

Keywords: Georgian governorship, administrative reforms, Georgian Imereti province, Elizavetpol district

Елизаветполь є частиною провінції Імереті в Грузії

Асгарова Хайяла*Гянджійський державний університет (Гянджа, Азербайджан)*

Анотація

Актуальність. Протягом багатьох століть Росія прагнула захопити і зміцнити свою владу на Кавказі. У цій статті ми розповімо про вторгнення Російської імперії на початку XIX століття на Південний Кавказ, який розташовувався на стратегічно вигідній території.

Але слід зазначити, що завдяки своєму стратегічному становищу цей регіон був місцем перетину інтересів багатьох могутніх держав свого часу.

Мета статті - розкрити суть російсько-каджарських воєн і показати їх наслідки.

Щоб здійснити своє вторгнення, Росія спочатку розпочала війну з державою Каджар. Що мали місце російсько-каджарські зіткнення закінчилися перемогою росіян в цій війні. Каджарська держава визнала російську окупацію Південного Кавказу відповідно до Туркменчайського мирного договору. Османська держава, яка не змирилася з вторгненням Росії на Кавказ, оголосила Росії війну. Однак Османська армія, яка вела війну на кількох фронтах, зазнала поразки на Кавказькому фронті. Згідно з Едірненським мирним договором 1829 року, османський уряд повинен був визнати російське вторгнення на Південний Кавказ.

Результати. Зміцнившись на Південному Кавказі, росіяни спочатку створили комендатуру, але оскільки така система управління перешкоджала повноцінному розвитку регіону, в 1840 році королівським указом в регіоні було проведено ряд адміністративних реформ. Однією з найважливіших реформ стало створення грузинської провінції Імереті.

Висновки. Створення провінції Імереті в Грузії було пов'язане з політичними, національними та економічними інтересами Російської імперії і було спрямоване на поділ і ослаблення Кавказу і підпорядкування його політичним інтересам Росії, а також на ослаблення і витіснення підтримки Османської імперії в регіоні. В результаті численних воєн, тільки після загибелі в бою Джавад-хана і його сина, Росії вдалося зломити військовий дух одного з найсильніших Азербайджанських ханств, гянджинського ханства, і домогтися його підпорядкування, щоб ще більше розділити свою територію і зміцнити свої сили на Кавказі.

Ключові слова: грузинське губернаторство, адміністративні реформи, грузинська Імеретинська губернія, Елизаветпольський район

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Introduction.

There are different prerequisites for the creation of the Imereti province.

Many historians hold the opinion that the first premise was related to the Napoleonic Wars. In 1804, after the annexation of Georgia to the Russian Empire, the borders of Imereti were changed. Initially, Imereti was an independent economy, but due to the defeat of France in the war, the Russian administration decided to change the territorial division of the region (Reprint of the military topographic map, 2010).

The second reference is the preference for relations with national conflicts in Imereti. At the beginning of the XIX century in Imereti, the main contradictions arose between the various variants of Imereti. Some of these groups supported the Russian administration, while others were against its law. The creation of the Imereti province was one of the ways to manage and control various diseases in various countries.

The third premise is related to the economic interests of the Russian Empire. Imereti has acquired economic importance for Russia thanks to production, silk and wine. The creation of separate provinces, the administration of Russia more actively controls and monitors what is happening in the region.

Thus, the prerequisites for the creation of the Imereti province in Georgia were connected with the political, national and economic interests of the Russian Empire.

Analysis of preliminary studies and publications.

There are several works by Azerbaijani scientists who have studied the emergence of the Elizavetpol province. One of such works is the doctoral dissertation of M. Y. Namazova "Historical and administrative development of the Elizabethan Uyezd and the emergence of the Elizavetpol province". In this work, the author examines the history of the formation and administrative development of the Elizabethan County in the period from the XVIII to the beginning of the XIX century, as well as the process of unification of the county with other surrounding territories into the Elizavetpol province.

Another work devoted to this topic is the book "Elizavetpol province at the turn of the XIX-XX centuries: socio-economic development" by H. T. Mammadova. This book examines the issues of socio-economic development of the Elizavetpol province in the late XIX - early XX century. The author analyzes the composition of the population, the economic structure, the development of agriculture, industry, trade, and other aspects of the development of the province.

In addition, it is worth noting the work of the Azerbaijani historian K. T. Huseynov "The History of the Elizavetpol province", which tells about the history of the origin and development of the province, focusing on the administrative structure, socio-economic development, and cultural life of the region.

These works explore various aspects of the formation and development of the Elizavetpol province and

represent important research in Azerbaijani historical science.

Research results.

In 1783, the Russian Empress Catherine II and Kartli-Kakheti Tsar Irakli II signed the Treaty of St. George, which established the protectorate of Russia over Eastern Georgia. The conclusion of the treaty caused a sharp protest of the Ottoman Empire and the Qajar state, which recognized the Georgian lands as their territory. On the eve of the conquests, Eastern Georgia was under the influence of the Qajars, and the territories of Western Georgia were considered Ottoman lands. Thus, relations between Russia and the Ottoman Empire worsened. Not resigned to the fall of the territory of the South Caucasus and the strengthening of Russia's influence, the Qajars organized military campaigns to the lands of Eastern Georgia. The emerging Qajar threat brought the Russian and Georgian rulers of the districts closer together. George XII of Kinya of Karita appealed to Emperor Paul I with a request to preserve his power. He demanded that he and his heirs be granted the rights to the throne of Kartli and Kakheti in exchange for Georgia's annexation to Russia. Shortly after the death of George XII, on January 18 (30), 1801, Emperor Paul I signed a manifesto on the unification of Karitia and Kakheti with Russia. In this document, Karity and Kakheti were called the "Georgian Kingdom" for the first time. All the former rights and privileges of the population, including property rights, were preserved. The rights and privileges of the subjects of the Russian Empire extended to the annexed population.

However, the rights of David, the son of George XII, to the Georgian throne were not confirmed. On September 12 of the same year, the manifesto was approved by Emperor Alexander I. In May 1801, in Tiflis, the tsarist General Karl Bogdanovich Knorring ended the power of the pretenders to the Georgian princely throne, transferring power to Ivan Petrovich Lazarev. Also in September, a "resolution on internal governance in Georgia" was adopted. Many Georgian nobles did not recognize this decree until April 1802, when Corring gathered the nobles at the Zion Cathedral in Tbilisi and forced them to take an oath of allegiance to the emperor. Nobles who refused to take the oath were arrested. Having gained a foothold in Georgia, the Russians began preparations for an invasion of Azerbaijani lands. During the occupation of Azerbaijani lands by Russia, the political situation in Azerbaijan was ambiguous. The country broke up into small feudal states called khanates. The Khans waged wars with each other, committed devastating attacks on the lands of their neighbors. The absence of a single central government in the country prepared the ground for the occupation of Azerbaijani lands by neighboring states. The khanates had different relations with Russia and Iran. The only state that opposed the occupation of Azerbaijani lands was the Ottoman Empire. However, at that time, the internal and external situation of the Ottomans was difficult. The Ottoman state, which waged

heavy wars on several fronts, could not provide real assistance to the Azerbaijani Khans.

During this period, the UK's policy of strengthening in India and the Middle East accelerated Russia's invasion of the South Caucasus. Having gained a foothold in Karitli, on September 12, 1801, the tsar's manifesto on the unification of the Kartli-Kakheti kingdom with Russia was announced. The Tiflis Governorate was created, which was ruled by the commander-in-chief of the Russian troops and a civilian judge. This province also included part of the territory of Azerbaijan – the Kazakh, Borchali, Shamsaddin sultanates, which were vassal's dependent on the Kartli-Kakheti Kingdom and united with it (Ismaylov, 2007, p. 48).

It was from this time that the occupation of Azerbaijani lands by the Russian Empire began. Concerned about Iranian aggression, some Azerbaijani khans were inclined to ally with Russia against Iran. The Russians are tricking the Azerbaijani khans into joining their side, promising to recognize their independence. On the instructions of the emperor, in September-December 1802, General Knorring held a meeting of the tsarist command in the North Caucasus, in the city of Georgievsk, with representatives of the khans of Northern Azerbaijan and other rulers of the Caucasus for negotiations on politics and trade. Representatives of two Azerbaijani khanates – Guba and Talysh – participated in the negotiations along with representatives of Tarki Shamakhi, Kara Kaytag Usmisi, Tabasaran Hakimi and other mountain rulers. Representatives of other khanates were not present at the meeting. Because before that, a representative of the Shah of Iran came to Ibrahimhalil Khan and demanded the subordination of Karabakh. Such a demand was sent by the Qajar government to the Khan of Baku (Ismaylov, 2007, p. 47). On December 26, 1802, an agreement was signed between the parties in Georgievsk, in accordance with the Agreement, the Parties pledged to jointly fight the aggression of Iran. The rulers of the Caucasus “asked the emperor to accept them under the protection of Russia.”

After the conclusion of the Treaty of St. George, the tsarist government began to prepare for the conquest of the territories of the Azerbaijani khanates, which neglected this treaty. Among the khanates that emerged on the territory of Azerbaijan, the closest to Georgia was the Ganja Khanate. The Ganja Khanate at that time was headed by Javad Khan, known for his bravery. The center of the khanate was the city of Ganja, surrounded by strong walls of Gala. At that time, Ganja was known as an impregnable fortress city. The fortress wall surrounding the city of Ganja was built in 1588 by the Ottoman commander Farhad Pasha. The walls of the fortress reached 8 meters in height. The wall consisted of 6 constellations. The city could be accessed from two directions through the Karabakh and Tbilisi gates. One of the reasons for the beginning of the Russian invasion of the Ganja Khanate was that with the fall of this powerful

khanate, it was supposed to serve to break the resistance of other Azerbaijani khans.

In May 1803, the commander of the Russian troops in the South Caucasus, General Tsitsianov, preparing for the campaign to Ganja, introduced additional types of troops from the North Caucasus into the territory of Georgia (History of Georgia, 2012, p. 302]. Tsitsianov did not immediately go on the offensive for a number of reasons. Despite the sufficient number of troops at his disposal, Tsitsianov did not dare to attack Ganja under the pretext of a shortage of troops. Tsitsianov also still retained illusions about the possibility of diplomatic measures to convince the Azerbaijani khans to accept Russian citizenship. Thirdly, the internal situation in Georgia required the administrative organization of the region and the adoption of measures to suppress dissenters. While preparing for the campaign to Ganja, Tsitsianov was slowed down by the news of the highlanders' campaign to the Georgian lands. Having failed to defeat the mountaineers, the Russians had to postpone the conquest of Ganja for some time. In this case, Javad Khan skillfully used this to attract the surrounding beys to the alliance.

However, he did not receive any help from the Qajar State. Having driven the mountaineers out of Georgia, the Russians concentrated their forces on the campaign against the Ganja Khanate. Having concentrated all his forces, Tsitsianov began a campaign to Ganja. On November 29, the Russians crossed the border of the Ganja Khanate. Tsitsianov demanded from Javad Khan that he surrender the fortress city. However, Javad Khan rejected all his demands. On January 2, 1804, the military council decided to storm the Ganja fortress. It was decided to launch an offensive the next night, the attack was to be conducted from two directions. At 5:30 a.m. on January 3, 1804, the decisive attack on the fortress began. The assault detachment under the command of Major General Portnyagin went on the offensive from the direction of the Karabakh gate. The second assault detachment of two Guards battalions under the command of Colonel Karyagin was to conduct a sabotage attack from the direction of the Tbilisi gate. The decisive battle for Ganja has begun. The Russians consistently attacked the city. Javad Khan and his middle son were killed in the battles for the city. Around noon, having learned about the death of their khan, the defenders of the fortress surrendered. The Ganja Khanate was occupied by the Russians. In 1804, Elizavetpolsky district was established on the territory of the Ganja Khanate.

Thus, the way to the occupation of Azerbaijan was opened. After the occupation of Ganja, the ancient name of the city was changed to Elizavetpol in honor of Empress Elizabeth. The two wars that followed between Russia and the Qajar state also strengthened in the Russian-occupied territories of the South Caucasus, which emerged victorious from the Ottoman wars. The Russians have created a commandant's administration in the occupied territories, different from central Russia. Each station

was headed by a commandant. Commandants were appointed by the Supreme Commander of the Russian troops stationed in the Caucasus. Their commandants, appointed to lead the district, had the right to solve all social and economic issues in the area. The districts were divided into counties. The district was headed by one of the local beys. He was appointed to the post by the chief commander of the Russian army. (Roberts, 2007).

Over time, when the Russians gained a foothold in the South Caucasus, it became necessary to integrate the region into Russia. But the main obstacle facing this process was the unpromising curfew management system. In order to develop the natural resources of the region, it became necessary to carry out new administrative and legal reforms. After long discussions, Emperor Nicholas I signed the law on administrative and judicial reform in the South Caucasus on April 10, 1840. In the South Caucasus, the All-Russian administrative -territorial division was carried out according to the provincial -county-District and judicial system. In accordance with the reform, the commandant's management system was abolished, and the South Caucasus was administratively divided into 2 parts - the Georgian-Imereti province and the Caspian region. According to the new law, the so-called "Armenian region", which has no grounds, was abolished, and Nakhchivan and Yerevan counties were created in its place.

One of the newly created administrative-territorial units was the Georgian-Imereti province. The center of the province was the city of Tbilisi. As mentioned above, on April 10, 1840, the Georgian province was abolished. By order of the emperor, a law was issued on the creation of a new administrative entity - the Georgian Imereti Province. The territory of the newly created province included part of the Azerbaijani lands, most of the Georgian province, and included the territory of modern Armenia (West Azerbaijani lands.). The new Province consisted of eight counties: Akhaltsikhe, Balaken (separated in 1844 into a separate Karo-Balaken county), Kursk, Gorsky, Elizavetpol, Kutaisi, Telavi and Yerevan counties. After the creation of the Georgian Imereti province, the Russians intensified their methods

of combating the liberation movement of the mountain peoples, strengthened themselves in the territory of the South Caucasus, building new military fortresses. They began further displacement of the Highlanders. The importance of the provincial center of the city of Tbilisi has increased even more. New administrative and cultural buildings were built in Tbilisi. The opening of a new type of educational institutions has begun. The settlement of Russians in the provincial lands accelerated even more. Russian and German settlements were founded on the territory of the Georgian Imereti province as a result of the resettlement policy of the Russians.

Also, the Russians resettled a large number of Armenians on the territory of the province. The main purpose of the settlement of Russian Armenians on the lands of the Georgian Imereti province was the formation of true ethnic supports here. On December 4, 1846, by a new decree of the emperor, the Georgian Imereti province was abolished, and new provinces were created in its place. Elisavetpol County was incorporated into the Georgian Imereti province. However, in subsequent periods, the Russian Empire, which sought to create a political and cultural support in the region, populated the region with a large number of people of Armenian, Russian and German origin. Elizavetpolsky uyezd was formed in 1840 as part of the Georgian-Imereti province. Since 1846, the county has been part of the Tiflis governorate, since 1849 -Elizavetpol governorate. The main inhabitants of Elizavetpol county were Azerbaijani Turks.

Conclusions.

The creation of the Imereti province in Georgia was connected with the political, national and economic interests of the Russian Empire and was aimed at dividing and weakening the Caucasus and subordinating it to the political interests of Russia, as well as weakening and displacing support for the Ottoman Empire in the region. As a result of numerous wars, only after the death of Javad Khan and his son in battle, Russia managed to break the military spirit of one of the strongest Azerbaijani khanates, the Ganja Khanate, and achieve its subordination, in order to further divide its territory and strengthen its strength in the Caucasus.

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