

Social Processes and their Main Results in North Azerbaijan in the 80-90s of the XIX Century

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Abstract

The article examines some historical aspects of the reforms initiated by the occupying tsarist regime in the northern part of Azerbaijan in the administrative system of government. These reforms lasted almost until the end of that century. Bourgeois reforms of the 60s and 70s of the XIX century were reforms that did not take into account the position of the existing social classes in North Azerbaijan and were incomplete in nature. Accordingly, it was necessary to apply bourgeois reforms that regulate the emerging capitalist relations in the economy of North Azerbaijan.

The **purpose** of the article is to study the bourgeois reforms and other social processes applied in the region at a time when the economy of Northern Azerbaijan has entered the highest stage of capitalism, and to reveal the essence of these processes.

The theoretical and methodological **basis of the research** is based on the scientific research of domestic and foreign researchers on the subject. A number of historical **research methods** were used during the research. Among them, a number of methods such as system, induction, analogy, comparative analysis method can be mentioned.

The **main scientific innovation** put forward is the first comprehensive study of the subject and the summarization of the obtained results to correctly reflect the socio-political life of Azerbaijan in the studied period.

The main **results** of the study are that these reforms have led to the emergence of property inequality in urban and rural areas and the formation of conflicting social classes. The social processes that took place in North Azerbaijan during the mentioned period led to the emergence of various layers of the bourgeoisie and the division of workers operating in industries according to the degrees of labor. As a result of reforms carried out in the city management system, the simplified city administration was deprived of a number of rights, and its influence even in the field of city improvement and trade control led to a decrease. The incompleteness of the bourgeois reforms carried out during the period under review was reflected in the fact that in some regions urban management was still under the control of district police officers.

Keywords: North Azerbaijan, urban regulation, social stratification, bourgeois reforms, industrialization

Соціальні процеси та їх основні результати в Північному Азербайджані у 80-90-х роках XIX ст.

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Анотація

У статті розглядаються деякі історичні аспекти реформ, розпочаті окупаційним царським режимом на північній частині Азербайджану в адміністративній системі управління. Ці реформи тривали майже до кінця того століття. Буржуазні реформи 60-70-х років XIX століття були реформами, які не враховували положення існуючих в Північному Азербайджані соціальних класів і носили незавершений характер. Відповідно, необхідно було застосувати буржуазні реформи, що регулюють зароджувані капіталістичні відносини в економіці Північного Азербайджану.

Мета статті - вивчити буржуазні реформи та інші соціальні процеси, що відбувалися в регіоні в період, коли економіка Північного Азербайджану вступила у вищу стадію капіталізму, і розкрити сутність цих процесів.

Теоретико-методологічну **основу дослідження** складають наукові дослідження вітчизняних та зарубіжних дослідників з даної тематики. Під час дослідження використано низку історичних **методів дослідження**. Серед них можна назвати ряд таких методів, як системний, індукційний, аналогічний, метод порівняльного аналізу.

Основним науковим нововведенням є перше комплексне дослідження теми та узагальнення отриманих результатів для правильного відображення суспільно-політичного життя Азербайджану в досліджуваний період.

Основні **результати дослідження** полягають у тому, що ці реформи призвели до виникнення майнової нерівності в містах і селах і формування конфліктних соціальних класів. Соціальні процеси, що відбувалися в Північному Азербайджані в згаданий період, привели до появи різних прошарків буржуазії і поділу працівників промисловості за ступенями праці. У результаті реформ, проведених у системі управління містом, спрощене міське управління було позбавлене низки прав, а його вплив навіть у сфері благоустрою міста та контролю за торгівлею призвело до зменшення. Незавершеність проведених у досліджуваний період буржуазних реформ виявилася в тому, що в деяких регіонах міське управління все ще перебувало під контролем дільничних приставів.

Ключові слова: Північний Азербайджан, містобудівне регулювання, соціальне розшарування, буржуазні реформи, індустріалізація

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Introduction.

The 1950-s and 1960-s were characterized by the collapse of feudal socio-economic relations and the development of new capitalist relations in Azerbaijan. The 1861 reform on the abolition of serfdom created favorable conditions for the development of capitalism in Russia. However, this law did not apply to Azerbaijan and the Caucasus as a whole. After the adoption of the law on the abolition of serfdom in Georgia in 1864, commissions were organized in Azerbaijan to carry out peasant reform. Finally, on May 14, 1870, the "Charter" was published on the land structure of state peasants living on the lands of the South Caucasus provinces. The difference between this "Charter" and the Charter of 1847 was that more than 5 acres of land were taken away from the peasant, and the rest was transferred to his ownership. But the Azerbaijani peasant was not given money and was not obliged to buy land. Taxes remained the same. Although the reform of 1870 was incomplete, it created the conditions for the development of capitalism, dealing a serious blow to feudal relations of production.

Simultaneously with the peasant reform, judicial, urban, and administrative reforms were carried out in Azerbaijan. During the judicial reform, the former class courts were abolished, and the courts became the same for all classes. Those who wished could attend the court hearing.

Although urban government reform reached Azerbaijan in 1878, it was applied only to Baku. If previously only privileged people had the right to be elected to city councils, then according to the new "Charter" everyone could participate in each election, that is, the population living in the city and paying taxes. People under 25 years of age could not participate in the elections. The rights of city councils were also limited: they had the right to engage only in small-scale economic activities. All work was supervised by the governor. High-ranking royal officials were appointed city commanders. At the end of the 19th century, the city "Constitution" also applied to the cities of Elizavetpol, Nukha, Nakhchivan, Shusha and Orudbad, although in a limited form.

Publications published on this topic.

At the beginning of the 40th year of the 19th century, as a result of the application of the system of management of provinces and emergency situations in North Azerbaijan, a management system similar to the internal provinces of Russia was applied in this region, which led to the creation of various positions in administrative and management affairs. The bourgeois reforms of the 60-70-s of the 19th century were reforms that did not take into account the position of the existing social classes in North Azerbaijan and were incomplete. Accordingly, it was necessary to apply bourgeois reforms to regulate the emerging capitalist relations in the economy of North Azerbaijan (Azərbaycan tarixi, 1963; Avaliani, 1920; Həsənov, 2007; Sumbatzadə, 1958).

Limited city self-government, introduced according to the City Charter of 1870, irritated the nobility, which did not at all tolerate the encroachment of the bourgeoisie on its "inviolable" rights. In 1892, Alexander III introduced a new city charter, which further curtailed the privileges of the already limited city government, thereby significantly reducing the participation of citizens in the work of city government. (Rusiya İmperiyasının, 1895, p. 870).

The city charter of 1892 legitimized the governor's intervention in all bodies of city public administration, giving him the right to subject officials who worked in the city government to administrative punishment. The governor's control could be exercised not only from the point of view of legality, but also from the point of view of the purposeful activities of the Baku City Duma and the Baku city administration. The governor's department for urban affairs received the right to discuss the legality and correctness of any decisions and orders of city government bodies. (Rusiya İmperiyasının, 1895, p. 870). Instructions for the City Duma and the executive bodies of the city administration, rules for the management of city property, etc. the documents could only come into force officially after being approved by the governor (Azərbaycan tarixi, 2007, p. 193).

The City Charter of 1892 was implemented in Yelizavetpol only in 1897 (Gəncə (tarixi очерк), 1994, p. 216). At the same time, the City Duma, a local governing body, was established in Ganja. The duties of the Ganja City Duma included collecting taxes and fees, opening the market, controlling the sanitary part of the city, implementing fire prevention measures, organizing cultural and mass events and dealing with other issues (Gəncə (tarixi очерк), 1994, p. 54). The Lankaran City Duma was created on June 26, 1896, and had very limited powers. During the elections to the City Duma, special attention was paid to issues of social origin and age (Cəfərli, 1995, p. 26).

Although the New City Charter provides for the organization of simplified city government in small towns in addition to public administration used in provincial and large provincial cities (Cəfərli, 1995, p. 26), citing factors such as the lack of city funds, employment characteristics, and the pace of trade development and the mining industry, tsarism, it was in no hurry to introduce even a simplified form of urban self-government in the cities of the South Caucasus, including North Azerbaijan. However, at that time, not only in the internal governorates of Russia, but also in the cities of the North Caucasus with relatively few funds and with a very small population, city public administration bodies had been operating for more than 10-20 years (Milman, 1966, pp. 215-216).

But despite this, the simplified city administration began to operate in Lankaran, Nukha, Guba, Shamakhi and some other districts (Azərbaycan Respublikası Dövlət Tarix Arxivi, p. 151, 206). The simplified city administration was distinguished by the fact that instead

of the city дума, which consisted of “glasnys”, a meeting of city commissioners, consisting of 12-15 people, was established. The executive body of this meeting was not the city administration and the city head, but the city elder with one or two assistants. The elder and his assistants had to have a defined property census. Otherwise, they could be disqualified (Rusiya İmperiyasının, 1895, p. 871).

Research results.

The simplified city administration had more limited rights than the city дума. This office also lacked the power to issue mandatory ordinances and change city plans. Deprivation of these rights by the simplified city administration undermined its authority even in the areas of urban improvement and commercial control (Milman, 1966, p. 216). However, even the simplified city management was not implemented in all emergency centers of Northern Azerbaijan. For example, in Salyan and Goychay, which are the administrative centers of Javad and Goychay districts, the management of urban economy continued to be under the command of district police chiefs even after 1892. Under the chairmanship of the district police chiefs, the district departments for urban affairs, consisting of their assistants, and the city police officers, consisting of Muslim and Armenian deputies, operated under the leadership of the district police chiefs. In fact, all issues are decided only by the head of the district; the participation of deputies of local royal authorities in these cases was usually limited to the execution of orders for the collection of taxes and fees (Milman, 1966, pp. 216-217).

Unlike the intra-provincial cities of Russia, only simplified public administration was introduced in Sheki, that is, instead of the city дума, an assembly of city commissioners consisting of 12 – 15 people was created. The executive body of city government was no longer the city administration, but the city mayor, consisting of one or two assistants (İsmayilov, 1982, p. 82).

In the 80-s and 90-s of the 19th centuries, when capitalist relations in Northern Azerbaijan were developing at a high pace, serious changes occurred in the social structure of the urban population. The share of the ruling classes was not so great. The size of the group, which consisted of khans, beys, and representatives of the Russian nobility, was very small. In 1870, their number was 6,600 people, which was equal to 4.6% of the city's population and 0.6% of the total population of North Azerbaijan. At the end of the 19th century, their number increased 2.3 times and reached 15.3 thousand people, but their share was still insignificant – 5.6% of the city's population in 1897 and equal to 0.8% of the total population of Northern Azerbaijan. With the exception of Baku and Shamakhi, in almost all cities their number was less than in the regions. (Azərbaycan tarixi, 2007, pp. 257-258).

The owners of industry, transport, trade, enterprises, and organizations where hired labor is used constitute a

minority, and the group receiving income from capital is also small. Thus, at the end of the 19th century in Baku they made up only 6.5% of the city's working population. But, despite this, a significant part of material wealth belonged to them. Merchants occupied a special place among them, and there were more of them in trading cities such as Nukha, Lankaran, Nakhchivan, and Ordubad. At the end of the 19th century, there were 30,000 merchants living in the cities, who made up 11% of the urban population. Most of the merchants in the cities were those who were engaged in small trade (Azərbaycan tarixi, 2007, p. 258).

The petty bourgeoisie of the cities consisted of owners of craft workshops, small trading enterprises, carts (horse-drawn carriages), etc. The majority of city dwellers, isolated from agriculture, also belonged to the bourgeoisie. If in 1870 their number reached 100 thousand people and this made up the majority of the urban population of North Azerbaijan, then in 1897 this number decreased to 68 thousand people and accounted for only 25% of the total urban population. At the same time, the landscape changed radically, cities gradually lost their agrarian character and acquired a new industrial appearance. Agriculture was no longer the main occupation of the urban population, and this sphere was of an auxiliary nature. The townspeople were mainly engaged in crafts, trade, and industrial production (Azərbaycan tarixi, 2007, p. 258).

In the second half of the 19th century, the rapid development of the economy from an industrial and technical point of view led to an increase in the number of officials, servants and intellectuals. At the end of the 19th century, there were social groups of intellectuals consisting of noble-proprietor, bourgeois, and petty-bourgeois intellectuals (Azərbaycan tarixi, 2007, pp. 258-259). Most of the intellectuals mainly lived in big cities like Baku and Ganja. They were not homogeneous in terms of their composition, but in terms of professional affiliation, they included intellectuals working in the field of material production (engineers, technicians, post-telegraph and railway workers, agricultural specialists), intellectuals working in the field of culture (educational and health workers, scientists, writers, artists and others), consisted of those working in the state apparatus, capitalist enterprises and organizations (officials of administrative, judicial and other institutions, city and noble officials, administrative workers of industrial and commercial enterprises, lawyers and others). 35,000 representatives of those professions lived in the cities of North Azerbaijan, which was equal to 13% of the entire city population. The clergy, who made up 1.4% of the townspeople and 0.2% of the entire population of Northern Azerbaijan and numbered 2,000 people, continued to occupy an important place in the social structure of the society. In 1897, their number decreased to 1,500 people, and they made up 0.55% of the urban population and 0.8% of the entire population of Northern Azerbaijan (Azərbaycan tarixi, 2007, p. 259).

Part of the able-bodied urban population were workers. At the end of the 19th century, their share in the city of Baku was very large and equaled 60% of the city's population. In other industrial cities, such as Ganja and Nukha, the weight of workers was also high. In general, during this period, a multi-ethnic working class was formed in North Azerbaijan (Azərbaycan tarixi, 2007, p. 259).

The total number of hired workers and employees in the regions of North Azerbaijan was about 97.2 thousand people, which was about 5.4% of the total population. Only 18% of industrial workers were concentrated in large manufacturing areas due to the large growth of small industries. At the same time, industrial workers accounted for 56% of the total working class. The most numerous workers were rural workers in the amount of 26 thousand people, whose number was equal to 36.7% of the total number of hired workers (Qafarova, 2005, p. 157).

Despite certain positive developments in the economy of North Azerbaijan at the end of the 19th century, as in other areas of the Russian Empire, the cities of North Azerbaijan embodied sharp social contrasts and contradictions. The relations between the urban population are stratified and antagonistic (contrary to each other – Y.H.) character prevails, the concentration of industrial workers in the cities led to the aggravation of the conflicts between labor and capital (Azərbaycan tarixi, 2007, p. 260). The process of development of commodity production, observed in the second half of the 19th century, created conditions for increasing social stratification in the villages of North Azerbaijan. The process of social stratification was manifested in the formation of two opposing classes – the rural bourgeoisie, which consisted of a small minority and most of the small ones, and the rural farm laborers, who made up the vast majority and consisted mainly of tenants (Azərbaycan tarixi, 2007, p. 281).

Although the agrarian reform of May 14, 1870, applied only to entrepreneurial peasants, it somewhat accelerated the process of social stratification in the villages of North Azerbaijan. This Regulation gave the allotment lands to the village societies and individual peasant yards for communal use. The absolute majority of the peasants demanded the division of the share land into yards - fields, which led to the disintegration of the village community and the strengthening of property inequality, which is one of the indicators of social stratification (Azərbaycan tarixi, 2007, p. 281).

The process of social stratification also occurred among state peasants who used the land communally, as a result of which the lands of impoverished peasants were gradually concentrated in the hands of rich peasants. By the end of the 19th century, the communal structure, based on a system of periodic distribution of allotment land, was in the process of complete collapse. The rules of the community were never taken into account due

to the influence of the village rich and “kolchomaks” (well-to-do people). The abolition of the rule of periodic division of land and its transfer to separate peasant households was one of the most important features of accelerating the process of social stratification among the peasants. One of the other most important features of the process of stratification of peasants was that they were forced to move to cities or villages in search of profit, that is, entrepreneurship (Azərbaycan tarixi, 2007, pp. 281-283). Entrepreneurs were divided into 4 categories according to their occupation: wage earners who received money for their labor – rural workers; ranchers who take part of the harvest from the land they cultivate; porters who carry loads and perform other similar jobs in the urban economy – ordinary workers; workers working in factories and other industrial enterprises (Qafarova, 2005 p. 55).

The changes in the social and economic life of Northern Azerbaijan in the second half of the 19th century created conditions for the formation of the layers of the bourgeois society. Despite the fact that the remnants of feudalism still existed in the Azerbaijani village in the mentioned period, the process of formation of the bourgeoisie was also taking place at the same time. Bourgeois reforms introduced in the 1970-s had a positive effect on this process, and the formation of the industrial and commercial bourgeoisie accelerated this process even more (Azərbaycan tarixi, 2007, p. 293).

The large bourgeoisie of Northern Azerbaijan included oil workers, factory owners and factory owners, shipowners, profitable landowners, rich merchants, and its composition gradually expanded. The middle bourgeoisie included entrepreneurs of medium-sized industry, trade, transport, and other enterprises who were adjacent to the big bourgeoisie from an economic and political point of view. The composition of the petty bourgeoisie was distinguished by its large number, which included owners of small craft enterprises, small traders and builders, entrepreneurs of small enterprises in the service sector and others. In general, the peasantry, which socially belonged to the petty bourgeoisie, was fragmented: one part was made up of wealthy peasants and “kolchomags” (well-to-do people), the other part – hired peasants, as well as the poor (Azərbaycan tarixi, 2007, p. 294).

The development of the credit and banking system in Northern Azerbaijan during the examined period allowed the bourgeoisie to stratify, the upper class to enrich and increase its effectiveness. Regarding the establishment and development of the capitalist order in the provinces, the provincial bourgeoisie began to form. The process of social segregation, which is increasingly evident in the rural areas, has caused the peasant rich, who constitute a very small part of the general mass of the peasants and who have increased their economic power and belong to the petty rural bourgeoisie class, to come to the fore (Azərbaycan tarixi, 2007, p. 297).

Conclusions.

The main results of the study are that these reforms have led to the emergence of property inequality in urban and rural areas and the formation of conflicting social classes. The social processes that took place in North Azerbaijan during the mentioned period led to the emergence of various layers of the bourgeoisie and the division of workers operating in industries according to the degrees of labor. As a result of reforms carried out in the city management system, the simplified city administration was deprived of a number of rights, and its influence even in the field of city improvement and trade control led to a decrease.

Thus, the emergence of capitalist relations in the economy of Northern Azerbaijan in the second half of

the 19th century and its inclusion in the highest stage of development caused the peasants to turn to cities to work. As a result, new social classes emerged, and the city economy moved away from being an agriculture-based economy and began to turn into an industrial-based settlement area. The incompleteness of the bourgeois reforms carried out during the period under review was reflected in the fact that in some regions urban management was still under the control of district police officers.

The abolition of the system based on collective farming in the villages accelerated the stratification process among the villagers, thus leading to the emergence of rich peasants and large landowners.

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