

**SOURCE STUDIES AND HISTORIOGRAPHY
OF THE ECONOMIC SITUATION OF THE AZERBAIJAN SSR (1920-1927)**

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**ИСТОЧНИКОВЕДЕНИЕ И ИСТОРИОГРАФИЯ
ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКОГО ПОЛОЖЕНИЯ АЗЕРБАЙДЖАНСКОЙ ССР (1920-1927 гг.)**

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Abstract. The first half of the 1920s is an extremely interesting and at the same time complex and contradictory period in the history of Azerbaijan. During this period, the April Revolution, which determined the historical fate of our people for the next 70 years of the 20th century, took place, our country lost its state independence, and radical changes began in all spheres of social-political, socio-economic, cultural and spiritual life. During the writing of the article, rich source archival materials were used, first of all, the State Archive of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Archive of Political Documents of the Office of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Scientific Archive of the History Institute named after A.A. Bakikhanov of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences. The problem of the economic situation of the Azerbaijan SSR is one of the problems that the researchers of the relevant period paid special attention to, both in the historiography of the Soviet era and in the historiography of the Motherland during the years of independence. During the writing of the historiography section of the studied problem, the works of those researchers were widely used.

Аннотация. Первая половина 1920-х годов — чрезвычайно интересный и в то же время сложный и противоречивый период в истории Азербайджана. В этот период произошла Апрельская революция, определившая историческую судьбу нашего народа на следующие 70 лет XX века, наша страна утратила государственную независимость, начались коренные изменения во всех сферах общественно-политической, общественно-экономической, культурной и духовной жизни. При написании статьи использовались архивные материалы из таких архивов, как Государственный архив Азербайджанской Республики, Архив политических документов Управления делами Президента Азербайджанской Республики, Научный архив Института истории им. Бакиханова Национальной академии наук Азербайджана. Проблема экономического положения Азербайджанской ССР является одной из проблем, на которую обращали особое внимание исследователи соответствующего периода, будь то в историографии советской эпохи или в отечественной историографии в годы независимости. При написании историографического раздела изучаемой проблемы широко использовались работы этих исследователей.

Keywords: source studies, historiography, economic situation, archival materials, agriculture, Soviet Russia, oil industry.

Ключевые слова: источниковедение, историография, экономическое положение, архивные материалы, сельское хозяйство, советская Россия, нефтяная промышленность.

The first half of the 1920s is an extremely interesting and at the same time complex and contradictory period in the history of Azerbaijan. It was during this period of time that the April Revolution took place, which determined the historical destiny of our people for the next 70 years of the 20th century, our country lost its state independence, joined the composition of the revived Northern Empire in a new political-ideological case, radical changes have begun in all spheres of social-political, socio-economic, cultural and spiritual life. The foundations of the Soviet totalitarian system were laid precisely in those years: the absolute rule of a single party and a single ideology was established, repressive mechanisms were created to fight against all kinds of alienation with the most merciless methods and methods, and it became a practice of life for people to be persecuted for their beliefs.

It was during that period of time that Azerbaijan experienced a transitional period twice, in the 20s of the 20th century, our national independence was usurped by the Bolshevik regime, and in the 90s of the same century, Azerbaijan regained its independence. That is why the great leader Heydar Aliyev, during the meeting with the scientists of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences on January 31, 1997, set the research of the history of Azerbaijan in the 19th and 20th centuries as a task for the historians.

The problem of the economic situation of the Azerbaijan SSR is one of the problems that the researchers of the relevant period paid special attention to, both in the historiography of the Soviet era and in the historiography of the Motherland during the years of independence.

Rich source materials were used during the writing of the article. The analysis of the data obtained from the numerous source materials used gave us the opportunity to clarify the issues related to the problem of economic life of Azerbaijan in the first years of the Soviet rule and to fully study the problem.

Among the archival materials we referred to during the writing of the article, we can first mention the documents obtained from the State Archives of the Republic of Azerbaijan (hereafter SARA) [14; 18]. Rich factual material related to the current economic situation in the first years of the Soviet rule in Azerbaijan, the measures taken by the authorities to revive different areas of economic life, and a number of other issues were included to the article from the archives No. 27 (Azerbaijan SSR People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs), 379 (Azerbaijan SSR Central Executive Committee), 410 (Azerbaijan Revolutionary Committee), as well as funds No. 52, 61, 391 and 411.

One of the archives from which we got rich factual material about the economic situation of the Azerbaijan SSR is the Archive of Political Documents of the Affairs Department of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan (hereafter ARPIISSA). The materials obtained from the funds of this archive cover a variety of issues, such as the measures taken by the party-authority bodies in order to eliminate the decline existing in various fields of economic life in the Azerbaijan SSR, and the setting of these issues in the directives of the supreme party leadership.

It should be noted that in the funds of the State Archives of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Archives of Political Documents of the Presidential Affairs Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan, which we are referring to, materials related to various aspects of the economic life of the Azerbaijan SSR in the years 1920-1927, the state of individual areas of economic life, and the solution of important economic issues, acts and protocols reflecting the activity of numerous deliberations and conferences called for the purpose of solving important economic issues this purpose, decisions and resolutions issued by the Central Executive Committees of Azerbaijan and the South Caucasus, decrees of the Azerbaijan Revolutionary Committee, documents informing about the attitude of the party and Soviet authorities to the issues of our interest are kept.

Inclusion of the materials in the periodical we obtained from the Scientific Archives of the Institute of History named after A.A. Bakikhanov of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences (hereafter ANAS SAHI) [17; 19] in the periodical has enriched our research even more. The collection of the materials stored in the funds of this archive by the employees of the institute at different times from separate archives in the territory of the former USSR increases its importance even more. In the works that we use the Scientific Archive of the Institute of History, rich information is stored that allows us to study the state of agriculture, industry and trade of the Azerbaijan SSR in the first years of Soviet rule. The information we obtained from this archive allows us to follow the revival that took place in the economic life of the village, as well as in almost all areas of the economy, under the conditions of the new economic policy.

Congresses and conferences of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan and resolutions and decisions of the plenums of the Central Committee (1920-1937) (Vol. I) book [1] is a source of special importance regarding the problem we are studying. This book, which is a collection of documents containing the resolutions and decisions of the 1st-13th congresses of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan, was widely used.

The press materials of the period published in the 20s of the 20th century constitute another group of sources that we turn to during the research. Among them, first of all, "Bakinskiy rabochiy" [15] newspapers can be mentioned.

Collections [13] that provide source statistical data were also used in the investigation of the topic. Extremely valuable information, consisting mainly of statistical data, which allows to follow the development dynamics of individual economic fields over the years was taken from them and used in the writing of the article.

When talking about the historiographical basis of the studied problem, it should be noted that the works related to this problem began to appear from the first years of the Soviet rule. Among those works, which have the character of a kind of source, first of all, it is necessary to mention the work of D. Bunyadzade [3] dedicated to the state of Azerbaijan's agriculture and individual industries in the 20s of the 20th century and the work done on the way to building socialism in our republic.

Among the works written in the first years of the Soviet rule, work of N.I. Bukharin [16], who is considered one of the ideologues of the new government, dedicated to the New Economic Policy, should be mentioned. In that work, the author generally talks about the need for a new economic course and states that the transition to this policy was primarily due to the need for additional capital for the creation of large-scale industry, which was extremely important for the existence of Soviet power.

After the Second World War, in the first years of the Soviet rule in Azerbaijan, the problem of the restoration of the national economy, the state of agriculture and industry is included in the researches of E. A. Tokarjevski [23]. In his work, the experimental measures implemented by the Bolshevik government in order to eliminate the existing economic disorder in the first years of the Soviet rule are justified as necessary measures aimed at getting out of the situation that arose at that time. Here, as a result of the new economic policy, detailed information is given about the positive changes that have taken place in the economic life of Azerbaijan - in agriculture and industry.

Various aspects of the studied problem were involved in research in Soviet historiography in the 40s-80s of the 20th century. For the works related to the historiography of that period, the extreme ideologicalization of the science of history was characteristic. Consideration of historical events and processes from a limited ideological perspective, often biased assessment of objective scientific analysis of various issues important for our historiography were among the missing aspects of the historiography of the period in question.

The actual materials we obtained from the work of Kh. Alimirzayev [5], one of the researchers who conducted research on the problem of building socialism in Azerbaijan, which tells about the history of the role of the Azerbaijani village in the struggle for the preparation and victory of the socialist revolution, enriched our research. Of course, the existing ideological approach is characteristic of the works of these authors, and almost nothing was mentioned about the defective aspects of the measures implemented by the Soviet authorities. However, as we mentioned, valuable information about the studied problem was obtained from these works with rich factual material.

The second half of the 20th century can be considered the next stage in the direction of the study of the economic situation of Azerbaijan in the first years of Soviet rule. In the historiography of that period, the names of D.H. Gudratov [7], A.J. Rahimov [9], and M. Poladov [21] can be mentioned among the authors who dedicated special works to the problem of the economic situation of our republic.

The history of the development of the state farm in Azerbaijan and the creation of collective farms are given in the researches of the historian scientist D.H. Gudratov. In this work, the main focus is on the organization of state farms, with a historical excursion to the issue of the creation of collective farms from the first times when the new economic policy was introduced. The negative aspect of this work is that it does not include the errors and omissions made during the creation of collective farms, which were organized by canceling the kolchomags as a class. However, D. Gudratov's work also helped us in the course of research, and we made extensive use of the information we obtained from those works.

In M. Poladov's work dedicated to the agriculture of the Azerbaijan SSR, almost all separate economic fields are investigated, and its development dynamics are given with the help of rich factual material. It is also characteristic of his work that changes in the economy are presented in terms of the current ideological approach. The wealth of information given in this work on the development of agriculture had sometimes led to the appearance of contradictions in the provision of statistical figures, which is a characteristic of works that provide information on the first years of Soviet rule.

The issues of abolition of landlord land ownership in Azerbaijan were widely studied in A.J. Rahimov's work published in 1962 [9]. Although the work mainly examines the problem of creating collective farms in Azerbaijan, it also provides information about the economic situation of Azerbaijan during the first period of Soviet rule.

It should be noted that there is a discrepancy in the statistical collections and literature of the Soviet era, showing different figures for the same year is one of their main shortcomings.

One of the authors who devoted attention to this problem in the historiography of the 70s is A.I. Khalilov [24]. His work, dedicated to the participation of Azerbaijani workers in the construction of socialism, is important in terms of having valuable information about the problems that interest us, despite being written according to the Soviet ideological approach.

In the historiography of the Soviet era, issues such as the construction of socialism in our republic, the state of agriculture and industry, and the impact of the new economic policy on the economic situation of the Azerbaijan SSR became the object of research by individual Soviet researchers. Among those authors, the names of L. Polonsky [20] and V. E. Lizlov can be mentioned. These authors presented the issues of building socialism implemented in our republic from the point of view of the current ideological approach

Since the science of history in the Soviet era was adapted to the existing ideological conjuncture, the research conducted at that time was characterized by shortcomings such as one-sidedness, being far from objectivity, and distortion of historical facts. This, as in other matters, also showed itself during the research of the problems of economic history. The common characteristic

of these authors, who are representatives of the historiography of the Soviet period, was that in their research, the economic policy of the Communist Party, the measures implemented in this direction are defended and promoted, and the "unprecedented development" that took place in various areas of the economy as a result of those measures is mentioned. Another common aspect characteristic of these works is that in them all the measures implemented in the direction of building socialism are presented as successes with all their shortcomings, and the shortcomings are passed over in silence.

Changes that have taken place in the former USSR since the second half of the 80s of the 20th century open up new opportunities for the objective investigation of our distorted history, as in many areas. For this reason, a new stage begins in the history of Azerbaijan from the end of the 80s to the beginning of the 90s. It is in the works created since that time that the tendency to slowly get rid of the known ideological framework of the Soviet period begins to manifest itself.

In the early 90s of the 20th century, after Azerbaijan regained its state independence, the history of the Motherland, especially the history of the Soviet era, including the period covering the 20s, is being objectively rewritten by researchers. In contrast to the historiography of the Soviet period, which is characterized by the distortion of historical facts and a one-sided approach to individual problems, many aspects of the First and Second Republics that have been neglected in the historiography of this period are being investigated.

The problems of the internal economic situation of these republics were reviewed in the researches of historical scholars F. Ibrahimli [6], E. Maharramov [20], N. Mammadov [8], J. Jafarov [4] and others.

Historian scholar F. Ibrahimli's monograph "Social-political processes in an Azerbaijani village" [6], which was published in 1996, attracts attention primarily from the point of view of his critical attitude to the ideological approaches rooted in the historiography of the Soviet era. On the other hand, in this work, the socio-political processes taking place in the village are analyzed and the scientific explanation of the events is given.

Doctor of philosophy in history E. Maharramov's monograph dedicated to the study of the agricultural issues of Azerbaijan in the 20s based on the materials of the "Communist" newspaper [20] is valuable in terms of the wealth of actual material on separate areas of the economic life of Azerbaijan. In his work, E. Maharramov was not satisfied only with the information provided by the Communist newspaper, he included other available source materials on the problem, compared them and gave the dynamics of the development of agriculture in the mentioned period.

J. Jafarov's research on the collectivization of agriculture in Azerbaijan in the 1920s and 1930s [4] shows at what level the problems included in our research object are reflected in the historiography of the Motherland. J. Jafarov, when talking about the problem of reflection of the historical issues of the 20s-40s of the 20th century in the historiography of the period of independence, conditionally divides the researchers into two groups: "conservatives" and "innovators". He states that both the former and the latter were far from objectivity when covering the events of that period. In his opinion, just as the conservatives, during the study of the events of that period, blame not the regime, but individual party leaders who "went beyond the party line", the innovators ignore the positive aspects of the Soviet era by exaggerating only the negative aspects. He considers the works of the representatives of both lines useful for the objective study of the history of the Soviet era.

In the historiographic review, we would like to specially mention Sh. D. Salimov [12], one of the researchers of the oil industry of Azerbaijan. In his work dedicated to the issue of Azerbaijani oil in international relations during the first years of the Soviet rule (1920-1922), valuable information is given about the state of the republic's oil industry at that time, referring to primary sources and historical literature. It should be noted that this work, which has extremely rich factual material, has

been used as much as possible during our research. The author's involvement in the research of sources and literatures of a number of foreign countries in addition to Azerbaijan increases the value of the work even more.

In the works of M.A. Rasulzade [10; 11] in addition to the occupation of Azerbaijan by Bolshevik Russia, the deplorable economic situation in the republic during the first period of Bolshevik rule, the experimental measures implemented by the new government in Azerbaijan are discussed.

During the writing of the dissertation, the use of the corresponding period volume of the seven-volume "History of Azerbaijan" helped us in determining the conceptual direction of the problem. In Volume VI [2] dedicated to the events of the 20s-40s of the 20th century, the economic life of Azerbaijan during the period included in the chronological framework of our research is given in detail.

During the research, works published in recent years were widely used. It should be noted that many interesting facts related to the problem included in our research object were obtained in those works dedicated to the investigation of separate problems of the history of the Azerbaijan SSR.

In the works of N.Z. Mammadov dedicated to the study of the place and role of the Central Executive Committee of Azerbaijan in the history of Azerbaijan statehood in 1921-1938 [8], the problem that interests us is given some space.

Concluding what has been said about historiography, we would like to emphasize once again that the mentioned works are noteworthy in terms of presenting information about the problem that interests us - the economic situation of the Azerbaijan SSR.

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