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HOW MODERN AZERBAIJAN WAS FORMED?

Key words: *Communists, USSR, Azerbaijan, Nagorno-Karabakh, Popular front, Shusha declaration, Turkey, Russia*

This article is devoted to the history of Soviet and modern Azerbaijan. The regime established by the Bolsheviks in 1920 in Azerbaijan was essentially an occupational one and was based on a repressive policy. S. Kirov, who was placed at the head of the Azerbaijan SSR, relied on Russians and Armenians. In the first years of Soviet power, the Musavat nationalist underground continued its activities. Almost until 1932, the Bolsheviks did not trust ethnic Azerbaijanis to rule Azerbaijan. Only in 1932, J. Stalin instructed M. D. Bagirov to manage Azerbaijan. This faithful Stalinist was previously involved in the massacres of Azerbaijani peasants and was tied to I. Stalin by blood. M. D. Bagirov carried out the Great Terror of 1937-1938. and repressions of the 40s. 20th century in the republic. First of all, the national intelligentsia became the victims of repressions. Forced collectivization and industrialization was carried out, which, however, led to a number of problems in agriculture and industry. The situation was somewhat corrected after the removal of M. D. Bagirov from power in 1954 and after the trial in 1956 of the organizers of the great terror. In the 50-60s. 20th century formed numerous humanitarian intelligentsia. In 1969, G. Aliyev came to power, having made a career for himself in the Soviet special services. In the 70s. 20th century he carried out purges against party members who came to power during the Khrushchev thaw and were guilty of corruption. Under H. Aliyev, Soviet Azerbaijan reached the peak of its development. In addition to heavy industry and oil production, agriculture and light industry also developed. M. Gorbachev's replacement of the Azerbaijani Communist Party leadership plunged the Azerbaijani Communist Party into a crisis. The Azerbaijani communists failed to adequately respond to the challenges from the Armenian irredentists and Azerbaijani national democrats. The People's Front in 1990 actually put Azerbaijan in a state of dual power. M. Gorbachev's attempt to keep Azerbaijan under the rule of the imperial center led to the bloody events of Black January 1990. In the autumn of 1991, Azerbaijan already de jure withdrew from the USSR. The inability of the communists to solve the Karabakh crisis of 1988-1991 actually brought A. Elchibey to power. However, neither A. Mutalibov nor A. Elchibey could cope with the political crisis that engulfed Azerbaijan in 1991-1993. Even G. Aliyev needed several years to build his vertical of power. The opposition was suppressed only in 1995. G. Aliyev was able to stabilize the economy and attracted investments. The authoritarian model made it possible to achieve internal political peace, while under A. Elchibey's democracy, Azerbaijan was in a fever. G. Aliyev transferred power to I. Aliyev in 2003. I. Aliyev liquidated regional clans in 2005 and further strengthened the vertical of power by concentrating power in the hands of his clan. The authoritarian leadership style made it possible to strengthen the economy and modernize the army. The apogee of I. Aliyev's successes was the Second Karabakh War in 2020. The current president of Azerbaijan is pursuing an emphatically pro-Turkish foreign policy course, which was expressed in the signing of the Shusha Declaration in 2021.