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ABOUT THE PLACE AND ROLE OF NAKHCHIVAN IN ATROPATENA STATE

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In the article on the basis of the historical facts and the first sources the author speaks about the staying of Nakhchivan under the rule of Atropatena state after the empire of the Achaemenids declined, continuing of this situation till the III-I centuries B.C., activity of Atropat the creator of Atropatena state, the territories of Atropatena state, it was not only surrounding the territories of the South Azerbaijan but also some areas of North Azerbaijan, especially Nakhchivan. During the activity of Atropatena state Nakhchivan region played an important role in his life, also Nakhchivan was one of the main province, economic and cultural center of this state. There exist a close economic-cultural relations with the Nearest East cities and Nakhchivan. Nakhchivan prevented the attacks to Atropatena from North and played a historical role strengthening the statehood.

Keywords: *Atropatena, Atropat, Nakhchivan, satrap, Hellen states, Parthiya, Arshakids*

In the result of the political processes happening in the historical lands of Azerbaijan in IV century BC, the state of Albania in the north, and Atropatena in the south territory were formed. As the statehood traditions developed in the south of Azerbaijan beginning from III millennium BC and Nakhchivan having political relations with the political statehoods in the south related this territory to the processes happening here. For that reason when Atropatena state was formed Nakhchivan was in the content of this state.

Unlike Albania, the study of sources and history of Atropatena state is not so wide. Among these researches we can mention Igrar Aliyev's book in Russian "Essay of Atropatene state" and Abdulla Fazili's "Atropatene IV century BC – VIII century AD". The first book chronologically covers IV century BC – I century AD, while the second one as is seen from its name, covers IV century BC – VII century AD [1; 11]. Igrar Aliyev's monograph has been analysed in detailed and appreciated very high [12]. F.Aliyeva has investigated the culture of Media Atropatena and Caucasian Albania together in her book devoted to antique Azerbaijan culture [10]. Special place was also separated for the Atropatena history in the Azerbaijani history in seven volumes. In those parts the Atropatena history was looked through generally of which the author is Igrar Aliyev. A.Sumbatzade dealt with the establishment and

activity of the state in his article "Atropatene history"[9]. The Atropatena period of Nakhchivan was generalized in the first volume of Nakhchivan history in three volumes. This chapter was mainly written on the basis of the archaeological materials [8, 92-95].

Historical researches of the soviet period dealing with the relations between Atropatena and Nakhchivan note that Nakhchivan was not in the content of Atropatena, but Albania. But in the historical explorations of the independence period, especially in the investigations of V.Aliyev, V.Bakhshaliyev, S.Gashgay, R.Melikov, B.Tuncay and others Nakhchivan was proved to be in the within Atropatena in definite periods of history (e.g.: III century BC – I century AD). In the map given in the special tome of Azerbaijan National Encyclopaedia (174) Nakhchivan is shown within Atropatena.

After Alexander Macedonian's death the period called Hellenism in the world history begins. This period chronologically continued till 30 AD. Looking through Nakhchivan within the Atropatena history, at the same time Hellenism context arise such a necessary question of Nakhchivan's position in the system of hellen period states.

Formation of the Atropatena state is related to the name of Atropat the Achaemenid satrap. The researches write that not only Southern Azerbaijan, but also a great part of Northern Azerbaijan

depended from Atropat [11, 52]. Territories around Urmia lake and along Araz river (present Southern Azerbaijan), Iran, Kurdistan and some lands of Northern Azerbaijan in different stages included to the content of Atropatena state. Atropat, the establisher of Atropatena state was the satrap of Mada during the Achaemenid ruler Darius III [1, 172]. Atropat attended in the Battle of Gaugamela in 331 BC that was among Alexander the Great and the Achaemenid ruler Darius III. The war ended with the defeat of Darius III and the Achaemenid Empire collapsed. Although all that happened, Atropat, the prominent statesman, was able to condition the relations with Alexander the Great and was re-appointed satrap. While the Macedonian troops' campaign to India, there was a rebellion in Great Mada in 324 BC. Atropat suppressed the revolt and sent Barias, the leader of the rebels to Alexander the Great, so he was worthy of his confidence. Atropat presented to Alexander a group consisting of 100 amazons and married his daughter to Perdicca one of his eminent commanders [3, 78].

Strabo gives information about the formation of Atropatena state, its political history and other questions. According to his writings Midi is divided into two parts. One part is called Great Midi, of which the capital is Ekbatan – big city that was the capital of Midi state... the second part is the Atropat Midi. It has taken its name from Atropat, the commander who didn't let the country fall under the control of the Macedonians like Great Midi. Really, Atropat who was testified Tsar, declared the state to be independent and still the legacy belongs to his family... this country is situated in the East from Armenia and Matian, in the West from Great Mitiana, in the North from both countries; it is neighbor with Matiana and provinces near the Hirkan sea pit [4, 23-24].

Though the newly formed state was called Mada in the initial period, then it began to be called Atropatena with the name of its founder. According to some versions the word Azerbaijan is also originally from the word Atropatena [5, 288-289].

Atropatena state had a special place in the system of Hellenic states. One of the states created after Alexander the Great's death was the Seleucids (312 BC – 64, was collapsed by Rome).

Antioch situating on Orontes river was its capital city of this state. In IV century BC Seleucus I had moved forward the eastern borders of Atropatena. Atropatena state resisted to the successors of Seleucus I, then Artabazan, the Atropatene tsar widened its territory in the 20s of III century BC. During his governance the territory was from Caspian Sea to Asia Minor. The Seleucids state disintegrated in the end, Parthia (250 BC-224 AD. It was collapsed by the Sassanids) and Greco-Bactrian (250-125 BC) states separated from its content. During a short period of time the Parthians could succeed in strengthening their power, in the dependant states the small branches of Parthian Arsacids came to the government. One of the main factors in the political events of that time was the Rome Empire.

From the point of political system Atropatena state was a monarchy. During IV- beginning of the I century BC after Atropat, founder of the state, Artabazan of the Atropatis dynasty, Mitridat (Mehradad), Darius (Dariush), Aryabazan I and Artavard I have governed the country. The summer capital of Atropatene was Gazaka and the winter capital was the mighty fortress called Vera. Atropatenian people had been formed in the state that had their own language.

After the Atropatis dynasty the small branch of the Arsacids came into the power and Vanon, Artaban III, Artaban IV (Kudarz), Kudarz Hovarda Vanon, Pakor II, Valagez II, III, IV, Artaban V and Valagez V governed the state [1, 144]. Atropatena had army that had an important role in the state. According to Strabo, this state is enough great from the point of the military power. So as Apollonid says this country is able to bring 10000 cavalries and 40000 infantry to the battle [4, 24]. Atropatena had a developed currency [11, 115].

There is a little information about the Atropatena history until the beginning of I century BC, but the information about the second half of I century BC – 30 AD increases. Historical events, especially, the facts about foreign policy show the serious role of this state in the region. The main content of that period consisted of struggle between Parthia and Rome of which influence on the East gradually strength-

ened. During Antoni's famous "expedition of Parthia" (38 BC) was in the same front with Parthia and the cobelligerents gained victory [11, 90-97]. Instead of making the cobelligerents far closer this victory ended in dissension between them. Parthia tried to occupy the territory of Atropatena. Seeing this inappropriate situation Artavazd, the Atropatena ruler began to close with Rome. The following position of the incidents stands aside for its dramatic effect and political dynamic. Finally Atropatena ruler could gain the governance in Armenia (I century BC) with the help of the Romans.

When Atropatena state was formed in 321 BC, Nakhchivan is known to be within the borders of this state. According Strabo Artaksi and Zariadri of Armenian stardom (The Armenian stardom was formed in the western coasts of Van lake – I.H) that was established in 189 BC, captured Caspiana, Favnitida and Basoropeda (later Vaspurakan – the province situating between Van and Urmia lakes) from Medes (Atropatenians - I.H.) in about 70-60s of II century BC [7, 56]. But later great revolt was raised in Arteshes's (Artaksi) troop and he was killed in 160 BC. After his death land occupied by Armenia were given back to Atropatena and other states.

Armenian revolts against Atropatenian rulers were suppressed by the Romanian-Atropatenian forces. As Armenia deflected towards Parthia and the objections against Rome increased, in 20 BC Romans attacked to this country. They firstly declared Arttrobazd and then Ariobarzan II the Armenian tsar. In the sources there is such information that Gaius Caesar was sent there for making order in Armenia. With the agreement of Armenians, he appointed Ariobarzan, of Medes background their tsar [7, 57]. Governance of the Atropatena ruler Ariobarzan II over Armenia continued until the 2nd year of our era.

In I century BC Rome became weak as the result of the political events happening there and it also influence Atropatena. In the 20s of our era the position of Atropaties was weak that it was put an end. After them the small branch of Parthia Arshakis came to the power [11, 103-104]. The new dynasty ruled Atropatena till the Sassanids (III century AD).

We must note that until the recent years according to the steady idea in the Azerbaijani history study, as if Atropatena existed in the south from Araz river. But in reality it's completely wrong. According to Polibi, a part of Atropatena was lying in the Pont (Black Sea) Sea above the Fazis (Rioni river in Georgia), the other part till the Girkan (Caspian) Sea [1, 31-32].

Idea about Atropatena's existance in the south from Araz is also related to the political aims. The main goal here is to clean Garabagh, then whole Kur-Araz lowland from Turks and present them to Armenians. As they have said that Atropatena had situated in the south from Araz; as Araz river had been the borderline between Armeniyya (Armenia) and Atropatena (Azerbaijan) and Albania had been situating in the north from Kur and Kur-Araz lowland had entered to the content of Albania only in III-IV centuries, it means there will no doubt for Kur-Araz lowland being "Armenia" till that time and Armenians' living in those territories.

Researches that were done in recent years proved the mentioned idea to be completely baseless. Comparison of the material cultural samples found from Nakhchivan territory with the ones revealed from the territory of Atropatena state proves that Nakhchivan has been in the content of this state. V.Aliyev writes that "After Achaemenid monarchy was put an end by Alexander Macedonian (IV century BC), Nakhchivan stayed within the newly established Atropatena (Small Media) state. Nakhchivan territory was within Atropatena state in III century BC-I century" [6,37]. In the first volume of Nakhchivan history it is noted that "Material cultural samples revealed from Oglangala city is characteristic for Atropatene state and prove Nakhchivan to be the continental part of Atropatene" [8, 95]. In Nakhchivan city, Kharraba Gilan, Oglangala and some other settlements monuments belonging to Atropatena culture, at the same time silver coin – drachms and tetradrachms minted named after Alexander the Great have been revealed [6, 37-38].

Like the other regions, Nakhchivan had also played an important role in the life of the state, but its natural-geographical position and

political authority in Atropatena had a special place. The researcher mentioning the issue mentions that, “the Atropatene period was an important stage in the ancient development history of Azerbaijani people. Nakhchivan was one of the main provinces, economical and cultural centres of this state. Ties between the two economical Azerbaijani regions – Urmia and Nakhchivan made the relations stronger... Nakhchivan and Gazaka (the capital of Atropatena- I.H.) cities had created wide economical-cultural relations with Near Eastern cities depending on Alexander the Great” [6, 37].

Nakhchivan has also attended in the most important events of the political history of Atropatena. The evidences found from Oglangala belonging to the early times of our Era let us define the place of Nakhchivan in this processes during the above described Roman campaigns. Materials found in the jar-burial grave with two handle belonging to a local man of the second period of Oglangala proves this fact. These findings clearly express the role of Nakhchivan in the political-economical life of Atropatena state. There were the portraits of Octavian Augustus, Roman emperor, on the coins. Around it the words of “CAESAR AVGVSTS DIVI F PATER PATRIAE” were given. On the back of the coin there are descriptions of Gaius and Lucius Caesar leaning to the shield and spears behind it. Around the description the words of “VGVSTI F COS DESIG PRINC IVVENT, CL CAESARES” were written. According to the investigator “three of those coins are well known for the numismatic investigation and probably they were minted in the 2nd year BC and the 12th year AD. The other parts have smaller ambits and are dated to the 2nd year BC and the 4th year AD” [8, 94-95]. Copper coin belonging to the Arshakid ruler Gotarz I found from the jar-burial grave in the Aghbulag village of Shahbuz district and the Urud toponym existing near Nakhchivan (reflects the Arshakid ruler Orod’s name) reflects the relations with Parthia.

One of the distinctive features of Nakhchivan from the other regions of Atropatena is that it was also influenced by the events happening in the

north of Azerbaijan, helped strengthening the statehood breasting the attacks from the North. It is known from the Azerbaijani history that “attacks of nomad tribes to the territory of Albania and contiguous provinces became very strong in the beginning of our era and early Middle Ages. Written sources and archaeological information proves sarmat-massaget-alan tribes to overrun to the Albania territory at that time. In the last term of I century there appeared new grave types and burial traditions in Mingechevir zone. Besides the tradition of burying the corpses in jars, the catacombs and deformed skulls also exist, which are the ethnical features of alans” [5, 430]. During the archaeological excavations done in Nakhchivan, materials were revealed proving these tribes’ attack to Nakhchivan. The stone box graves near the Boyukduz village of Kangarli district are related to the sarmat – alan campaigns. This idea is also referred to the finding revealed from the villages of Bichanak (Shahbuz) and Goynuk (Babek). Among the Sarmar-alans there have also been pecheneg and other tribes. The toponymic investigation shows the name of Bichanak villages to relate with pechenegs.

In I century AD great changes took place in the political life of Azerbaijani states Atropatena and Albania. The ruler dynasties had changes both in Atropatena and Albania. The small branch of Parthia Arshakids had replaced the local dynasties in Atropatena and Albania. This was related with the political management style of Parthia state. Instead of making the local states obedient, the Parthians preferred appointing the small branches of Arshakids to the governance.

In Azerbaijan (Atropatena and Albania states) during the Arshakids (I-III centuries) Nakhchivan was within Syunik province. According to F.Mammadova, Syunik seems not to ally of the Albanian tribes. Syunik was politically dependent on either Atropatena, or Albania (after the disintegration of Armenia in 387) and sometimes independent [13, 159].

So, it is turned out that Nakhchivan has been in the content of the ancient Azerbaijani states and has been able to create definite relationship with them. At the same time Nakhchivan had an important place in Atropatena

state that was special period in the statehood history of Azerbaijan, reflected all the periods of its history in itself, was very active in preventing the nomad attacks from the North, had a necessary role in the foreign economical relations and development of culture. During the Arshakids Nakhchivan was very active in the political life and played important role in strengthening of the Azerbaijani statehood.

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NAXÇIVANIN ATROPATENA DÖVLƏTİNDƏ YERİ VƏ ROLUNA DAİR

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Məqalədə Əhəmənilər monarxiyasının süquta uğramasından sonra Naxçıvanın yeni yaranan Atropatena dövlətinin tərkibində qalması, bunun ən azı e.ə.III-I əsrlərdə davam etməsi, Atropatena dövlətinin yaradıcısı Atropatın fəaliyyəti, Atropatena dövlətinin ərazisi, onun təkcə Cənubi Azərbaycan ərazisini deyil, Şimali Azərbaycanın da müəyyən ərazilərini, xüsusilə Naxçıvanı əhatə etməsi tarixi faktlara, ilkin mənbələrə istinad edilərək əsaslandırılmışdır.

Tədqiqat nəticəsində müəyyən edilmişdir ki, Atropatena dövlətinin fəaliyyəti dövründə Naxçıvan bölgəsi onun həyatında mühüm rol oynamış, Naxçıvan bu dövlətin əsas əyalətlərindən, iqtisadi və mədəni mərkəzlərindən biri olmuş, Yaxın Şərq şəhərləri ilə iqtisadi-mədəni əlaqələr yaratmış, Atropatenaya şimaldan olan basqınların qarşısını almış, dövlətçiliyin möhkəmlənməsində tarixi rol oynamışdır.

Açar sözlər: Atropatena, Atropat, Naxçıvan, satrap, Ellin dövləti, Parfiya, Arşakilər

О РОЛИ И МЕСТЕ НАХЧЫВАНА В ГОСУДАРСТВЕ АТРОПАТЕНА

И.М.Гаджиев

В статье на основе исторических фактов и первичных источников обосновывается существование Нахчывана в составе государства Атропатена после распада монархии Ахеменидов, что длилось до III-I тысячелетий до н.э., о деятельности основоположника государства Атропатена – Атропата, о территории государства Атропатена, о вхождении в его состав не только территории Южного Азербайджана, а также части территорий Северного Азербайджана, особенно Нахчывана.

В результате исследования выявлено, что во все время деятельности Нахчыванская область играла важную роль в жизни государства Атропатена, Нахчыван был одним из главных провинций, экономическим и культурным центром этого государства, был важным звеном в торговле с городами Ближнего Востока, а также в предотвращении набегов с севера, в целом сыграл историческую роль в укреплении государственности.

Ключевые слова: Атропатена, Нахчыван, satrap, Эллинское государство, Парфия, Аршакиды