

## HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY

### THE MAP OF HISTORICAL KARABAKH: ANALYSIS AND SIGNIFICANCE OF ITS CARTOGRAPHIC-TOPONYMIC CONTENT (Research on the occasion of the 125th anniversary of the map)

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#### Abstract

In the 19th century and at the beginning of the 20th century, the South Caucasus, Azerbaijan, and its regions - then part of Tsarist Russia - were depicted in military-topographic and special maps. To study the historical-geographical aspects of the modern information war, reference was made to the map of Historical Karabakh compiled in 1899 by the Russian researcher, Caucasus scholar M.A. Skibitski. Based on the content of the map and historical sources, an attempt was made to expose the cartographic-toponymic aggression of Armenian nationalists.

At the end of the 19th century, M.A. Skibitski showed on the map that Azerbaijani Tatars in Karabakh held significant superiority both in the number of villages and in population. According to the ethnic composition of the population settled in Karabakh in 1899, Azerbaijani Tatars made up 70%, Armenians – 16.6%, Kurds – 12.7%, and Tats accounted for 0.7% of the total population of Karabakh. Out of 452 villages in Karabakh, Azerbaijanis lived in 333 villages (73.7%), Armenians in 47 villages (10.4%), and Kurds in 69 villages (15.3%). According to the map of Karabakh, it can be stated that by the end of the 19th century, the vast majority of geographical names (84%) were of Azerbaijani-Turkic origin.

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#### 1. Introduction

The history of cartography shows that, beginning from the 18th–19th centuries, the territory of Azerbaijan was regularly depicted on maps. In the 19th century and at the beginning of the 20th century, alongside topographic surveying for military purposes, the preparation and publication of maps of various types and contents were carried out by different state institutions. The results of most topographic surveys were stored in a special map depot established in Tiflis in 1840. From that time onward, the Tiflis depot became the center for the compilation, publication, and preservation of maps. The map of Historical Karabakh compiled by M.A. Skibitski was also prepared and printed in this topographic depot.

To study the origin of the geographical names of the Karabakh region and to illustrate its socio-ethnodemographic landscape, the historical map of Karabakh compiled by the Russian Caucologist M.A. Skibitski in 1899 (used as the main

source of information) and his related work [23, 24] were utilized. One of the objectives of this research is to clearly demonstrate the cartographic-toponymic aggression of Armenian nationalists by presenting and analyzing historical and geographical facts as well as statistical data, based on the content of the map and scientific sources.

The relevance of the topic we address lies in the use of new historical and geographical information (facts) obtained from an ancient map in the context of the information warfare currently being waged against Azerbaijan.

#### 2. Materials and Methods

*Mapping of the territory of Azerbaijan in the 18th–19th centuries and the beginning of the 20th century.* In the 16th–18th centuries, new achievements in the science of cartography in Western European countries and in Russia were applied to make surveying work more efficient. This led to the widespread use first of the mensula, and later of the triangulation method. In

Russia, the compilation of large- and medium-scale topographic maps increased significantly both as a result of the activities of Peter I and after his military campaigns to the Caspian littoral regions and Persia (the Safavid state) in 1722–1723. As a continuation of topographic surveying, Russian specialists compiled topographic maps of different regions of Azerbaijan, the Caspian Sea, and its western coasts. By the middle of the 19th century, large-scale surveys had been carried out in almost the entire territory of Azerbaijan [4, 27].

In the 18th–19th centuries, the use of topographic maps in military affairs began. In the second half of the 19th century, the publication of military-topographic maps was organized in European countries as well as in Russia. Since topographic and geodetic work in Russia was conducted mainly for military purposes, pre-revolutionary Russian cartography had a distinctly military-cartographic character [4, 19].

In the second half of the 19th century and at the beginning of the 20th century, the publication of special maps (ethnographic, historical, geological, road maps, maps of the Caspian Sea, etc.) increased, and most of them were prepared and printed at the Military-Topographic Depot in Tiflis. At the same time, the Caucasus branch of the Russian Geographical Society was actively engaged in the study of the geography and toponymy of Azerbaijan. For example, in 1913 D.D. Pagirev compiled and published an alphabetical index of geographical names corresponding to the five-verst map of the Caucasus region (scale 1:210,000) [18].

The colonization of Russia's borderlands, as part of the implementation of imperial policy and the development of the economy, coincided with the settlement of migrants in different regions during this period (1830–1915). For instance, in the Mughan and Mil plains and in Karabakh, complex expeditionary studies were conducted to promote the development of agriculture. Based on the results of these studies, special plans and maps were prepared. For this purpose, in 1912 the five-verst maps (scale 1:210,000) of the Mughan Plain and the Mil Plain were compiled and published in Tiflis [27].

Among the numerous thematic maps published in the 19th and early 20th centuries, our attention was drawn to a very rare map depicting historical Karabakh. The title on it reads: "Map of the Karabakh State Summer Pastures" (Figure 1), and it was published in 1899 at a scale of one verst to 420,000 (1:420,000). The map's antiquity - 125 years old - combined with the scarcity of available

information about it, yet its clearly rich content even at first glance, led us to select it as the main cartographic material and research object for our study.

In the process of examining the cartographic and toponymic content of the historical map of Karabakh, comparative historical-geographical, cartographic, statistical, and linguistic analysis methods were used as the main research approaches. All geographical names written on the map (a total of 1,035 toponyms) were analyzed using the above-mentioned methods, grouped according to their types, naming reasons, linguistic affiliation, origin, and meaning.

### 3. Analysis and Discussion

**3.1. M.A. Skibitski's Work in the Caucasus and Karabakh.** M.A. Skibitski worked for a long time in the South Caucasus (Transcaucasia), conducting research and overseeing land administration prior to the revolution. He also carried out significant economic studies related to pasture management in Karabakh. Between 1891 and 1897, as a surveyor and land management specialist, Skibitski studied the state summer pastures (yaylak) of Karabakh in four uyezds of the Elizavetpol Governorate, focusing on their more efficient use for livestock development. Based on field and office (cameral) materials collected during this period, in 1899 Skibitski published the book *Materials for the Organization of State Summer and Winter Pastures and for the Study of Livestock Farming in the Caucasus* (Tiflis, 1899, vol. 4), which included the "Map of the State Summer Pastures of Karabakh" [23, 24].

In the early 1920s, he directly participated in the negotiations between Azerbaijan and Armenia and was personally acquainted with the chairmen of the revolutionary committees of the two republics — S. Kasyan and N. Narimanov. During the Soviet period, M.A. Skibitski preserved extensive archival records relating to the history of Karabakh, including notes that reflected many valuable factual materials on the activities of the Land Commission of the Transcaucasian Central Executive Committee up to 1928. In 1929, S.M. Kirov and S.I. Kasyan, the chairman of Armenia's revolutionary committee, became acquainted with these materials.

**3.2. Main features of the "Map of the state summer pastures of Karabakh"** The Map of the State Summer Pastures of Karabakh, compiled by M.A. Skibitski, is of great scientific and practical significance due to its rich informational content. As a cartographic source, the map (Figure 1 and 2) provides valuable data for the study of the

history, economic development, geography, and topo-nymy of Karabakh. The map was compiled at a scale of “1 inch to 10 versts”, that is, a ten-verst scale (1:420,000). It includes a coordinate grid, with parallels and meridians drawn at 15-minute intervals. All types of settlements, road and river networks are depicted in detail, along with state, guberniya, and uyezd boundaries. The pastures of Jabrayil, Javanshir, Elizavetpol, Zangazur, and Shusha uyezds of the Elizavetpol Governorate, as well as part of Javad uyezd of the Baku Governorate, are shown on the map with distinctive color backgrounds. The map also delineates eight pasture regions, marked with Roman numerals I–VIII: Murovdagh, Upper Tartar, Zangazur, Sisian, Kopan, Gyrkh-Gyz, Kirs-Sarybaba, and Kirs-Ziarat.

The author of the book and its accompanying map, M.A. Skibitski, wrote: “*The investigated Karabakh pastures (yaylags) are located within the borders of the Javanshir, Zangazur, Shusha, and Jabrayil uyezds of the Elizavetpol Governorate, in the territory known as Karabakh. Earlier, before its annexation to Russia in 1828, these lands formed part of the independent Karabakh*

*Khanate. They extend between 63°15'46" and 64°32'8" east longitude and 38°55'14" and 40°19'23" north latitude, that is, 1°16'21" or 102.4 versts in length and 1°24'9" or 146 versts in width*” [23, p.1]. Considering that one verst equals 1.067 km, the length and width of the Karabakh summer pastures can be determined as 109.3 km and 155.8 km, respectively [5; 6].

**3.3. Settlements of Karabakh and the ethnic composition of the population in the works of M.A. Skibitski.** M.A. Skibitski provides important statistical data on the villages of historical Karabakh, the number of households (families or farms), and the ethnic composition of the population:

“*The total number of users of the described yaylags amounted to 26,038 households (families or farms), distributed across 452 villages. Of these, 4,048 families lived in 81 villages of the Jabrayil uyezd; 5,064 families in 102 villages of the Javanshir uyezd; 331 families in 4 villages of the Elizavetpol uyezd; 9,432 families in 175 villages of the Zangazur uyezd; 5,223 families in 81 villages of the Shusha uyezd; and 1,940 families in 9 villages of the Javad uyezd.*

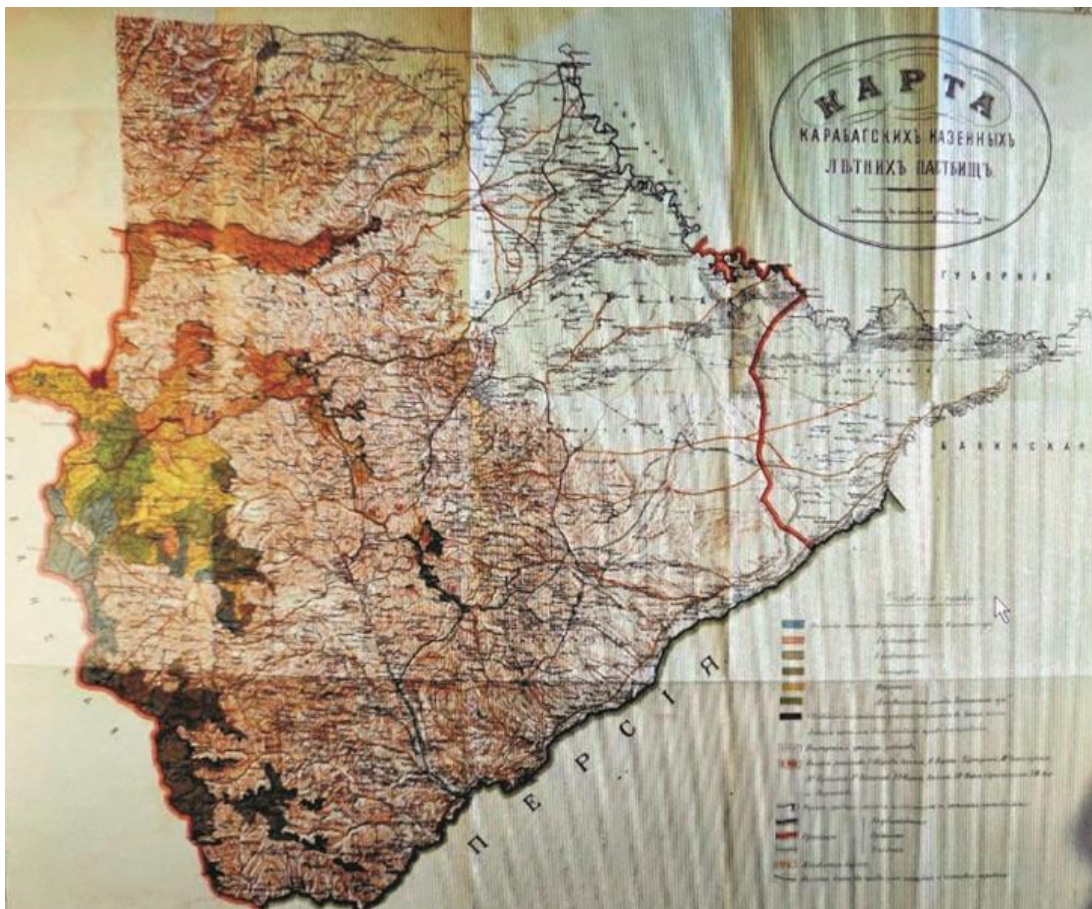


Figure 1. Map of the state summer pastures of Karabakh



**Figure 2. Research conducted on the map**

*By ethnic composition, the mentioned users were divided into Azerbaijani Tatars (during the Tsarist period, Russian officials referred to Azerbaijanis as ‘Tatars’ – author), Kurds, Armenians, and Tats (in the 19th century, Azerbaijanis who had migrated from Southern Azerbaijan were referred to as ‘Tats’ – author). Across 333 separate villages scattered throughout Karabakh, as well as in two villages located in the Ganjin plain, there lived 18,919 families of Tatars. The Kurds, amounting to 3,510 families, inhabited 69 villages along the Hakari and Bargushad rivers in the Zangazur uyezd, the Tartar and Tutku valleys in the Javanshir uyezd, and the lower course of the Bargushad river in the Jabrayil uyezd. Armenians, numbering 3,408 families, resided in 47 villages situated in the highland parts of the Javanshir, Zangazur, and Jabrayil uyezds. Finally, the Tats, with 201 families, lived in a single village (Nuvadi) in the Migri area of the Zangazur uyezd.” [23, pp. 35–36].*

Referring to statistical data on the population of the Transcaucasian region in 1893, M.A. Skibitski wrote that the average household size (number of persons per family) among the Tatars and Kurds of the Elizavetpol Governorate was 5.3, among Armenians – 7.1, among Tats of the village of Nuvadi – 4.6, and among Tatars of the Javad uyezd of the Baku Governorate – 6.0 [23, p.39]. Thus, by knowing the total number of households (families) for each ethnic group across the uyezds, and the average number of persons per household, it is possible to calculate approximate figures for the ethnic composition of the historical Karabakh population at the end of the 19th century. The Tatars (of the uyezds within the Elizavetpol Governorate), taking into account 16,979 households with an average of 5.3 persons per household, amounted to a total of 89,989 persons; in the Javad uyezd (Baku Governorate), Tatars (6.0 persons  $\times$  1,940 households) numbered

11,640 persons; Kurds (5.3 persons  $\times$  3,510 households) – 18,603 persons; Armenians (7.1 persons  $\times$  3,408 households) – 24,197 persons; Tats (4.6 persons  $\times$  201 households) – 925 persons. In total, the population of the Karabakh region across all uyezds amounted to 145,354 persons.

The conducted research and statistical indicators, as noted by the Russian scholar M.A. Skibitski, show that the Azerbaijani Tatars ‘lived in 333 separate villages scattered throughout the whole of Karabakh’ and, by the end of the 19th century, held a significant advantage both in the number of villages and in population size. In 1899, Azerbaijanis (Tatars) accounted for 70% of the total population of Karabakh, Armenians – 16.6%, Kurds – 12.7%, and Tats – 0.7%. Out of 452 villages in Karabakh, Azerbaijanis resided in 333, which constituted 73.7% of all villages. Armenians lived in 47 villages, representing 10.4% of the total, while Kurds inhabited 69 villages, or 15.3% of the region’s settlements.

M.A. Skibitski’s statistical data are further complemented by numerous historical sources, statistical collections, and calendars that provide valuable information on the geography, economy, and ethnic composition of the Karabakh population [10, 11, 13, 14, 17, 20, 22, 25, 26, etc.]. These sources allow us to impartially trace the demographic changes in the ethnic structure of Karabakh’s population. The necessity of such an approach arises primarily in connection with the Karabakh conflict (1988–2020) and the baseless attempts of Dashnak-Bolshevik Armenian supporters during 1921–1923 to artificially inflate the number of Armenians in the mountainous part of Karabakh [8, 9, 15].

After the signing of the Kurekchay Peace Treaty (1805) by Ibrahim Khalilkhan, the ruler of the Karabakh Khanate, the khanate recognized Russia’s military supremacy and was incorporated into its domain. Following the Russo-Iranian War (1826–1828) and the Russo-Turkish War (1828–1829), which ended with the treaties of Gulistan (1813), Turkmenchay (1828), and Adrianople (1829), a mass resettlement of Armenians into Northern Azerbaijan began. Their rapidly increasing numbers had a significant impact on the ethnic composition of the indigenous Azerbaijani population historically settled in this region.

An examination of the 1823 tax registers of the Karabakh region reveals the following ethnic composition: Azerbaijanis – 15,729 households (78.3%) and Armenians – 4,366 households (21.7%). Moreover, if the urban population of

Shusha is excluded, the dominance of Azerbaijanis in rural settlements becomes even more evident (78.7% versus 21.3%).

In connection with the Karabakh conflict that began in February 1988, Armenians frequently and fraudulently claimed that after the establishment of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region in 1923, Armenians constituted 95% of the artificially created administrative unit. To justify the separation of such a region, several years prior to its creation, they deliberately disseminated false and fabricated data regarding the ethnic composition of the population of Upper Karabakh [1, 5–9, 15].

One of the leading researchers of the modern history of the South Caucasus (Transcaucasia), American professor Tadeusz Swietochowski (1989), noted that in 1919 the ratio of Azerbaijanis to Armenians in the population of Nagorno-Karabakh was 3:2 [21]. Based on the analysis of M.A. Skibitski's statistical data, it can be concluded that by the end of the 19th century, approximately 101,600 Azerbaijanis and 24,200 Armenians lived in Karabakh. In 1899, Azerbaijanis (referred to as 'Tatars' in the Russian Empire) constituted 70% of the population, Armenians – 16.6%, Kurds – 12.7%, and Tats – 0.7%. Thus, in 1899 the numerical ratio of Azerbaijanis to Armenians within a united Karabakh was about 4:1. Consequently, between 1899 and 1919 – a span of just 20 years – the ethnic composition of the Karabakh population began to change, shifting numerically in favor of Armenians. However, despite this process of Armenianization, one cannot speak of Armenians achieving demographic predominance. Research demonstrates that within two decades such a rapid increase in the Armenian population could not have occurred naturally, since by the end of the 19th century there were only about 24,200 Armenians in the whole of Karabakh.

Historical sources indicate that during the period 1828–1911, more than one million Armenians were resettled from Iran and Turkey into this region, with the majority being settled in the territories of Northern Azerbaijan [10, 11, 13, 14, 17, 25, 26, etc.]. From these sources it becomes evident that this increase was the result of the resettlement policy implemented by Tsarist Russia, through which Armenians arriving from Turkey and Iran were relocated to the South Caucasus, including Karabakh, which was part of the Elizavetpol Governorate [2, 5–7, 16].

The historian R.N. Huseynov [12] wrote that some Armenian scholars themselves acknow-

ledged the autochthonous status of the Azerbaijani population of Karabakh. Armenian archaeologist Karine Khristoforovna Kushnaryova (Kushnaryan), based on artifacts uncovered during excavations, concluded that Azerbaijanis, who practiced a nomadic and semi-nomadic lifestyle, had been settled in Karabakh since ancient times and were not newcomers from elsewhere. In the 1960s–1970s, K.X. Kushnaryova led an archaeological expedition in Azerbaijan, conducting excavations at the ancient Khojaly kurgan cemetery and at the Uzerliktapa settlement near Aghdam. In 1966, the Khojaly necropolis was studied as part of an investigation of synchronous monuments recorded in both the lowland (steppe) and mountainous areas of Karabakh. It was established that the necropolis was located along the main route connecting the Mil plain with the high mountain pastures of Karabakh. As a result of archaeological excavations and research carried out by K.X. Kushnaryova and A.L. Yakobson, the following conclusions were reached: (1) at the end of the second millennium BCE, semi-nomadic transhumant livestock farming occupied a significant role in Karabakh and continued into modern times; (2) for three millennia, both the lowland (steppe) and mountainous zones of Karabakh were integrated into a single cultural and economic region (or a unified ecosystem); (3) the Azerbaijani (Turkic) tribes, as the autochthonous population of Karabakh, have lived in these territories since ancient times - more than 2,700 years [12].

#### 3.4. Toponyms on the Map of Karabakh.

Historical and archaeological-ethnographic evidence demonstrates that the territory of Karabakh is one of the oldest human settlements. Toponymic studies show that the majority of geographical names in Karabakh - oronyms (mountains, mountain ranges, peaks, passes, ridges, hills, valleys, plains, steppes, etc.), hydronyms (rivers, lakes, waterfalls, springs, kahrizes, etc.), and microtoponyms (fields, pastures, forests, fortress sites, ruins of villages, etc.) - are of Azerbaijani-Turkic origin (Figure 2). This indicates that Azerbaijanis engaged in animal husbandry, who traveled along seasonal migration routes between summer and winter pastures each year, gave names in their own language to the mountains, valleys, passes, ridges, rivers, springs, and other natural features that marked their paths. Since ancient times, beginning from the period of Caucasian Albania (4th–3rd centuries BCE), Karabakh was inhabited by tribes such as the

Albans, Arrans, Koroz, Uti, Gargars, Sakas, Pechenegs, Varanda, and others.

The Armenians who later settled in Karabakh were descendants of those resettled from Iran and Turkey during the 19th century under the encouragement of Tsarist Russia. Following this process, some Azerbaijani-Turkic place names in Karabakh were replaced with Armenian equivalents (through translation or modification), resulting in the emergence of hybrid toponyms. Consequently, over time, a number of the original Turkic names gradually fell into oblivion [1].

In the “Map of the state summer pastures of Karabakh” (1899), compiled by M.A. Skibitski, the names of various geographical features around Shusha, Khankendi, and Aghdam were recorded: Dashalty, Khanzirek, Sivrak, Signakh, Saribaba Mt., Janakhchi, K. Kirs Mt., G. Kirs Mt., Munjuglu, Abdal, Dashkend, Keshishkend, Yenikend, Takir, Khapi, Kirakend, Kirjabulaq, Gyrkhyz Range, Mehtikend, Gaya-Bashi, Bodara, Dashbulag, Garakeshish, Askeran, Mughanni, Shelli, Qaradaghli, Khinzrestan, Engaja, Farukh, Bazarkend, Diamanli, Vang, Aligulukend, Seytar, Subasar, Varazgun, Seyidlarkend, Hojaz Mt., Hojaz, Mollalar, Gachan Mt., Zeyva, Abdallar, Chaykend, Khanavak, Novruzlu, Aravyus, Digh, Jijimli, Sagsaghan Mt., Sagnokar Mt., Dangan, Eljan Mt., Torkhan-yali Mt., Sofyan, Kharar, Khuzyumr, Topagala Mt., Teqkharap, Dumi, Tugh Mt., Taghlar, Salakatin, Gapapart, Gashkhakar Mt., Avshar, Gajar, Zerdishashen, Kushibaba Karni, Garabulag, Sultanshen, Zazali, Saroshen, Kirkhan, Aghbulag, Khaghanlilar, Khinsh-galasi, Giyasli, Akhmazli, Kochialli, Chulu, Dash-bashi, Sarihajali, Sarajoglu, Evoglu, Magruzlu, Choban-dagh Mt., Tarnaut, Goytana, Bayat, Ahmad-aghaly, Mirashalli, Garvand, Bileganni, Afatli, Shumlu-tepe, Arazbarli, Sarvanlar, Farajulla-bey-kahriz, Jafar-bey-kahriz, Haji-Tural, Hajilar, Karim-beyli, Garakhanli, Uch-oghlan, and others [24]. This list of geographical names is presented in the form in which they appear on the map. Despite some distortions in spelling, a first reading makes it evident that the overwhelming majority of these toponyms are of Azerbaijani origin (Figure 3).

Aydın Karabaghli (Mammadov A.B.), a native of Khankendi and a researcher of Karabakh, wrote in his work [3] that Aghdam is located at the crossroads leading to the districts, settlements, and summer pastures of Upper (Mountainous) Karabakh. For this reason, as a result of the development of economic activities in the region since ancient times, the roads branching out from Aghdam extend to all areas and summer pastures of

Karabakh. A. Karabaghli notes that in the 1880s–1890s, the Russian researcher M.A. Skibitski, who traveled extensively across the Karabakh highlands and studied its geographical names, recorded 567 summer pasture and settlement toponyms. Of these, only one toponym was in Russian, just two were assumed to belong to the Armenian (Hay) language, and a few were “mute,” i.e., with unexplained etymology. The remaining 557 summer pasture and settlement names were in Azerbaijani Turkic. These figures clearly show that since ancient times, our Turkic-speaking ancestors, who were engaged in pastoral culture, made extensive use of these fertile highlands and gave them names in their own language. A.B. Karabaghli emphasizes that the toponymic analysis conducted by M.A. Skibitski is solid evidence of the long-standing presence and autochthonous status of Azerbaijani Turks in this land [3].

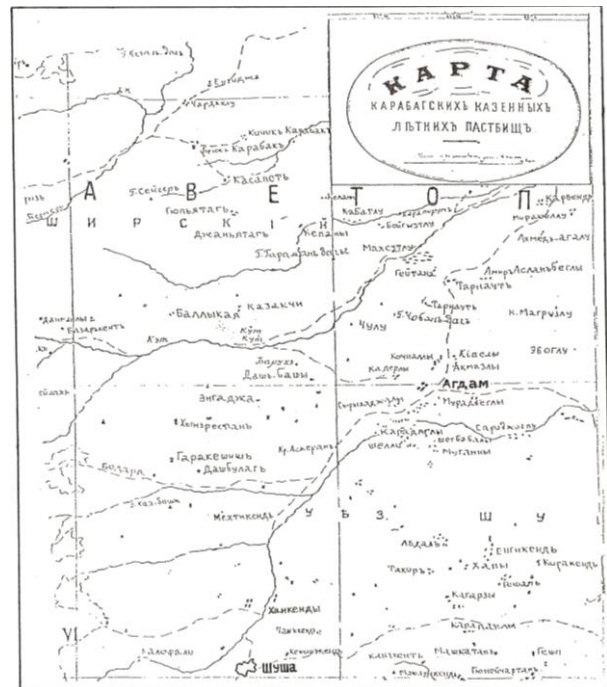


Figure 3. “Map of the state summer pastures of Karabakh” (fragment)

The author presents some of these in his work. For example, in the historical **Syunik** (Sisikan, later Sisian) district, the summer pastures were named as follows: Arikli yurd, Arikli gadik, Sisian chay, Salvarti, Qalakh yurd, Dashkasan, Gurju dagh, Takhta korpu, Gapali, Aghlar yurd (a total of 59 pasture names).

In the **Kapan** (Gafan) district: Mishki, Aramli, Goysu gozal, Goy yal, Sarimsakhli, El dara, Qirkhbulag, Eyrimetz, Chukhur yatag, Gala gaya, Arpali (a total of 108 pasture names).

In the **First Girkhgiz** district: Chichekli, Meydan, Girkhgiz, Alipanah, Delik dash, Mamirlyal (a total of 34 pasture names).

In the Kirs–Saribaba area: Altuntakhta, Saribaba, Davaboynu, Gizil dash, Gorus, etc. In the Kirs–Ziyarat area: Kirs, Bala Kirs, Haji bulaghi, Sakina yurdi, Ziyarat, Imirli, Gatirkhana, Chemen, Golluja, Gorush (a total of 24 pasture names). The migration routes to the summer pastures of Upper Karabakh were as follows: Khalfali – Shirlian – Girkhgiz; Meydan – Saghshagan forest – Badira – Girkhgiz; Kichik Kirs – Kirs – Ziyarat – Chanakhchi forest – Ellidagh [3, pp. 107–108]. There is no need to comment further on these geographical names, since all of the listed summer pastures and settlement names are of Azerbaijani-Turkic origin.

The number of geographical object names indicated on the map of Karabakh is quite substantial. The “*Map of the state summer pastures of Karabakh*” includes more than one thousand geographical names (toponyms), encompassing settlements, orographic and hydrographic features, as well as the names of hills (kurgans), fortresses, springs, underground water channels (kahrizes), mosques, churches, monasteries, and others. Of the 1,035 toponyms recorded on M.A. Skibitski’s map, 866 - or 84% - are of Azerbaijani-Turkic origin, 5% are of Armenian origin, and 11% belong to other origins (Persian, Arabic, Russian, hybrid, etc.) [1, 5–7, 16, 24].

The geographical names of the Karabakh region can be classified into the following groups: *oikonyms*, *oronyms*, *hydronyms*, and *other toponyms*. A portion of the oikonyms recorded on the map consist of settlement names that reflect the natural-geographical landscape features of the area and the economic activities of the population (e.g., *Arpagadik village*, *Dashalti village*, *Dashbashi village*, *Aghdara village*, etc.). Some oikonyms include the words *qishlaq* (winter pasture), *oba* (hamlet), or *peye* (sheepfold) - for example, *Yalobakend* and *Qishlaq village* near Khojaly, or *Zaman peye* near Shusha. Such settlements originated mainly in connection with livestock farming and were named after former winter pastures where they were established. *Qishlaq* in the past referred to a place where cattle-breeders lived. Their transformation into permanent settlements, i.e., villages, was due to this practice. South of the village of *Mughanlı* near Khojavend, the settlements *Beylik qishlaq* and *Beylik obasi* were recorded. These were so named because the *qishlaq* and *oba* belonged to *beylik* (chieftain/noble).

In Upper (Mountainous) Karabakh, a certain part of the oikonyms originated from the names of peoples, tribes, and clans - i.e., from ethnonyms. The majority of these ethnotoponyms reflect the names of Turkic tribes that settled in the region at various times. In the toponymy of Karabakh, geographical names derived from ancient Turkic tribes such as Alban, Arran, Hun, Tartar, Garqar, Dondar, Varanda, Gushchu, Khalfali, Kangarli, Afshar, Abdal, Garadaghli, Gazanchi, Pecheneg, and others have been preserved (for example, *Garadaghli village*, *Mughanlı village*, *Dolanlar village*, *Tugh village*, *Kangarli village*, *Abdal village*).

A characteristic feature of Karabakh’s toponymy is that Armenian-origin place names began to appear mainly in the mid-19th century. This fact is also confirmed by the works of Armenian researchers. Even in cases where the population of certain villages consisted entirely of Armenians, the village names themselves carried Azerbaijani meanings (e.g., *Dashalti village*, *Boyuk Galadarsi village*, etc.). Thus, the toponymy of historical Karabakh was formed on the basis of the language (Turkic) of its ancient inhabitants - the Azerbaijanis. Overall, the toponymic background of the region is dominated by Azerbaijani-Turkic names, with only a small number of toponyms that can be explained through Persian or Armenian.

As a result of the settlement of Armenians relocated from Iran to Karabakh in the 19th century, the names of a number of settlements, as well as the ethnic composition of their populations, were altered. Consequently, in the region’s toponymy - particularly in oikonymy - some settlements acquired two names: the first being the original Azerbaijani name, and the second, a newly introduced Armenian name. Examples of such oikonyms include (with the first names in Azerbaijani and the second in Armenian): *Guzum village – Kert*, *Hasanabad – Harov*, *Gayabashi – Dahrav*, *Heyvali – Drmbon*, *Qushchubaba – Moshkhmat*, *Sikh Dursun – Siktoraşen*, *Aghbulaq – Mismina*, *Balliqaya – Kichan*, *Shalva – Rev*, *Chormanlu – Karnakar*, *Jamiyyat – Ninki*, *Susanliq – Mukhranes*, *Gozlu – Vaquas*, etc.

The majority of toponyms in the former Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region historically developed as an integral part of Azerbaijani toponymy. Moreover, Azerbaijani-Turkic toponyms belong stratigraphically to the older toponymic layer, while the Armenian-language toponyms constitute a later, superficial layer [1].

It should be noted that Armenologists attempted to destroy works and maps that explicitly ex-

posed the myths and falsifications of Armenian history. This list included the maps and works of M.A. Skibitskiy and D.D. Pagirev [18, 23, 24]. However, they failed to achieve their objectives. In Skibitskiy's 1899 article and map, the overwhelming majority of geographical names recorded within the territory of historical Karabakh were of Azerbaijani origin. Although Armenians succeeded in removing the above-mentioned works from the libraries of many cities in neighboring countries, they were unable to eradicate them completely.

Similarly, Armenian nationalists could not eliminate the *Pyativërstnaya karta Kavkazskogo kraya* ("Five-Verst Map of the Caucasian Region," scale 1:210,000), published in Tiflis between 1903 and 1913 by the Caucasus Military-Topographic Department, nor the alphabetical index of geographical names compiled by D.D. Pagirev [18]. The folded sheet attached to the alphabetical index demonstrates that the complete map of the Caucasus consisted of 58 separate sheets (planchettes). The total number of toponyms collected in the index reached nearly 34,000 [18].

These documents show that the overwhelming majority of geographical names (oikonyms, hydronyms, oronyms) recorded within the territory of modern-day Armenia and historical Karabakh were in the Azerbaijani language.

### Conclusion

The idea that *geographical names are the language of a map and rich carriers of information* has long been recognized in geographic cartography and toponymy. One of the most valuable aspects of the Map of the Karabakh compiled by the Russian Caucasologist M.A. Skibitski at the end of the 19th century lies in the fact that the toponyms preserved on the map were recorded without distortion. Based on a comparative analysis of the content of this rare cartographic source - "*Map of the state summer pastures of Karabakh*" (1899) - and other related scientific materials, the following conclusions can be drawn:

1. The majority of toponyms in Karabakh historically developed as an integral part of Azerbaijani toponymy. Azerbaijani-Turkic toponyms, from a stratigraphic perspective, belong to the ancient toponymic layer, while those of Armenian origin represent a later layer. According to the map of Karabakh, it can be concluded that by the end of the 19th century, the vast majority of geographical names (84%) were of Azerbaijani-Turkic origin. Thus, the toponymic background of

historical Karabakh reflects its most ancient linguistic layer.

2. One of the distinguishing features of Karabakh toponymy is that Armenian-origin toponyms mainly began to emerge from the mid-19th century onward. In some villages, despite being inhabited by Armenians, the place names still carried Azerbaijani meanings. This indicates that the toponyms that had formed in Karabakh in ancient times were created on the basis of the language of its indigenous population - the Azerbaijanis.

3. Another distinguishing feature is that, as a result of the resettlement of Armenians from Iran in the 19th century, the names of a number of settlements were changed. Thus, in the toponymy of Karabakh - particularly in oikonymy - some settlements had two names: the ancient Azerbaijani name and the newer Armenian one. During the period of independence, the historical names of settlements that had been Armenized were restored (in 1992).

4. The map of Karabakh demonstrates that both from a natural (physico-geographical) and an economic perspective, historical Karabakh constituted a single whole, uniting its lowland (plains) and upland (mountainous) parts as one integrated ecosystem. The geographical elements of the map's content confirm that Azerbaijanis were the principal users of both the lowland and mountainous areas of Karabakh.

5. Based on archaeological excavations and research carried out by Armenian archaeologist K.X. Kushnaryova (Kushnaryan) in 1966–1987 (together with A.L. Yakobson), the following important conclusions were drawn: a) By the end of the 2nd millennium BCE, semi-nomadic summer-pasture animal husbandry predominated in Karabakh and continued into the modern era; b) For three millennia, the lowland (plain) and mountainous regions of Karabakh should be considered a single cultural and economic unit; c) Turkic tribes are the autochthonous population of Karabakh, having lived in these territories for more than 2700 years.

6. The Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast (NKAO), created in 1923 under strong pressure from Bolshevik-Dashnak forces, was an artificial administrative unit that, on the one hand, disrupted the natural-economic integrity of historical Karabakh and, on the other, fostered Armenian nationalism and separatism. Subsequent historical developments showed that the scenario prepared against Azerbaijan's statehood in 1921–1923 was later activated in 1988–2020 by certain

power centers, leading to the Karabakh conflict and two wars.

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## TARIXI QARABAĞIN XƏRİTƏSİ: KARTOQRAFİYA-TOPONİMİYA MƏZMUNUNUN TƏHLİLİ VƏ ƏHƏMİYYƏTİ (xəritənin 125 illiyi ilə bağlı araşdırma)

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**Xülasə.** XIX əsrdə və XX əsrin əvvəlində çar Rusiyanın tərkib hissəsi olan Cənubi Qafqaz, Azərbaycan və onun regionları hərbi-topoqrafik və xüsusi xəritələrdə təsvir edilirdi. Müasir dövrdə baş verən informasiya müharibəsinin tarixi-coğ-rafi aspektlərini araşdırmaq məqsədilə rus qafqazşünas M.A.Skibitskinin 1899-cu ildə tərtib etdiyi tarixi Qarabağın xəritəsinə müraciət olunub. Xəritənin məzmununa və tarixi mənbələrə əsaslanaraq erməni millətçilərinin kartoqrafik-toponimiya təcavüzünü ifşa etməyə çalışmışıq. XIX əsrin sonunda M.A.Skibitski Azərbaycan tatarlarının Qarabağda həm kəndlərin sayı, həm əhali sayına görə əhəmiyyətli üstünlüyə malik olduğunu göstərmişdir. 1899-cu ildə Azərbaycan tatarları 70%, ermənilər-16,6%, kürdlər-12,7% və tatlar bütün Qarabağ əhalisinin 0,7%-ni təşkil edirdilər. Qarabağın 452 kəndindən azərbaycanlılar 333 kənddə (Qarabağdakı kəndlərin 73,7%), ermənilər ümumi kənd sayının 10,4%-ni təşkil edən 47

kənddə, kürdlər isə Qarabağın 69 (15,3%) kəndində yaşayırdılar. Qarabağın xəritəsinə əsasən demək olar ki, XIX əsrin sonunda coğrafi adların böyük əksəriyyəti (84%) və bu səbəbdən tarixi Qarabağın toponimik fonu Azərbaycan-türk mənşəli və ən qədim təbəqədir.

**Aşar sözlər:** tarixi Qarabağ, hərbi-topoqrafik xəritə, kartoqrafik-toponimiya müharibəsi, toponi-min mənşəyi, etnik tərkib, avtohton əhali.