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ON THE KARABAKH KHANATE FORMATION HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT

Key words: Panahali Khan, Bayat fortress, Karabakh khanate, Panahabad, Shusha.

As you know, after the assassination of Nadir Shah Afshar in June 1747, his empire broke up into several small states. About 20 khanates arose on the territory of Azerbaijan, which existed until the beginning of the 19th century, i.e. the division of the country between Russia and Gajar Iran.

Among the Azerbaijani khanates, the Garabagh khanate differed in terms of territory, population density and military power, which explains why it occupies a special place in the history of Azerbaijani statehood along with the Guba, Urmi and Sheki khanates.

The ancestors of the founder of the Garabagh Khanate, Panahali Khan, who originated from the town of Sarydzhalli were descendants of ancient inhabitants of Garabagh. Oymak Sarydzhalli belonged to the Javnshir tribe, which was part of the Otuzikiler (Thirty-two) tribal union.

Panahali's father Ibrahim Khalil Aga owned a large estate. His son Fazlali Bey served as an «eshik agasi» (a butler) at Nadir Shah Afshar's palace and was subsequently ordered to be executed for a minor fault. Panahali Aga's younger brother was appointed to the vacant position. However, fearing that one day he would share his elder brother's fate, in the late 30s of the XVIII century he fled from the Shah's palace. After a long wandering in the mountains and forests Panahali Aga created a military force and upon Nadier Shah's death, he announced the creation of an independent khanate.

Unlike other Azerbaijani khanates, each of which was formed around a city, on the territory of the Garabagh khanate there was no city or fortress that could be the khan's residence. Therefore, Panahali Khan founded the Bayat fortress. However, the fortress was built on flat land it was unreliable, which is why the Shahbulag fortress was founded very soon. But this fortress also failed to meet a defensive purpose. For this reason a new fortress was built in an impregnable place, first named in honor of the founder Panahabad, then renamed and went down in history under the name Shusha.

Panahali Khan had to fight against neighboring khanates and contenders for the Shah's throne. Not only did he defend his independence, but he also managed to seize new territories and subdue some khans.

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THE MEANING OF «REFORM» IN THE 18TH CENTURY OTTOMAN EMPIRE

Key words: Ottoman Empire, reforms, 18th century, Middle East, history of ideas.