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## ABOUT ARMENIAN-AZERBAIJANI CONFLICT AT THE BEGINNING OF 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY IN THE WORK OF MAHAMMAD AMIN RASULZADEH

*The purpose of this article is to analyze in the first years of his political career; Mahammad Amin Rasulzadeh focused on the Armenian-Muslim issue in his articles in the local press. Conflicts between the two peoples began before the March genocide, before the struggle of the two countries for Karabakh and a number of other territories in the Caucasus. Thus, the activity of Mohammad Amin Rasulzadeh coincides with the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict, which began at the beginning of the century. It is not in vain that in some of his articles he specifically and persistently addresses this issue. In a series of articles and even poems of this kind, the author reflected the historical course of events.*

*The methodology of the research involves using the qualitative methods including content analysis, discourse analysis, analysis of existing rules, documents, recommendations, research papers, experience and also critique of experts are used. Moreover, a strong empirical background and descriptive method of study are used in this research.*

*For the first time, the article examines the genocides committed by Dashnak-Bolshevik forces in the districts of Baku and Azerbaijan in 1918–1920 on the basis of the works of Mohammad Amin Rasulzade. From this point of view, for the first time in the article, the works of Mohammad Amin Rasulzadeh were involved in circulation as a source, and historical truths were revealed.*

*An analysis of Mohammad Amin Rasulzadeh's works shows that in the first years of his political career; Mohammad Amin Rasulzadeh focused on the Armenian-Muslim issue in his articles in the local press. Conflicts between the two peoples began before the March genocide, before the struggle of the two countries for Karabakh and a number of other territories in the Caucasus. Thus, the activity of Mohammad Amin Rasulzadeh coincides with the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict, which began at the beginning of the century. It is not in vain that in some of his articles he specifically and persistently addresses this issue. In a series of articles and even poems of this kind, the author has reflected the historical course of events.*

**Key words:** South Caucasus, Azerbaijani Democratic Republic, Dashnaksutyun, Karabakh, M.A. Rasulzadeh, history, conflict.

**Introduction (problem statement).** In the science of history, the twentieth century was marked by many radical changes in the political map of the world. One of the most observed geographies of these changes was the South Caucasus. Throughout history, the peoples of the Caucasus, who have struggled for survival within the borders of giant empires, have finally been able to achieve the results of their centuries-long struggle for freedom in the early twentieth century. At the beginning of the century, the establishment of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic was announced in Azerbaijan.

The study of the past of this problem, especially based on the works of the political leader of the last century, Mohammad Amin Rasulzadeh, is of special importance in Azerbaijani historiography.

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in his articles in the local press. Conflicts between the two peoples began before the March genocide, before the struggle of the two countries for Karabakh and a number of other territories in the Caucasus.

**Methodology and methods used.** The methodology of the research involves using the qualitative methods including content analysis, discourse analysis, analysis of existing rules, documents, recommendations, research papers, experience and also critique of experts are used. Moreover, a strong empirical background and descriptive method of study are used in this research.

**Recent publications on the subject** emphasize the creation of a new model of reference to the principles of teaching in the teaching of source studies, as in the teaching of all subjects. Therefore, in the process of teaching sources, it is necessary to acquaint students with the secrets of the sources, referring to the principles of teaching that exist in the world education system.

A large number of works on the subject have been published in Azerbaijani historiography recently. Among such researches the works of Anar Isgandarov (Isgenderli, 2011), Boran Aziz (Boran, 2020), Jamil Hasanli, Ziyad Amrahov (Amrahov, 2018) are especially noteworthy.

One of the articles of Mahammad Amin Rasulzadeh is called “Marazimizizin charasi” (Way out of disease). It was published on July 19, 1906 in “Davat Koch” printing house, where the most important “disease” of the Caucasus at that time was the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict and the only solution to this “disease” was to achieve peace and stability. It should be noted that for one reason or another, the scientific world is unaware of the many disasters that befell our lands in the early twentieth century, as in many periods of our history. Before gaining our independence, not only politicians, but also historians were indifferent to the policy of massacre and genocide committed by Armenians in a biased manner against our people. For this reason, every article published in the press on this issue is of great historical significance. The article also criticizes the current bureaucratic regime, showing a negative attitude to the Armenian-Azerbaijani massacre, noting that “the two nations wanted to fight each other and drown the revolution in unjust blood (Mohammad Amin Rasulzadeh, 2017, 27). Today, historians, analyzing the fate of our people in the early twentieth century, see it as a deliberate national conflict to divert public attention from the socio-political protests against the imperialist regime of Tsarist Russia. The fact that he is not a historian, but still gives such a correct historical value to the events he lived in, shows that in today’s historiography there is a need to analyze the identity of M.A. Rasulzade and his works with historical analytical knowledge as historical works of his time.

**Main text views.** “Balai-azim” article was published in “Davat” newspaper on July 20, 1906. Touching on the same issue here, M.A. Rasulzadeh mainly described the tragedies in Shusha and Golloshapov’s “struggle” to bring peace to the region in his own way, which was sent by the tsar to bring peace here. “O dishonest Golloshapov! Enough, enough human blood that you drank, enough that you worked two nations with each other, and then you gave both of them to evil!” (Mohammad Amin Rasulzadeh, 2017, 28). The author, who wanted to convey to the ruling circles that the intellectuals of the time were aware of everything, also tried to awaken the victims of this strife. One of the author’s articles of this kind is “Is it a tragedy again?! “Still calamity” is an article about the massacres in Irevan,

which was published in the newspaper “Irshad” on May 31, 1906.

One of such works is a poem by M.A. Rasulzadeh published on July 20, 1906 in the newspaper “Davat” entitled “Novha” or “subtle meaning”. This poem was written by M.A. Rasulzadeh at the age of 22. In this poem, the author wrote poems about the Armenian-Muslim massacre and the unjust killing of innocent people. In the poem, which consists of six verses, the author prays for God’s mercy and writes with astonishment about the terrible struggle of the two nations to destroy the beautiful Caucasus because of the provocateurs. With these verses, the author tries to pass on to future generations the national massacre organized by Russian provocateurs and carried out by Armenians in 1905–1906 to stifle our national awakening, written in blood in our history (Mohammad Amin Rasulzadeh, 2017, 30).

Mahammad Amin Rasulzadeh’s article “Two points” of the “Irshad” newspaper No. 56 dated July 4, 1906 touched upon one of the most important issues in Baku in all years. When we say “point”, we mean the attitude of Armenian and Azerbaijani workers to each other. Workers of Haji Zeynalabdin Tagiyev’s enterprises, one of the philanthropists of the time, went on strike for certain reasons and made certain demands. The most interesting thing is that one of these requirements is the employment of Armenian workers along with Azerbaijani workers. The author notes that Azerbaijani workers demanded the employment of representatives of the nation, which went on strike in time and demanded the dismissal of Azerbaijani workers from their employers. As a result, about a hundred workers were fired at the most difficult moment and sentenced to poverty. The author tries to find an answer to the question of why this happened and what this hatred is about. He decides that the perpetrator is the “Dashnaktsutyun faction” that sows discord with hateful articles in the Armenian press. The way out of this situation is to “strengthen the poverty of both nations and save them from the hands of those like Dashnaktsutyun.” (Mohammad Amin Rasulzadeh, 2017, 60).

Shortly after this article was published in the press, the author was forced to write another article on the same subject. This article, entitled “Rejection of Dashnaktsutyun”, was published in the 171<sup>st</sup> issue of “Irshad” newspaper on July 21, 1906. The article in question referred to the biased views of Alik, a member of the Dashnaktsutyun party, to the views expressed in the article entitled “Two Points.” The “Alik” in question says that the Azerbaijani “intellectuals” know that in order to kill

all Armenians, first of all, the Dashnaksutyun party must be destroyed. Responding to these views, the author states that Dashnaksutyun's critics are not only Azerbaijani "intellectuals", but also Russian and even Armenian intellectuals of the time.

In the article "The result of Satan's work" the author also touched upon the relations between these two nations. In an article published in the first issue of the publishing house "Evolution" on December 16, 1906, the author re-informs his readers about the Armenian-Azerbaijani massacres that took place at the beginning of the century and the catastrophes that this event brought to both peoples.

One of the articles written by M.A. Rasolzadeh on the political landscape in the Caucasus in the early twentieth century is "On the Caucasus", published on December 14, 1908 in issue 126 of the "Progress" printing house. The article highlights the relations of the three main peoples of the Caucasus with Russia. The demands of the Dashnaksutyun party to gain independence from Russian citizenship as a defender of the Armenian nation were noted.

Commenting on the "Armenian issue" that became active in the region again after the outbreak of World War I, M.A. Rasolzadeh published an article entitled "Around the Armenian issue" on November 10, 1914 in the 786th issue of the "Iqbal" newspaper. In the article, the author predicts that sooner or later the Armenian people will gain independence and tries to determine how it will be. The author notes with concern that these questions are not answered in the Russian press. The author said that only the Russian press wrote that the Russians would save the Armenians, adding that the Azerbaijani intellectuals were not the only ones concerned about this uncertainty, but also the Armenian intellectuals.

Thus, the beginning of the conflicts that are the hope of many peoples and continue to this day. The joining of Russia and the Ottomans to World War I from different angles led to the opening of the Caucasus front, which brought disaster to the whole Caucasus. M.A. Rasolzadeh, who was not indifferent to this issue, wrote an article entitled "Neighborhood relations in the face of historical events" written on January 14, 1915 in the 839th issue of the "Iqbal" newspaper. The article expresses concern over the treacherous and baseless plans of businessmen who want to turn the war between the Ottomans and Russia into a Muslim-Christian struggle by dressing it up in a religious dress in the Caucasus. Thus, the reader will hear unpleasant footsteps of future problems in the Caucasus.

As a logical consequence of the events, Tsarist Russia wants to carry out a number of reforms and to

form an electoral system in the zemstova assemblies. However, the Dashnaksutyun party tried to prevent this, as they were outnumbered by other peoples in the Caucasus and lacked social support. In this situation, the Armenians, of course, would not be able to get the required number of votes in the elections and would be left out of the administration. These events were also reflected by the author in his article "On Armenian Democracy (on the occasion of a different translation)". In the 197<sup>th</sup> issue of the "Achik Soz" newspaper on May 29, 1916, the author conveyed to his readers the biased and anxious attitude of the Armenians to the future democratic changes.

The Armenian issue, which has become an internal problem of the Ottomans since the beginning of World War I, is also covered in the articles of M.A. Rasolzadeh. One of these articles is the wise article "Armenians in Turkey" published on August 15, 1916 in the 259<sup>th</sup> issue of "Achik Soz" newspaper. The article described what happened in the Ottoman Empire and compared the Armenians living in the Ottoman Empire with the Armenians living in the Caucasus. Noting that Armenians worked in state affairs in the Ottoman Empire for many years and played an important role in the "Ottoman life and finance" in the author's language, it reflects the differences between Turks and Armenians in Anatolia since 1877. When the Balkan peoples began to struggle to secede from the Ottoman Empire, this atmosphere also affected the Armenians. First of all, the Armenian Church and clergymen organized the Armenians in this struggle, and then the Dashnaksutyun party, which has been operating since 1890. Thus began a real struggle in the Ottoman state, which lost the trust and confidence of the Armenians, and the Ottoman side punished the Armenians for this betrayal:

"Thanks to this cultural and national freedom that Armenians see in Turkey, the Ottoman dialect of the Armenian language was richer and the Ottoman Armenians were healthier than the Caucasian Armenians. While the Armenians in the Caucasus became Russified, the Ottoman Armenians treated them by reviving their old national traditions and literature." (Mohammad Amin Rasolzadeh, 2012, 494-495). These sentences are enough to understand the situation of the time, both in Anatolia and in the Caucasus.

After the establishment of the Popular Front Party, the Armenian nationalists, taking advantage of the complicated and contradictory situation in the domestic and international situation in Azerbaijan, resumed their extensive activities to implement their idea of creating a fictitious "Greater Armenia". In this

regard, their first goal was to capture Zangazur and Karabakh. However, the uncompromising position of the Azerbaijani government did not allow their plans to materialize.

Due to the historical strategic importance of Azerbaijan's Karabakh region in the South Caucasus region, our close neighbors Russia, Iran, Turkey, Armenia, as well as the world's leading countries in the twentieth century, Britain, France and the United States have shown special interest in this region. It should be noted that in 1918, which was difficult and complicated for Azerbaijan, only the Turkish state provided significant political and military assistance to our republic from the first day in protecting our territorial integrity and sovereignty. This assistance prevented the dangerous attempts of the Armenian nationalists and their supporters, the Bolsheviks, for the historical destiny of our people. Not only Bolshevik Russia, but also the fragment of Tsarist Russia and the traditionally established "Armenian" problem in the South Caucasus have become one of the most pressing problems in the region. The "Armenian province" created in 1828 during the reign of Tsarist Russia was the future of this problem.

But in the course of history, the Russian occupation of the Caucasus ended unexpectedly, and the October Revolution of 1917 marked the end not only of the Ramanov dynasty, but also of a century of Russian colonization in the Caucasus. As a result, the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic was established.

Given the strategic importance of Karabakh, Western countries, primarily the United States and the United Kingdom, saw the region, the South Caucasus, especially Azerbaijan, as well as the Middle East as a viable means of influence. On the one hand, the desire of Britain and the United States to gain influence in the region, on the other hand, the attempts of Russia and Iran to "restore" lost spheres of influence are intertwined with Armenia's claims to capture Karabakh, Nakhchivan and Zangazur. His assistance caused a very tense socio-political situation in the region. This situation led to the Armenian-Azerbaijani war, turning Karabakh, Nakhchivan and Zangazur into battlefields. Thus, Armenian separatism in Karabakh had reached its peak.

Towards the end of World War I, the essence of the aid promised by the Russians to the Armenians became clear. M.A. Rasulzadeh translated from Russian the "Decree on Turkey-Armenia" adopted by the Council of People's Commissars in 1918 under the leadership of V.I. Lenin and published it in the 659<sup>th</sup> issue of the "Achik Soz" newspaper on January 19, 1918. It is clear from the name of the document

that in early 1918 it was decided to establish Armenia in Anatolia. Stepan Shaumyan, the leader of the Caucasian Armenians, is instructed to provide all necessary assistance to "Turkey-Armenia".

As a result of historical events that took place in the following months and years, Armenia, which had been wanted since the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, was finally established in the Caucasus.

After the dissolution of the Transcaucasian Sejm in late May 1918, the Dashnaksutyun party declared the independence of Armenia and began to implement its nationalist idea. In 1918–1920, the Dashnak government took the position of waging unjust wars against Turkey, Azerbaijan and Georgia. All three newly independent Caucasian peoples had disputed territories. There were territorial disputes between Azerbaijan and Georgia, between Azerbaijan and Armenia, and between Georgia and Armenia.

In a note sent to the Armenian government, the Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan F.H. Khoyski stated that the policy of aggression against Azerbaijanis must be stopped. However, it was not possible to restore relations (Republic of Azerbaijan. Documents and materials 1918–1920, 13–137).

The Azerbaijani government is taking a number of steps to resolve all disputes and disputes between the republics of the South Caucasus peacefully. On December 26, 1918, at the extraordinary session of the Azerbaijani Parliament, the proposal of M.A. Rasulzadeh consisting of three articles was accepted. The proposal called on the Armenian and Georgian parliaments to take decisive action to end the war and restore peace. For this purpose, telegrams were sent to the parliaments of Georgia and Armenia. The telegrams stressed the need to resolve disputes through peace talks, not through bloodshed (Mammadova, 2006, 21).

It should be noted that as soon as the Azerbaijani and Armenian republics were established, certain sections of the Armenian population in Nagorno-Karabakh refused to recognize the government of the Republic of Azerbaijan due to propaganda, incitement and pressure from Irevan. "The first congress of Nagorno-Karabakh Armenians held in Shusha in July 1918. He declared Karabakh independent. The issue of joining Armenia is still open could not be solved. The Armenian government deployed armed forces to implement its plans to occupy Nagorno-Karabakh." (Najafov, 1992, 39).

However, it can be concluded from historical events that the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic was able to solve these problems in its favor, albeit with

difficulty. On August 28, 1919, in an article entitled “Our Success in the Territorial Question” taught in the “Azerbaijan” newspaper, M.A. Rasolzadeh brought to the readers’ attention his report on this issue: “Lankaran was cleared of enemies.” (Mohammad Amin Rasolzadeh, 2014, 399). The article begins with the names of the territories where the control was restored by the People’s Republic of Azerbaijan. “Karabakh Armenians surrendered to the Azerbaijani government.” (Mohammad Amin Rasolzadeh, 2014, 399). The author notes that Armenian militants were also withdrawn from Nakhchivan, Sharur and Daralayaz territories. Saying that nine months ago the situation was not economical, M.A. Rasolzadeh now speaks with great pride about the situation and emphasizes that the British have already left Azerbaijan. Contrary to the forces that once considered the British to be a threat to our territorial integrity when they came to Azerbaijan, they now recognize our government and leave these lands. In the words of the author who wrote about the attacks on our territories nine months ago, inseparable parts of the homeland, such as Karabakh, Borchali, Lankaran, were in foreign hands. At the same time, it was impossible to control the territories of Nakhchivan, Sharur and Daralayaz because they were far from the center.

In an article published in the 263<sup>rd</sup> issue of the same publishing house on August 29, 1919, the author seemed to convey to his readers the continuation of the previous article. “Our responsibility has increased!” article: “Gazes who read the address of our article, I wonder what happened? Did something happen that I did not want?” (Mohammad Amin Rasolzadeh, 2014, 402) – M.A. Rasolzadeh brought to the readers’ attention the re-controlled territories such as Lankaran, Karabakh and noted the importance of measures to be taken to make this result lasting.

“Karabakh has saved that beautiful corner of our homeland from the insistence of our stubborn neighbors, who are tearing our lives and economies apart and trying to paralyze us by seizing our waters.” (Mohammad Amin Rasolzadeh, 2014, 402).

In these lines, we can see that the history of “water terror” that the modern Republic of Azerbaijan has been subjected to by Armenian militants since the beginning of the last century. For more than a century, our hated neighbors, whose character has not changed, reached out to Karabakh during the Popular Front, as they do today, but their hated plans have failed as they do today.

The article says that our Turkish brothers, who helped us in the first days of our independence, have already left here, and our independence has been

strengthened with the support of the British who came here later. He stressed that the most important issue at the Paris Peace Conference was the recognition of our independence by many world leaders, including Woodrow Wilson.

It is known that in order to gain control over Karabakh, the government of the Popular Front established the Karabakh Governor-General’s Office in January 1919 under the leadership of Khosrov bey Soltanov, which included Shusha, Javanshir, Jabrayil and Zangazur districts. Kh. Soltanov’s first task was to solve the refugee problem in Karabakh.

After his appointment to the new position, Khosrov bey Soltanov, while still in Baku, did some work related to the organization of the Governor-General, and on February 12, 1919, he came to Shusha and began to perform his duties. This step of the APC government was met with great satisfaction by the Azerbaijani people. It is clear from the archival documents that the establishment of this governor-generalship had a significant impact on the solution of a number of problems in the relevant regions. The establishment of the governorship was one of the main factors in the recognition of the ADR government by the Armenians of Karabakh.

As we know, in spite of all the measures taken, in the spring of 1920, artificial problems began to re-emerge on the borders of the Popular Front. The aim was to divert the attention of the Popular Front from the defense of the northern borders and thus facilitate the Russian occupation. In one of the parliamentary speeches in April 1920, M.A. Rasolzadeh said “Corruption and rebellion were raised in Karabakh by an element that was an enemy of Azerbaijan’s independence and freedom. (Mohammad Amin Rasolzadeh, 2014, 460) – conveyed the situation to government officials.

In the article “Our army is victorious” in the April 6, 1920 issue of the “Azerbaijan” newspaper, the author also wrote about the events in Karabakh. Noting that the next Askeran operation has been launched to prevent separatist forces in Karabakh, M.A. Rasolzadeh is trying to convey all the truth to the public. At the same time, the teacher told his readers that the events in Karabakh were in favor of the Popular Front with the phrase “Soldier was taken.”

**Conclusions.** However, as is known from history, on the night of April 27–28, 1920, Soviet Russia put an end to the independence of the Popular Front. Thus, the measures taken during the ADR to ensure peace between the two peoples and to ensure our territorial integrity were ineffective. Even in order to Sovietize the other two states in the Caucasus, a policy

of seduction with "share" promises from Azerbaijani lands was pursued. As a result, the aggression of Armenians against Azerbaijanis and our lands became more frequent. This historical hatred was followed

by the deportation of Azerbaijanis from the western lands of Azerbaijan, Yerevan and Zangazur. In the end, the Khojaly genocide, the largest massacre in the Caucasus, took place.

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#### Аллахвердісва С.А. ПРО ВІРМЕНО-АЗЕРБАЙДЖАНСЬКИЙ КОНФЛІКТ ПОЧАТКУ ХХ СТОЛІТТЯ У ТВОРЧОСТІ МУХАММЕДА АМІНА РАСУЛЗАДЕ

*Мета цієї статті – проаналізувати, як у перші роки своєї політичної кар'єри Мухаммад Амін Расулзаде приділяв увагу вірмено-мусульманській проблемі у своїх статтях у місцевій пресі. Конфлікти між двома народами розпочалися до березневого геноциду, до боротьби двох країн за Карабах і низку інших територій на Кавказі. Таким чином, діяльність Мухаммада Аміна Расулзаде збігається з вірмено-азербайджанським конфліктом, який розпочався на початку століття. Недаремно у деяких своїх статтях він безпосередньо і наполегливо звертається до цього питання. У серії статей і навіть віршів такого роду автор відобразив історичний перебіг подій.*

*Методологія дослідження передбачає використання якісних методів, включаючи контент-аналіз, аналіз дискурсу, аналіз правил, використовуються документи, рекомендації, дослідження, досвід, а також критика експертів. Більше того, у дослідженні використовуються сильна емпірична база й описовий метод дослідження.*

*У статті вперше досліджуються геноциди, вчинені дашнаксько-більшовицькими силами в районах Баку та Азербайджану у 1918–1920 роках на основі творів Мухаммеда Аміна Расулзаде. Вперше твори Мухаммада Аміна Расулзаде були задіяні у зверненні як джерело та розкриті історичні істини.*

*Аналіз творів Мухаммада Аміна Расулзаде показує, що у перші роки своєї політичної кар'єри Мухаммад Амін Расулзаде у своїх статтях у місцевій пресі приділяв увагу вірмено-мусульманській проблемі. Конфлікти між двома народами розпочалися до березневого геноциду, до боротьби двох країн за Карабах і низку інших територій на Кавказі. Таким чином, діяльність Мухаммада Аміна Расулзаде збігається з вірмено-азербайджанським конфліктом, який розпочався на початку століття. Недаремно у деяких своїх статтях він безпосередньо і наполегливо звертається до цього питання. У серії статей і навіть віршів такого роду автор відобразив історичний перебіг подій.*

**Ключові слова:** Південний Кавказ, Азербайджанська Демократична Республіка, Дашнакцутюн, Карабах, М.А. Расулзаде, історія, конфлікт.