

## HISTORY OF KARABAKH

Karabakh is an ancient and historical region of Azerbaijan. This region covers the area between the Lesser Caucasus Mountains and the Kura and Araxes rivers. The name of Karabakh, an integral part of Azerbaijan, is derived from the Azerbaijani words "black" and "garden". The word "Karabakh" given by the Azerbaijani people to a part of their native land was used in the first sources 1300 years ago (from the VII century). In addition to color, the word "kara" in the Azerbaijani language also means "thick" or "great". From this point of view, "Karabakh" means "great garden" or "thick garden".

The people of Azerbaijan have lived in these lands since ancient times, along with their rich culture and traditions of statehood. Since the 3<sup>rd</sup> millennium BC to the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD is the period when the oldest tribal associations, early state institutions and the traditions of statehood of Azerbaijan were formed in these lands. During this period, the most ancient tribal associations such as Aratta, Kuti, Lullubi, Turukki, Manna, Atropatene, Albania existed in the territory of Azerbaijan.

The powerful Manna state appeared in IX-VI centuries BC in the south of Azerbaijan. Manna is the first Turkic state in the history of ancient Turkic peoples. The history of the statehood tradition of Azerbaijanis begins with Manna. Manna managed to maintain its independence in the struggle against Assyria and Urartu, and the lands of Northern Azerbaijan, including the territory of Karabakh, were left out of the occupation of Urartu.

After the destruction of the Achaemenid state by Alexander the Great (336-323 BC), political processes in the north of Azerbaijan entered a new stage. As a result, after the short rule of Alexander the Great, when his empire disintegrated with his death, the states such as Atropatene in the south and Albania in the north of Azerbaijan were formed.

In the 4<sup>th</sup> century BC and later, Atropatene also had territories in the north of Azerbaijan, and at that time a part of the lands included in the territory of Karabakh belonged to that state. The state of Albania, formed at the same time as Atropatene, was founded during IV century BC till VIII century AD. Having existed in the VIII century, it played a great role in the history of Azerbaijan for about 1200 years. The whole territory of Karabakh was part of the Albanian state, which fought for the preservation of Karabakh.

The main changes in the history of Karabakh began with the occupation of the Arab Caliphate and the consequent abolition of the Albanian state. The beginning of the IX-XIII centuries, especially the period of Sajis-Atabeys-Shirvanshahs, was a period when the power of Azerbaijan increased in the whole South Caucasus. The Sajis and Atabeys actually united the historical lands of Azerbaijan politically. The Khachin principality, which was established in the territory of the former Albania, reached a high stage of development during the reign of Hasan Jalal (1215-1261), who belonged to the Mehrani dynasty. During the reign of Kharezmsah Jalaeddin in Azerbaijan (1225-1231), who put an end to the weakened Atabey state during the first Mongol campaign (1220-1222), Karabakh was also under his rule.

With the second campaign of the Mongols and the end of the occupation of Azerbaijan (1231-1239), Karabakh, like other Azerbaijani lands, was part of the Mongol Empire (1239-1256), and then the Hulagu state (Elkhanid) (1256-1357). In the 15th century, Karabakh was part of the Garagoyunlu (1410-1467) and Aghgoyunlu (1468-1501) states of Azerbaijan. With the establishment of the Safavid state of Azerbaijan (1501) the centralization of all Azerbaijani lands began. In the middle of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the centralization of Azerbaijani lands as a single state was completed. Thus, the Safavid state of Azerbaijan became the second most powerful state in the region after the Ottoman Empire.

The Safavids created 4 principalities in Azerbaijan, one of which was the Karabakh or Ganja principalities. After the weakening of the Safavid state, the lands of Azerbaijan became a battleground between Iran, Russia and the Ottoman Empire. During this period, the Ganja-Karabakh lands were originally part of the Ottoman Empire.

### **1747-1918**

In 1747 after the death of Nadir shah Afshar, Panahali khan who was from Javanshir dynasty had established the khanate of Karabakh. The Karabakh khanate was located in the south-east of the Lesser Caucasus Mountains. The borders of the khanate stretched from the Araxes River to the Lake Goycha, from the Tartar River to Mehri, Tatev and Sisian, covering the whole plain and Nagorno-Karabakh, Zangazur, Bargushad. During the reign of Ibrahimkhalil khan, who came to power after the death of Panahali khan (1763), the Karabakh khanate became even stronger. From the point of view of a completely independent foreign policy, the Karabakh khanate was considered an independent party in interstate relations.

During the war between Russia and Iran beginning from 1804, the Karabakh khanate was important for both states. Ibrahimkhalil khan considered Iran as a danger for Karabakh, therefore he accepted the offer of the general P. Sisianov, commander of Russian troops to give Karabakh under the rule of Russia and they began to negotiate. After the negotiations Khan of Karabakh Ibrahimkhalil Khan and the representative of Russian Empire Sisianov had signed the Kurekchay treaty on May 14, 1805. According to the treaty, Karabakh came under the rule of Russia. The Gulistan peace treaty signed between Russia and Iran on October 18, 1813 had confirmed combination of all Northern Azerbaijani khanates to Russia, except Nakhchivan and Erevan.

According to the Turkmenchay peace treaty dated February 10, 1828 that provided peace in the second war between Russia and Iran (1826-1828), Iran confirmed to abdicate the Northern Azerbaijan, as well as Nakhchivan and Erevan khanates. After the signing of the Gulistan and Turkmenchay agreements, the mass resettlement of Armenians to Azerbaijani lands was carried out very quickly, resulting in an artificial territorial division. The First World War also gave impetus to the growth of Armenians in the South Caucasus.

In 1828-1911, more than one million Armenians were brought by Russia from Iran and Turkey and settled in the region, especially in Azerbaijan. After the signing of agreements between Russia and Iran in 1828 and between Russia and Ottoman Turkey in 1829, the resettlement of Armenians to the newly occupied territories, including Karabakh, began. According to the

available information, during 1828-1830, 40,000 Armenians were resettled to Northern Azerbaijan, including Karabakh, from Iran and 90,000 from Ottoman Turkey.

### **1918-1990**

On May 28, 1918 the establishment of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic was announced. In April, 1919 the allies recognized the Karabakh governorship general that established by the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic within the jurisdiction of Azerbaijan in January, 1919 uniting Shusha, Javanshir, Jabrayil and Zangazur, and with Shusha as its capital and Khosrov bey Sultanov as the governor.

On July 7, 1923, the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region (NKAR) was established in the mountainous part of Karabakh, with Khankendi as its administrative center. The NKAR had all the basic elements of governance. In September 1923, the city of Khankendi was renamed Stepanakert in honor of the Bolshevik leader Stepan Shaumyan. On December 23, 1947, the Council of Ministers of the USSR adopted the Resolution № 4083 "On the resettlement of collective farmers and other Azerbaijanis from the Armenian SSR to the Kura-Araxes lowland of the Azerbaijani SSR."

According to the Resolution, during 1948-1950, 100 000, in 1948, 10 000, in 1949, 40 000, in 1950, 50 000 Azerbaijanis had to be resettled in Azerbaijan based on the principle of voluntariness. At that time more than 400 000 Azerbaijanis lived in Armenian SSR. The deportation measures covered 22 regions of Armenia, mainly Basarkechar, Zangibasar, Noyemberyan, Mikoyan, Dilijan, Ashtarkhan, Kirovakan. These regions were mainly mountainous and foothill areas where Azerbaijanis lived compactly or mixed with Armenians. Armenian nationalists, first of all, tried to expel Azerbaijanis from these regions. In 1949, 15276 people were resettled from Armenia to Saatli, Goychay, Mirbashir (now Tartar), Imishli, Ali Bayramli (now Shirvan), Zardab, Salyan, Kurdamir, Khaldan, Sabirabad, Zhdanov (now Beylagan), Yevlakh, Ujar, Gadabay and Barda regions of Azerbaijan. This tragedy of Azerbaijanis deported from the Armenian SSR and their historical ethnic lands in 1948-1956 must be legally assessed as genocide and ethnic cleansing in accordance with Article II of the 1948 resolution of the UN Commission on Human Rights.

At the end of 1988 after the earthquake in Armenia along with foreign aid shipments, arms shipments to the republic became widespread. These weapons allowed the emerging nationalist groups to be provided with better weapons. Most of these weapons were imported from Lebanon and were ordered to be delivered to Lebanese and Syrian Armenians. During August-December 1989, when the Union government was strong enough, 91 armed attacks were carried out on Azerbaijani settlements from Armenian territory, as a result, 52 people were killed and 166 were injured. On January 18, 1990, the village of Karki in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic was occupied by Armenian militants. In other words, during the Soviet era, the territory of Azerbaijan was subjected to the military occupation of Armenia.

## 1991-1994

The failure of the coup attempt in Moscow in August, 1991 quickened the collapse of the USSR. The center's control over the allies was completely weakened. This gave a new impetus to Armenia's aggression. In order to achieve the disintegration of Azerbaijan's territorial integrity, Armenian nationalist groups announced the establishment of a so-called organization "Nagorno-Karabakh Republic" in September 1991. On August 30, 1991, the Supreme Soviet of Azerbaijan declared the restoration of state independence. On October 18, 1991 the Constitution on "State Independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan" was adopted. On November 26, 1991 the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Azerbaijan adopted the Law on "Liquidation of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Region".

In February, 1992 an unprecedented massacre was committed against the Azerbaijani population in Khojaly city. This bloody tragedy, known as the Khojaly genocide resulted with the murder or captivity of thousands of Azerbaijanis, and the city was completely destroyed. On the night of February 25-26, 1992, Armenia committed an act of genocide against the Azerbaijani population in Khojaly. As a result, 613 civilians were killed, most of them were women (106) and children (63). The Khojaly genocide had officially been recognized by more than 10 countries.

In May, 1992 the city of Shusha and Lachin region which was located between Armenia and the Nagorno-Karabakh were occupied. In 1993 the Armenian armed forces occupied six more regions of Azerbaijan around the Nagorno-Karabakh - Kalbajar, Aghdam, Fuzuli, Jabrayil, Gubadli and Zangilan.

On April 30, 1993, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution № 822, calling for the immediate withdrawal of all occupying forces from the Kalbajar region and other occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

On July 29, 1993, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution № 853, calling for the complete, immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all occupying forces from the Aghdam region and other occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

On 14 October 1993, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution № 874, calling for immediate reciprocal and necessary measures, including the withdrawal from the last occupied territories, in accordance with the CSCE Minsk Group's timetable for settlement.

On November 11, 1993 The UN Security Council adopted Resolution № 884. The resolution condemned the occupation of Zangilan region and Horadiz settlement, the attack on the civilian population and the bombing of the territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan, demanded the unilateral withdrawal of the occupying forces from Zangilan region and Horadiz settlement and the withdrawal of the occupying forces from other recently occupied territories. As a result of military aggression of Armenia 20 percent of the Republic of Azerbaijan - the Nagorno-Karabakh region and seven regions adjacent to it - the city of Khankendi, Khojaly, Shusha, Lachin, Khajavend, Kalbajar, Aghdam, Fuzuli, Jabrayil, Gubadli, Zangilan regions, as well as 13 villages of Tartar region, 7 villages of Gazakh region, 1 village of Sadarak region of Nakhchivan were occupied by the Armenian military forces. As a result of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan more than one million Azerbaijanis became internally

displaced persons, 20 000 people were killed during military operations, 50 000 people were disabled. As a result of the conflict about four thousand people were missing, 67 of them were children, 265 were women, 326 were elderly people.

## **1994-2015**

A ceasefire agreement was signed on May 12, 1994. At the CSCE Summit of Heads of State and Government in Budapest on December 5-6, 1994, it was decided to establish the institution of the Minsk Conference Co-Chair to coordinate all mediation efforts within the CSCE. On March 23, 1995, the OSCE Chairman-in-Office gave a mandate to the co-chairs of the Minsk Process. At the OSCE Lisbon Summit on 2-3 December 1996, the co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group and the OSCE Chairman-in-Office recommended the principles that should form the basis of the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, but Armenia did not accept these principles and it was the only OSCE member state to vote against the proposal among 54 member states.

The resolution of the UN General Assembly adopted on March 14, 2008 covers legal, political and humanitarian aspects of the conflict and it again confirms the solution principles. These principles ensure respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, the immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of Armenian troops from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, the right of IDPs to return to their native lands, and the coexistence of both communities in Azerbaijan and the illegality of the situation created as a result of the occupation of the territories.

## **2016-2019**

In the Summit of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation in 2016 the "Contact Group on aggression of the Armenian Republic against Azerbaijan" within the Organization of Islamic Cooperation was established. The Contact Group consists of 7 countries: Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Malaysia, Morocco, Djibouti, Gambia.

In a joint declaration adopted at the Eastern Partnership Summit in Brussels on 24 November 2017, the European Union demonstrated its commitment to this issue by supporting the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of all partners.

The declaration of the Summit of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States held in Baku on October 15, 2019 expressed support for the settlement of the conflict on the basis of the territorial integrity, sovereignty and inviolability of the borders of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

In early 2016, when concrete plans to resolve the conflict were being discussed, Armenia resorted to military provocation, firing heavy weapons on densely populated areas along the line of contact on April 2.

As a result of the Armenian attacks, six people, including children, were killed and 33 were seriously injured among the Azerbaijani civilian population. In turn, the Azerbaijani Armed Forces responded to the enemy and liberated strategically important positions as a result of the counterattack. After the April events, the village of Jojug Marjanli in the Jabrayil region was completely liberated from Armenian occupation.

Armenia continued its political and military provocations in 2017. In June and July, Armenia tried to aggravate the situation along the line of contact amid growing Azerbaijani efforts by the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs to resolve the conflict and serious calls from the international community for substantive talks. Armenian military units continued their aggressive actions and intensively fired at the frontline positions of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces and civilian areas from heavy artillery. As a result, on July 4, civilians Sahiba Allahverdiyeva, born in 1966, and her granddaughter, Zahra Guliyeva, born in 2016, were killed in the village of Alkhanli, Fuzuli region. Armenia's deliberate targeting of civilians and facilities has been strongly condemned by the international community. The international community is once again convinced that Armenia is not interested in a political solution to the conflict.

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan made a statement on August 5, 2019 in Khankendi, "Karabakh is a part of Armenia, the end." Until now, the Armenian side, realizing the international political, legal and moral responsibility of the policy of military occupation and annexation, has concealed the policy of aggression and tried to cover it in the form of self-determination of the Armenian population of Nagorno-Karabakh. With this statement, Pashinyan once again proved that the real goal of Armenia is aggression. By calling for the annexation of the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, Armenia has violated the norms and principles of international law, the UN Charter, the Helsinki Final Act, and disrespected the international community, especially the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs responsible for resolving the conflict through negotiations.

Addressing the 16<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Valday International Discussion Club on October 3, 2019, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev responded to Pashinyan's statement: "... the statement is literally: "Karabakh is a part of Armenia and a point." First, to put it mildly, this is a lie. Both Aran and Nagorno-Karabakh are recognized by the world as an integral part of Azerbaijan. Armenia itself does not recognize this illegal organization. Karabakh is a historical, ancient land of Azerbaijan. Thus, Karabakh is Azerbaijan and an exclamation mark".

## **2020**

On February 15, 2020, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev and Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan held panel discussions within the framework of the Munich Security Conference. During the discussions, the President of Azerbaijan once again brought Azerbaijan's rightful position on the conflict to the attention of the international community and refuted Armenia's policy of aggression and false claims with its arguments based on historical facts and international law.

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has repeatedly stated that "the world community did not pay enough attention to the occupation of the territory of a world-recognized sovereign state ... All this is the greatest injustice and this injustice has been going on for many years."

In September of this year, he conveyed Armenia's fascist policy from the UN rostrum to the whole world, the UN and the Minsk Group. He said that steps were taken to stop Armenia,

which was preparing for war, and to renounce its position against Azerbaijan. However, the world community, international organizations and relevant institutions did not do anything practical.

As a result on September 27, 2020 Armenia started new provocations against Azerbaijan. Border areas, settlements - cities and villages came under artillery fire. For more than a month, the Armenian armed forces have been firing on Fuzuli, Goranboy, Tartar, Barda, Ganja, Naftalan and other cities and villages, civilians, destroying houses and social facilities. The Azerbaijani army was forced to launch a counter-offensive and is giving Armenian vandals adequate responses. Numerous Armenian forces were killed, more than 250 tanks and armored vehicles, about 270 artillery pieces, about 150 vehicles, more than 10 ammunition depots, about 60 air defense systems and other means were destroyed. Our heroic soldiers and officers seized several settlements, heights, checkpoints and Murovdag heights, and some Armenian forces fled, throwing weapons, vehicles, battle flags and official documents. The Armenian armed forces, shamefully defeated on the battlefield, are trying to vent their anger on the civilians, villages and cities of Azerbaijan.

Armenia, which is in a dilemma as a result of Azerbaijan's victories on the battlefield, wants to achieve a ceasefire by begging the co-chairs every day. At first, on October 10, at a meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Azerbaijan and Armenia in Moscow with the mediation of Russia, the enemy violated the agreement from the very beginning, demonstrating the hypocrisy of the enemy while agreeing to a humanitarian ceasefire.

Thus, on October 11, Armenia began to demonstrate its power to the civilian population, aggravating the situation by firing ballistic missiles at our cities and regions far from the still-complex combat zone of the ceasefire agreement. The criminal regime's targeting of the civilian population reached its peak when the enemy fired a ballistic missile at Ganja. It was another war crime committed in the eyes of the modern world to open artillery fire on tearful people attending a funeral in Tartar. A rocket attack on the city of Ganja killed 10 people and injured 34 others.

A humanitarian ceasefire was declared on October 18 for the second time after another plea from Armenia, which suffered heavy casualties on the battlefield. This time through the mediation of the co-chairing country, France... Again, the enemy did not comply from the first minutes. October 18 - On the first day of the humanitarian ceasefire: from 00:00 Armenia launched attacks on civilians and settlements. Shells were fired at Ganja, Tartar, Agdam, Goranboy, Khizi and Aghjabadi. A shell hit the city of Ganja, killing 14 people and injuring more than 50.

On October 24, US Secretary of State Michael Pompeo met separately with the Foreign Ministers of Azerbaijan and Armenia. Following this, a third humanitarian ceasefire was declared on October 25. However, the Armenian intrigue and Armenian character showed itself again. Despite the announcement of a new humanitarian ceasefire, the Armenian armed forces continued to fire on the entire front, as well as the positions of our units and units on the state border with various types of firearms, mortars and artillery.

On October 28, 2020, the Armenian armed forces fired rockets at the Azerbaijani city of Barda from the Smerch rocket launcher, causing heavy casualties among the civilian population. A treacherous rocket attack on the city of Barda killed 21 civilians, including children, and seriously injured more than 70 people. The next targeting of settlements in the city, which have no military targets and are far from the conflict zone, once again demonstrates the terrorist nature of Armenia. The deliberate killing of civilians by the Armenian armed forces in the city of Barda is a genocide, a war crime and a crime against humanity. This is a gross violation of international humanitarian law by Armenia, and the Armenian leadership, including the country's Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, is fully responsible for this crime.

In general, there have been three humanitarian ceasefires since the war on September 27. Every time the Armenian occupiers violated the humanitarian ceasefire. Every time our civilians were fired upon. On October 10, after Russia's ceasefire initiative, Ganja was hit and 10 civilians were killed. After the French ceasefire initiative on October 17, Ganja was hit again, 14 civilians were killed. On October 28, after the American peace initiative, Barda was bombed, 21 civilians were killed. As a result of Armenian shelling of settlements since September 27, 65 civilians were killed and 297 were injured. In addition, 402 civilian facilities, 90 high-rise residential buildings and 2,243 residential buildings became unusable. This is an indicator of real Armenian vandalism.

In short, the joint statement of Moscow on October 10, the reappointment of the commitment through the mediation efforts of Paris on October 18 and the agreement on an emergency humanitarian ceasefire in Washington on October 24 were violated by Armenia. This is an indication of Armenia's deliberate disregard for its obligations and open disrespect for the efforts of international mediators.

Azerbaijan is faithful to its liabilities and has always respected the agreed humanitarian ceasefire. The entire responsibility for the violation of the ceasefire and the continuing tension in the region lies with the military-political leadership of Armenia.

The battles of the last days assure us that our victory is close. Under the leadership of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief, President Ilham Aliyev, the glorious army of Azerbaijan will teach the Armenian vandals a lesson that they will never forget throughout history. The ancient and historical lands of Karabakh will be liberated from the enemy, refugees and IDPs will return to their homes. Our people will experience the joy of victory.

#### **References:**

[www.virtualkarabakh.az](http://www.virtualkarabakh.az)

[www.az.wikipedia.org](http://www.az.wikipedia.org)

[www.supremecourt.gov.az](http://www.supremecourt.gov.az)

[www.mod.gov.az](http://www.mod.gov.az)

[www.mfa.gov.az](http://www.mfa.gov.az)

[www.nk.gov.az](http://www.nk.gov.az)

[www.science.gov.az](http://www.science.gov.az)