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(1)

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**TÜRKÇE:** KAFKASYA BÖLGESİNDE AZERBAYCAN ile ERMENİSTAN ve  
GÜRCİSTAN ile ERMENİSTAN ARASINDAKİ ÇATIŞMA

**ENGLISH:** CONFLICT BETWEEN ARMENIA-AZERBAIJAN and ARMENIA-GEORGIA in  
the CAUCASIAN REGION

**ABSTRACT**

*Today, one of the major problems in the Caucasus Region is the Armenian nationalism problem. It is known that during the last two centuries and with the support of Russia, Armenian migration has occurred on Azerbaijani territories. It is a fact that the Armenians founded their own state on Azerbaijan territories after the migration. Of course, the Armenians have distorted the truth and ignored the historical evidence and have claimed that Azerbaijan's territory is really Armenian land. But the important thing to remember is that during the last two hundred years 2.5 million Azerbaijanians have been massacred as a result of the Armenian genocide.*

*Another problem in the Caucasus Region is the Armenian-Georgian ethnic problem. Armenians call Georgia's territory a former Armenian province and claim that a large portion of Armenia along with Tbilisi belong to Armenia. This study has tried to look behind the scenes at the problems which arose in Azerbaijan and Georgia after Russian domination was established.*

**Keywords:** Armenia, Azerbaijan, Caucasus, Georgians, Nationalism.

**Jel Code:** F51

**ÖZET**

Günümüzde Kafkaslardaki önemli sorunlardan birisi Ermeni milliyetçiliği sorunudur. Geçtiğimiz son iki yüzyılda Rusya'nın da desteğini alarak tarihi Azerbaycan topraklarına Ermeni göçlerinin yapıldığı bilinmektedir. Bu göçler sonrasında Azerbaycan topraklarında Ermenilerin kendilerine devlet kurdukları da bir gerçektir. Tabii Ermeniler de bu gerçeği saptırarak tarihi delilleri yok sayarak Azerbaycan topraklarının aslında Ermeni toprakları olduğunu iddia etmektedirler.

Ama unutulmaması gereken ve hatta üzerine gidilmesi gereken önemli husus ise, son iki yüz yılda Ermenilerin yaptıkları soykırım sonucunda 2,5 milyon Azerbaycanlının katledilmesi olayıdır. Kafkaslarda yaşanan bir diğer etnik sorun ise Ermeni-Gürcü sorunudur. Ermeniler, Gürcü topraklarını eski Ermeni vilayetleri olarak adlandırıyor ve Gürcistan'ın büyük bir bölümü ile birlikte Tiflis'in de Ermenilere ait olduğunu iddia ediyorlar. Çalışmada Azerbaycan'da ve Gürcistan'da Sovyet hakimiyeti kurulduktan sonra bu anlamda yaşanan sorunlara değinilmiştir.

**Anahtar Kelimeler:** Azerbaycan, Ermenistan, Gürcüler, Kafkasya, Milliyetçilik.

**Jel Kodu:** F51

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Armenian nationalism is one of the most important problems of the day. It is a well-known fact that with the help of Russia, Armenians immigrated in historical Azerbaijan territories during the last two hundred years and founded their Armenian State in Azerbaijan territories as a result of these immigrations. However, by falsifying reality and ignoring historical evidences, Armenians claim that Azerbaijan territories actually belong to Armenians.

An important point that should be acknowledged and addressed here is that 2.5 million Azerbaijanis were massacred by Armenians during the last two hundred years.

It is a gospel truth that the Armenians' arrival in Caucasus set ground for ethnic conflicts in the region. Armenians immigrated to southwest Caucasus, i.e. in the territories of Western Azerbaijan, and established their state with the support of Bolshevik Russia. There is no doubt about it that during that process, Turkish-Muslims were massacred, and expelled from their houses; historical monuments were demolished or alternated, also taxonomical changes occurred. This present study will not only address problems in Azerbaijan after Soviet Occupation but also analyze the developments between Azerbaijan Turks, Georgians and Armenians within Caucasus.

## 2. Global Problem: Nationalism and Caucasus

In April, 1920 the 11<sup>th</sup> Red Army invaded Azerbaijan, and thus started Soviet Occupation in the region. When the Musavat Party turned over the authority to communists on April 18, 1920 due to oppression of the Red Army, Nerimanov was filling his second year in Moscow. Moscow government sent him to Baku for establishing the new regime. Nerimanov was elected the chairman of the Azerbaijan Interim Revolutionary Committee which was founded April 27, 1920. Afterwards, he took the ruling position in Azerbaijan as the Chairman and Foreign Affairs Commissar of the Council of People's Commissars of the Azerbaijani Soviet Republic. However, the position he took over was like a bed of nails, because he had to not only struggle with his rivals of Azerbaijani Turks but also keep an eye on other Russian, Georgian and Armenian rivals(Devlet,2011,167).

In that period, a group of Armenians and Russians came into power. That group was known with their anti-Muslim and anti-Turk attitudes. One of the problems making things more difficult was that throughout history Armenians had not adopted a policy regarding state control, and could not go beyond the scope of tribal society. Katchaznoui, the first Prime Minister of the "independent" Armenian Republic confirmed that fact by saying: "If we are to evaluate the work we conducted and the results we obtained after the declaration of Independent Republic, we must admit that our burden to organize a State and lead the State administration was far beyond our strength... We have not been statesmen" (Ananikyan,2008).

## 3. Armenian Immigrations in Azerbaijan Territories during the 19<sup>th</sup> century



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As in the ancient times, Armenians (Gürün,1983,10-53) one of the Asia Minor communities only endeavored to protect their ethnic existence and struggled to stay out of serious circumstances even under the rule of powerful governments such as Seljuk, Ilkhanid, Aqquyunlu, Safavid and Ottomans during the Middle Ages.

Armenia is a term meaning “high country”. It is notable that Asian Turks call people living in that region Armenians, like they call people living in Rumelia as rums even if they are from Turkish origin. However, Armenians call themselves with different names other than Armenian. Firstly appearing in Asia Minor and neighboring countries, the term “Armenian” has become notably widespread today (Baykara,2003,403).

Armenians have been one of the migrant communities, and in the course of time they immigrated to Asia, Europe and even to Russia and America. Armenian immigrants have gained dignity and authority in the fields of economy and trade; also, they have influenced political lives of the States they immigrated in.

Caucasus has been one of the target regions for Armenian immigrations. In Caucasus, Armenians have settled in Tbilisi, Nakhchivan and other economic-political centers, and founded their own trade and business companies. Sometimes the bias and slyness of Armenian merchants and missionaries, sometimes the mercy of local authorities or ignorance of phenomenon led to increases in Armenian population in those regions. Churches, monasteries, schools and cemeteries were established for Armenian people. In addition to that, there were residential areas and neighborhoods for Armenians in Culfa and Nakhchivan. Before the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the number of Armenians in Caucasus was very low, but there were some exceptional regions that had higher Armenian populations.

Russia was aware of the fact that Armenians always lived in manorial systems and did not bear any patriotism or political commitment, and the only thing keeping them together was their traditions, language and religion. Therefore, Russia was able to capture East Caucasus by taking the advantage of the religious unity between Georgians and Armenians in the course of the joint naval and land operations in Astrahan in 1796. Thus, the Khanates of Shirvan, Sheki and Karabakh were conquered by the Russians. Afterwards, Gence which was one of the most important Turkish centers in Caucasus fell under the rule of Russia. That development not only enabled Russians to reach the Aras River but also gave them the opportunity to establish their first dominance around Yerevan, and opened the way for Yerevan and Tabriz (Allen,1966,19). By taking the rule of Tbilisi Khanates in 1801, Russia got rid of Azerbaijani Khanates in Azerbaijan, and also reached the doors of Anatolia. In order to achieve its objectives, Russia used Armenian minorities in the region through Armenian churches and clergymen (Arslan,1996,20).

The Edirne Agreement which was signed on September 14, 1829 as a result of 1828-1829 Ottoman-Russian War (Karal,1970,119-121) enabled Ottoman subjects to immigrate to territories of Russia. With that agreement, many Rayahs living either in Rumelia or Anatolia emigrated from Ottoman territories to Russia. Article 13 granted an 18-month time for the settlement of the properties belonging to the emigrating families. As it is understood from the operation in Eastern Anatolia, “people to be migrated” took to the roads in 1830



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(Baykara,2003,405). There were many problems about the properties Armenians left behind when they emigrated, and K. Beydilli researched some of these problems (Beydilli,1988,365-434).

With the decree of Nikolay I dated to March, 21 1828, a new administrative unit was established on the territories of Revan and Nakhichevan khanates, and it was called the “Armenian Province”. Colonel Lazarev an Armenian diplomat and author Griboyedov were making efforts for settling mostly Armenian people into that province. In a very short time, 130 Armenian families living in Iran and Turkey were immigrated there. Armenians getting all kinds of support from the Tsarist government settled in fertile ancestral land of Azerbaijan. Between 1828-1838, 2511 Armenian families, totaling 12 555 Armenians, were brought to the territories of Nakhichevan khanates. 434 Armenian families were settled in the province of Nakhichevan. Inhabitants of some villages, including the inhabitants of Nehrem, firstly opposed those immigrations; however, policy makers of the Tsarist government populated Armenians in the domains of Nehrem around the Aras River and created a new village with the name of Tazekend.

At the beginning of 1829, local population was recorded in books with the command of Russian General Paskeviç. According to these records, there were 23 730 families in the region, to be precise there were approximately 17 000 families in Yerevan, 4600 families in Nakhichevan and 2130 families in the Ordubad region. If we assume that each family was composed of 5 individuals, it can be inferred that there were 118 650 people living in the region. In line with the information in the records, 81 749 of these people were Muslims and 25 131 of them were Armenians (Aslan,2001).

Between the years of 1829-1932 Armenian families from Iran were settled in Yerevan, Nakhichevan and Ordubad; 366 (1715 people), 265 (1110 people) and 36 families (182 people) respectively. Besides these families, 119 villages of Yerevan, 61 villages of Nakhichevan and 11 villages of Ordubad were settled by Armenians. Including villages and towns totaling 6949 Armenian families (35560 people) settled in the region: In Yerevan 4599 (23568), in Nakhichevan region 2137 (10652) and in Ordubad together with neighboring regions 250 (1340) families (Aslan,2001).

One of the migrating methods was, as in Iran, to encourage the non-Muslim population in the Ottoman territories to immigrate in Russia, or even use force in the occupied regions. Colonel Lazarev was explaining their objective with these words: “That population will be a new treasure for Russia.” Again within the same scenario, an Armenian group of 120000 people from East Anatolia were settled in Erivan and neighboring areas in 1829 as a result of the Edirne Agreement signed at the end of Ottoman-Russian war (Saydam,1996).

According to Leon Arpee, 96000 Armenians from Erzurum, Kars and Beyazıt crossed the Russian border (Arpee,1946,244).

According to K.Beydilli, the number was about 100000 (Beydilli,1988,407).

Another point that should be mentioned is that although the policy of settling Armenian migrants into South Caucasia where Azerbaijani Turks had lived for thousands of years and of pressing the local population was started by Russian imperialists, it was



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maintained in the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century by the Dashnaktsutyun Party as Armenian fascism. As a result, the Armenian State was founded on the lands which belonged to Azerbaijani Turks (Memmedov,2001).

After Armenians were settled in Azerbaijan territories, Turkish names of some residential areas, mountains, rivers and lakes were changed with Armenian names (Makas,1990,22).

Old Name	New Name
Ağbař	Abovyan
Ağdere	Mardakert
Alagöz Dağı	Aragats
Arpaçay	Ahuryan
Aygır Gölü	Aygerliç
Basargeçer	Vardanis
Celaloğlu	Stepanovan
Cengi	Vardatlur
Derbend	Karmrakar
Eskipara	Voskepar
Gökgöl	Sevan
Güzeldere	Gehadzor
Gümrü	Leninakan
Hamamlı	Spitak
Hankendi	Stepanakert
Kamerli	Mesamor
Kıpçak	Ariç
Kırkbulak	Akunt
Mihrablı	Vardařen
Merze	Barteravan
Pirmelek	Areg
Seradrabad	Oktemberyan
Tavuzakle	Berd
Vedi	Ararat
Yaycı	Garjis
Zengibasar	Masis

#### **4. Relations between the Azerbaijani Soviet Republic and Armenians**

When Nerimanov took authority, he supposed that Azerbaijani Soviet Republic was independent. The Azerbaijan Republic had built relations with the new Republic of Turkey. Mahmut Şevket Esendal was sent to Baku in 1920 as the new Turkish Ambassador, and in the beginning of 1921, İbrahim Abilov was appointed as Ankara Ambassador of Azerbaijani



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Soviet Republic. In those days, Ankara was isolated from the rest of the world and it was a rebellious center which was legitimized by only the Soviet Union and its associate republics (Devlet,2011,168).

In other words, socialist activities were tolerated in Anatolia, and there was no objection for Turkish delegates to participate in the **Baku** Congress of the Peoples of the **East** in September, 1920 or in other meetings. The Ankara government did not consider establishing a socialist regime in Anatolia, therefore it reluctantly shut its eyes to such developments, because the Ankara government was hoping to get assistance from Moscow and its alliances including Baku and Tashkent.

However, Moscow was staying on the safe side regarding building relations with Ankara. Çiçerin, the Foreign Affairs Commissar of the day did not lean towards the developments, but relations were improved between Moscow and Ankara with the **Treaty of Friendship and Brotherhood** that was signed on **March 21, 1921**. Mustafa Suphi and his friends had been killed at the end of January; however, it did not constitute an impediment against that Agreement. By these means, the new National Assembly secured taking a loan of 10 billion gold coins from Russia together with military supplies (Devlet,2011,169).

In the telegram he sent to Lenin and Çiçerin on June 19, 1920, G.K.Orconikidze wrote: “Karabakh and Zengezur have been taken under Soviet domination, but both regions still regard themselves as a part of Azerbaijan. As for me, the head of Azerbaijan should be called to Moscow to discuss the problems regarding Azerbaijan and Armenia. Also, all these things should be done before making an agreement with Armenia (Memmedov,2008).

As it can be understood here, after the Irevan Region was given to the Dashnaks territories of Azerbaijan, the Democratic Republic shrank and decreased from 114 thousand km<sup>2</sup> to 97, 3 thousand km<sup>2</sup> in 1920. When historical resources are examined, it can be seen that the Armenian State was founded on Azerbaijan territories. Also, Armenian researchers do not deny this fact. For instance, Galoyan wrote: “The land left to the Armenians with the Batumi Agreement (June 4, 1918) was 8 thousand km<sup>2</sup>” (Galoyan,1969).

According to the statement mentioned above, when 8 thousand km<sup>2</sup> is deducted from the current 29 thousand km<sup>2</sup> territory of Armenia, it makes 21 thousand km<sup>2</sup>, so we can infer that that the 21 thousand km<sup>2</sup> land actually belongs to Azerbaijan.

We should also emphasize here that after the tsarist regime, Soviet Russia also kept protecting Armenians. Moscow gave all kinds of assistance and protection to the Armenian State that was artificially created. In that way, from the beginning of 1920 to 1988 10, 7 thousand km<sup>2</sup> of Azerbaijan land disappeared and was left to the hands of Armenia and by the Permission of Kremlin. In the time when the Soviet Union was about to collapse, real property of Azerbaijan had fallen to 86,6 thousand km<sup>2</sup>.

As the new Armenian State did not have any economic resources, it survived with foreign support. Some of that support was coming from Azerbaijan. Armenian historiographer Ağayan states that: “That assistance was quite valuable because the majority of Azerbaijani



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people were highly in need, and even getting help from the government of Soviet Russia” (Memmedov,2008).

### **5. Relations between Armenians and Georgians**

Another point that should be mentioned here is the relations between Armenians and Georgians, because Armenians also had their eyes on the land of Georgia. Orientalist Veliçko wrote: “Armenians ruthlessly wiped out the history of Georgia, in the archaeological sense. They scraped off the Georgian inscriptions on the monuments. They broke into the old churches and shrines of Orthodox people, and presented the places where each stone reflected Georgian Tsardom as ancient Armenian lands” (Memmedov,2008).

Georgian archeologist D.Bakradze wrote: “The last four churches in Artvin, which are open to worship, and have been built in the last 20 years, are the possessions of Catholics. However, the big church bonded with a stone having Georgian writing was turned into an Armenian Church. After debating with Trabzon Rums, Armenians hideaway the stone with Georgian writing and arrogate the church to them. However, Rums try to prove that it was a Georgian Church and it should be left to their coreligionists” (Vermishev,1904).

On August 16, 1828 the Russian troops under the command of Paskeviç defeated Ottoman troops and captured Ahalsık. Thus, Ahalsık Sanjak was transformed into a province under the same name. The “Caucasian” journal published in Tbilisi reported: “Russians’ invasion of Ahalsık which was regarded as an undefeatable area by the local community caused horror among Muslims. Native populations started fleeing into Turkey in masses. On the contrary, more than 106 000 Armenians graced us with their presence in nearly 5-6 months” (Ahaltıskaya,1897).

After securing their position in new settlements, Armenians took up new dreams. In 1831, Armenian migrants from Ahalsık submitted a 10-article petition to Paskeviç. In the petition they expressed the following demands: “not to settle other people together with Armenian-Griyoryans, to give Armenians in Ahalsık the right to found their own national courts, to give them a commercial law that allows for free trade without taxes (Kafkas,1897), etc. However, Paskeviç rejected these demands.

At the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Ottoman and Kacar States made Armenians migrate to Caucasus and in the territories of current Georgia. Those migrations paved the way for the disagreements between Armenians and Georgians for land ownership, which have continued until today.

Armenian historian İshhanyan also accepted that the Armenian rich bought Georgian lands for their aims. İshhanyan wrote: “Georgian aristocrats sell their lands to Armenian capitalists, in other words, Georgians sell their own territory to foreign Armenians who came to their land later”(İshhanyan,1914).

Afterwards, by stating “In the areas where Armenians were settled such as Zengezur town...” (İshhanyan,1914) İshhanyan accepted that Armenians were not natives in Caucasus, but they settled there later in history. In the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Armenians collectively purchased Georgian territories, and that led to serious discontent in the higher



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administrations of Georgia. Georgian historian, doctor N.Eristov-Şarvaşidze verbalized that discontent with these words: “Georgian people lost the most beautiful areas of Georgia, including Kartalini and Ahalkalak town. These areas have been settled by Armenians coming from Asia Minor. Hundreds of undamaged shrines and monasteries, properties of Georgian people, and thousands of villages fell into the hands of Armenians. They staked out claims on historical inheritance of Georgian people without any gratitude.”(Eristov,1906).

By emphasizing the discontent of Georgian federal agents , Armenian historian İshhanyan wrote: “Armenian capitalists don’t content themselves with taking possession of Georgian lands, they try to bring their fellow countrymen from Armenian provinces in masses and settle them in the captured territories; therefore they lay the foundation of an Armenian colony on Georgian territories.”(İshhanyan,1914).

Historian Shopen who lived with the Armenians that immigrated to Caucasus, knew and analyzed them well wrote: “greed often drives them to lies; therefore, they have the ability for hiding their ideas instead of verbalizing them. They are apple-polishers, who never stay loyal to someone and if you don’t serve their purposes they can easily ignore you.”(Shopen,1852).

It will be convenient to cite the words of a Georgian monarch regarding Armenians: “It is surely beyond doubt that Armenians will feel and understand in the near future that we cannot have anything to bargain on with the people who aspired to batten upon the folks who provided them shelter”(Sbornik,1901).

The most disconcerting thing for Georgians was that Armenians illegally captured the territories of the state and legal entities and became richer in this way. Such activities of Armenians became more apparent especially in ‘50s and ‘60s of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

According to the information provided by İshhanyan, while Armenian population composed 19% of total population in Tbilisi Guberniya in 1897, their rate increased up to 26.17% in 1910; in other words, their rate increased by 7% in fifteen years. On the contrary, Georgians were composing 44, 5% of total population at first, they reduced to 41.24% by decreasing 3.25% (İshhanyan,1914).

Nearly all classes of Armenian population took part in the Armenian-ization process of Georgia. For instance, Haratyun who used to write poems in three languages accepted the title of Sayat Nova and started being recognized as a musician and poet. Afterwards, he became a palace singer for Georgian Tsar İraklin II, and then he was fired from the palace and worked as a priest in a monastery. The death of Sayat Nova still remains mysterious.

In fact, Armenian jeopardy was not only limited to settlement of Armenian migrants in Georgian territories. Armenian priests instructed by Eçmiyazin were pushing Gregorian sectarianism on Armenian Catholics. “Armenians based their lies on the claim that Georgia has been an orthodox country through history and has never hosted and cannot host natives maintaining Roman-Catholic sectarian. Therefore, Armenians demanded Georgian Catholics to join them and pray in Armenian” (Kanadpev,1902).

Also, Armenians had rootless works written regarding the Georgian history. For Senkovskiy who was a professor of oriental languages and known as Bromlmlplaei, was the





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first Russian man of letters that wrote works on Armenians in return of money. In his article “Some doubts on the history of Georgia” dated to 1838 Senkovskiy wrote: “Till the rule of Vahtang VI, Georgians did not have annuals; even Georgians did not come into existence till the 12<sup>th</sup> century. However, there were highlander communities known as Ivers. The large part of Georgia belonged to Armenia for several centuries”(Senkovsiy,1838).

Well-known Georgian poet and author İlya Çavçavadze revealed Armenians’ lies and their historical-archeological attacks on Georgians, and wrote: “They do not only bring shame on our name, and divest us of our merit, but they also deny our blood-stained history and annuals and take credit of our history to rule us out of the world”(Çavçavadze,2008,325).

Çavçavadze stated: “stop debarring us from the thing that actually belong to us, abasing our name and laying it on you. No matter if our land is small or big, we provided you with shelter and took you under our wings. At least give up your hostile attitudes in our own territory. It is better to have a lion on your way than having an enemy at your home” (Çavçavadze,2008,325).

By taking the advantage of the vacancy emerging in Caucasus after the collapse of Russian tsarist regime, Armenian Dashnaks founded a state on the territories of Azerbaijan. As of its foundation, the Dashnak government started claiming possession on the territories of Azerbaijan and Georgia. In such an environment, Armenia attacked Georgia on December 14 1918. These hostilities continued for two weeks. However, as British troops stepped into the region both states had to retreat their former positions. Georgia recaptured its territories in Ahalkelek. American historian Samuel wrote on Armenians’ defeat against Georgia: “Armenia has licked its own wounds and set its eyes on Azerbaijan as its next victim.”(Memmedli,2008,326).

The fact that should be underlined here is that Meskhetian Turks lived in Ahalkelek region and Azerbaijani Turks lived in Borçalı region. During the domination of Georgian Menschewiks, ethnic conflicts in the country were changing from day to day. Georgian officials could not trust in Armenians and regarded them as foreigners. It was known that Armenians living in the region espied for Dashnak armies and helped them by malpracticing their missions during the Armenian attacks on Georgia. Therefore, Georgian government agencies were cross with Armenians, and dismissed them from their jobs. An American historian mentioned the issue with these words: “Armenian officials, soldiers and government authorities who intentionally betrayed Georgians, stabbed them in the back or tried to pull the rug out from under Georgia, were dismissed from work”(Memmedli,2008,326).

Armenian efforts for disrupting the unity and territorial integrity of Georgia and Georgian civilization became more complex and systematic during the Soviet domination. According to the claims of Armenian “intelligentsia “, the first founders and architects of Georgian churches were Armenians. These intellectuals also emphasize that historical Georgian inscriptions were products of Armenian civilizations. As a matter of fact Mamulov, an Armenian from Tbilisi, claimed that all Georgians were actually Armenians (Mamulov,1995).



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As of the 1930s, Armenians who were citizens of Georgia started changing their passports and getting Georgian names and last names en mass. Apparently, it was one of the ways that had been planned by Armenian leaders to Armenian-ization of Georgia in a more civilized manner and “assimilate” Georgians on the sly.

It will be useful to underline that during the Soviet domination and the following period, there were no newspapers which did not make propaganda against Georgia. However, these anti-Georgian propaganda activities were not limited to Armenia. The Eçmiyazin church and Armenian Diaspora were carrying out the same activities out of the borders of the Armenian state.

In the later 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Armenian Republic made territorial claims on the Covahetiya region of neighboring Republic of Georgia. In the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Armenians prepared plans of attacks against both Karabakh and Covahetiya, and with the help of Moscow and other foreign powers they mounted attacks against Karabakh region of Azerbaijan (Memmedli,2008,329).

## **CONCLUSION**

It is known that since the last two hundred years Armenians have immigrated in Caucasus, namely in the territories of both Azerbaijan and Georgia. During that process too many people lost their lives and too much blood was shed. Firstly, Tsarist Russia and the Soviet Russian government supported Armenians for these immigrations; therefore, Armenians occupied the territories which actually belong to Azerbaijan and Georgia. Azerbaijan authorities held meetings with Lenin and Stalin in order to stop massacres and soil loss. However these meetings did not yield any results. There are letters which can prove these meetings.

In the second half of the 1980s when the USSR entered into the dissolution process, Azerbaijan territories underwent another Armenian invasion, and 20% of Azerbaijan Republic's territories were occupied by Armenians (17.000 km<sup>2</sup>). During that war/ occupation more than 18000 people lost their lives and more than 50000 people got wounded or became permanently disabled.

This is one of the main problems in the foreign politics of the current Azerbaijan Government. International organizations, especially the United Nations Security Council has 4 Decisions regarding the invaded Azerbaijan territories; however, Armenia did not abide by these decisions. Aliyev stated that independence is the most valuable property for Azerbaijanis by emphasizing that Azerbaijan has developed both economically and politically in the last 20 years and became the most powerful country of the region. Aliyev, the President of Azerbaijan stated that Azerbaijan maintains a clear attitude regarding the resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh problem and their attitude is based on the principle of territorial integrity, and they will never tolerate another Armenian state to be established on the land of Azerbaijan(<http://www.internethaber.com/ilham-aliyev-azerbaycan-ermenistan-yukari-karabag--439037h.htm>, 02.07.12)



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