



Scan to know paper details and  
author's profile

# The Russian Policy in the South Caucasus (XX Century – The Beginning of the XXI Century)

*Maharram Zulfugarli*

*Azerbaijan Tourism University*

## INTRODUCTION

At the beginning of the XXI century South Caucasus is considered as one of the strained regions in the world as it was former periods. The Russian policy carried on 200 years in this region created national conflicts such as Mountains Kharabagh, Abkhazia and South Ossetia. These conflicts caused the tragedy for the millions of people. These conflicts also have negative influence on the economic development of the region and the integration of the region to the West.

*Keywords:* NA

*Classification:* DDC Code: 891.733 LCC Code: PG3366

*Language:* English



London  
Journals Press

LJP Copyright ID: 573336  
Print ISSN: 2515-5784  
Online ISSN: 2515-5792

London Journal of Research in Humanities and Social Sciences

Volume 22 | Issue 3 | Compilation 1.0



© 2022. Maharram Zulfugarli. This is a research/review paper, distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial 4.0 Unported License <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>, permitting all noncommercial use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.



# The Russian Policy in the South Caucasus (XX Century – The Beginning of the XXI Century)

Maharram Zulfugarli

*Author:* Doctor of History, Professor of the Department of "Public dissipation" Azerbaijan Tourism University and Management. The Republic of Azerbaijan.

## I. INTRODUCTION

At the beginning of the XXI century South Caucasus is considered as one of the strained regions in the world as it was former periods. The Russian policy carried on 200 years in this region created national conflicts such as Mountains Kharabagh, Abkhazia and South Ossetia. These conflicts caused the tragedy for the millions of people. These conflicts also have negative influence on the economic development of the region and the integration of the region to the West.

In the different periods the South Caucasus policy of Russia can differ from form of view, but its content is always same. The five-day war took place in the August, 2008 between Russia and Georgia related to South Ossetia conflict proves the accuracy of this idea. For understanding the essence of the present Russian policy the events took place in the beginning of the XX century and XXI century should be compared.

The South Caucasus region exposed to invasions because it was the region where the interests of the big countries crossed. In the beginning of the XIX century after the first and second Russia-Iran wars South Caucasus was enslaved by Russia.

After the "February" revolution and "October" coup d'etat in 1917 in Russia, in the region on May 26 Georgia and on May 28 Azerbaijan and Armenia created their independent Republics in 1918. But in the 27th April, 1920 the 11th Russian Bolshevik army occupied Baku and Azerbaijan Democratic Republic was deprived of its

independence. After Azerbaijan Democratic Republic Georgia and Armenia were occupied.

Moscow explained these occupations as they stand for the rights of the nations to determine their fortune and for the Soviet Republics created after the occupation of the XI army. Besides, the Soviet ideologists pretend that, the proletariat of these republics revolted and applied to Soviet Russia for the support and Moscow, as its international duty, supported these people. (In 1979 Soviet army entered Afghanistan by the same scenario.) Their main aim was obvious after they refused the above mentioned idea and created totalitarian regime as SSRU.

11th Russian Bolshevik army while occupying Azerbaijan In April 27, 1920 used "Independent Soviet Azerbaijan" slogan. Afterwards, N.Narimanov understood the falseness of this slogan and wrote to I. Lenin in his letter: "Didn't you mention the Independent Azerbaijan?... Now position is the following: The Armenia always supporting Denikin gained independence and in addition was given Azeri lands... Azerbaijan, the first of 3 republics joined Soviet Russia, loses both its lands and independence." [1]

The falseness of the "Independent Azerbaijan" slogan was proved by the examples of source studies of Soviet history found in recent years. For instance, in 1922 I. Stalin wrote in his letter to Lenin that it was the time to end independent republic trick. [2]

Unlike Soviet historians the bourgeois historians criticized this policy and wrote about true aim of it in XX century.

In books like "Struggle for Transcaucasia. 1917-1921" by F. Kazimzada, "Panturkism and Islam in Russia" by S.Zenkovski, "Russia and its

colonies” by V.Kolars etc. “There was not proletarian revolution in Azerbaijan, if there was a movement, it was bourgeois movement” idea was put forward.

V. Kolars wrote in his “Communism and its colonist policy” book published in 1964:

“Communists encroached obviously on National Government In Azerbaijan. The condition in Azerbaijan in April, 1920 is like the one in Hungary in October, 1956... The reason of XI army’s coming was Baku oil and it was .... rude imperialism ”

F.Kazimzade in the conference organized by Vilson center for International relations and the Institute learning SSRU in 15th May 1979 said: “Red Army in 1920-1921th occupied transcaucasian republics, and to conceal its policy Moscow ... signed contracts with the bolshevik governments..... Transcaucas is governed as the colony of the Moscow.”

In 1960 in the 2nd number of the “Central Asia Review” magazine the falsification by Soviet historians was criticized in the “The development of the historical research in Azerbaijan in the Soviet period” article.[3]

According to the soviet history source studies, only in May, 1920 15 million pood oil, in June 21.2 million pood oil and oil products were sent to Soviet Russia, in December 48 cistern cerosine, 50 waggon grain and other goods were sent to Armenia.[4]

There are evidences of the occupation of Azerbaijan by XI army not having a legislative base, to exploitate resources of Azerbaijan even among Soviet source studies of history. For example, The telegram by I.Lenin to I.T.Smilqa and G.K. Orchanikidze on the importance of the invasion of Baku in the 17th March, 1920; A. H. Garayev’s speech in the 1st April,1920 in the parliament written in his book published in 1926; and the ideas mentioned by H. Sultanov in the second congress of Azerbaijan Communist Party (16-23rd October, 1920).

The fact that Revolution Committee invited the 11th Army to Azerbaijan to help workers and rural

people in the 29th April, 1920, after the 11th Army invaded Azerbaijan and put end to the independence of Azerbaijan again proves the occupation of Baku.[5]

Professor Z. Bunyadov said about the invasion by 11th Army that:”There wasn’t any revolution by proletariat for the Soviet government.

Because,...the Soviet government in Azerbaijan was announced without any revolution in April 28, 1920. So, modern researchers investigating the creation Soviet power in Azerbaijan should reinvestigate the false conceptions fabricated till now.”[6]

Above mentioned facts prove that, the present Russian policy in Southern Caucasus differs only in the form of view from the policy pursued by Tsar and Soviet Russia. The main aim is to make the South Caucasus countries became independent at the end of the XX century and admitted to the European Union dependent from itself. For pursuing this policy Russia uses Armenia considering it as its outpost and the toy regimes created by Russia in Mountains Kharabagh, Abkhazia and South Ossetia. Such policy doesn’t promise any perspectives for Russia. The situation after the 5 days war with Georgia and economic difficulties proves this fact once more. In our opinion, Russia can gain authority by breaking this policy, following the norms of international law and developing cultural, economical relationships with the South Caucasus countries, which are its neighbours. Otherwise Russia fortune can be as SSRU’s.

## REFERENCES

1. Narimanov N. ”Region on our revolution” (letter to İ.V. Stalin) Баку, 1992. p.62 (in Azeri language).
2. “ Известия ЦК КПСС ” жур., Москва с.6 1990,с. 186 (на рус. языке)
3. Kocerli T. “Agaisnt the people falsifying the history”. Баку, Azerneshr, 1972 (in Azeri language).
4. Azerbaijan History. 3 volumed, 3<sup>rd</sup> volume, 1<sup>st</sup> book Баку, Elm, 1973, p. 264, 275) (in Azeri language).

6. Декреты Азревкома (1920-1921гг.) Баку, Азернешр, 1988, с.12 (на рус. языке).
7. “Science and Life” journal., Баку (in Azeri language) № 10 p. 2.