



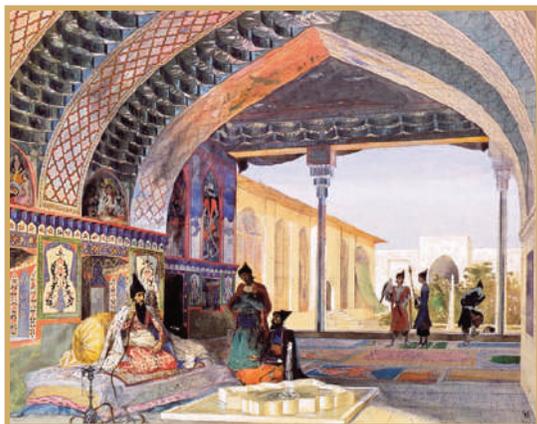
The Council of State Support to Non-Governmental Organizations under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan



Historians of Azerbaijan Public Union



RULERS OF CHUKHURSAD and KHANS OF IRAVAN



Present-day Republic of Armenia was created on the Azerbaijani lands

Published by decision
of the Academic Council of the Institute of History
Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences

The idea mover,
project manager,
author of the foreword
and academic editor

Yagub Mahmudov
Honored scientist,
corresponding member of ANAS
State Prize-winner

Reviewer:

Nazim Mustafa
PhD in history

Technical editor:

Mehri Khanbabayeva
PhD in Mathematics

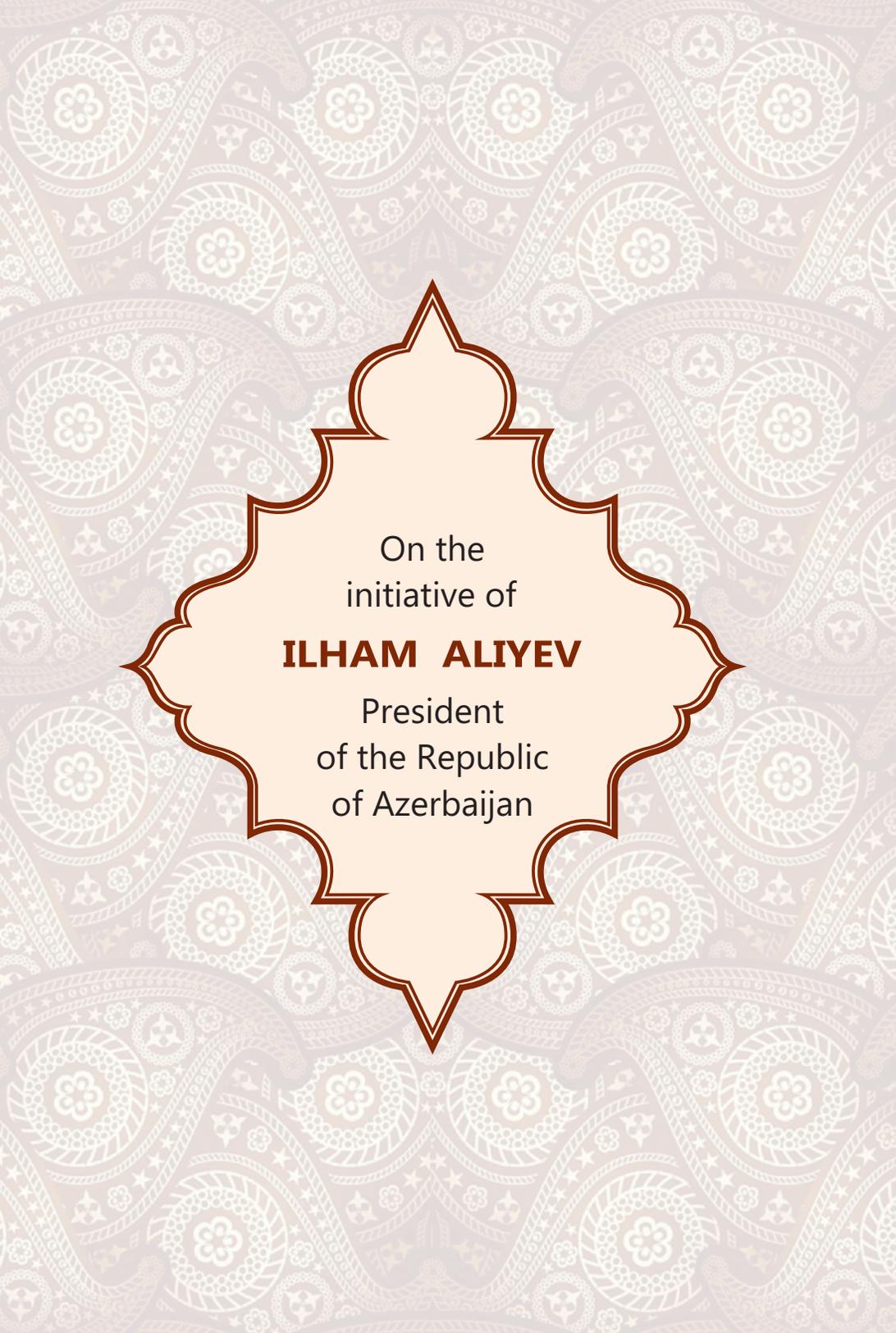
Guntakin Najafli.

Rulers of Chukhursad and Khans of Iravan

Baku, Public Society of Azerbaijan Historians, 2016. - 44 p.

ISBN 978-9952-8268-5-2

© A.A.Bakikhanov Institute of History, ANAS, 2016



On the
initiative of
ILHAM ALIYEV
President
of the Republic
of Azerbaijan

As you know,
our scientists have created
a voluminous research work about the khanate
of Iravan on my initiative.
This is of great importance.
But, this work reflects more factual and
scientific issues.
I think that small booklets
shall be issued as well for wider readership.

ILHAM ALIYEV
President of the Republic of Azerbaijan

*From the speech at the fifth
conference of the heads of diplomatic
service bodies of Azerbaijan.*

July 7, 2014





To the readers

The territory of modern Armenia is the historical Azerbaijani land. Before the establishment of the Armenian state on **May 29, 1918**, i.e. in all historical periods, these lands always belonged to Azerbaijan. *The Hurries, Kimmers, Scythians, Saks, Huns, numerous Oghouzes and Qipchaq Turks* who took part in the formation of the Azerbaijani people lived namely in this region, especially on the lands around Lake Goycha and they have left a rich historical and cultural heritage after them.

Very important historical events and processes described in “Kitabi-Dede Gorgud” - the heroic epos of the Azerbaijani and other Turkic peoples took place namely in this region of Azerbaijan. Oghouznameh - Abu Bakr Tehrani’s “Kitabi Diyarbekriyye”, written at the request of the great Azerbaijani ruler Uzun Hassan (1468-1478) informs us that Oghouz khagan standing in the root of Oghouz Turks lived, died and was buried just here –in Azerbaijani lands, in the vicinity of Lake Goycha. Khan of khans Bayandur khagan and many other Oghouz Turk

* In 1930, following the creation of the Armenian state, on the former territory of the Iravan khanate which was Azerbaijani land, Goycha Lake was renamed by Armenians to “Sevan”.



warlords also lived, died and were buried in this region, in the homeland of their ancestors.¹

Primary sources maintain that since ancient times, the ruling periods of various hostile empires being exception, the territory of the present Republic of Armenia had always been a part of the Azerbaijani states. At different times the area was part of the Azerbaijani states governed by Azerbaijani dynasties of the **Saji**, **Salari**, **Shaddadi** and **Eldaniz**. These lands ruled by emirs of Chukhursad and khans of Iravan in the Middle Ages was one of the regions most densely populated with the Azerbaijani-Turkic tribes

Until the occupation of Northern Azerbaijan by Russia at the beginning of the nineteenth century Iravan was one of the very important centers of statehood.

The Iravan region, including the Chukhursad beylerbeyate and Iravan khanate were governed by rulers, beylerbeys and khans – descendants of well-known **Rumlu**, **Ustajli** and **Qajar** dynasties that played an important role in the history of Azerbaijan statehood.

The name of Chukhursad province, which throughout the fifteenth century was part of the Azerbaijani Garagoyunlu and Aghgoyunlu states, is related to the name of one of the Azerbaijani -Turkic tribes - Saadli or Saadli being part of the Garagoyunlu tribal community.

¹ For extensive information see: Əbubəkr Tehrani. Kitabi-Diyar-bəkriyyə. Translation from Persian, author of the foreword and the indexes by Rahila Shukurova. Baku, 1998, p.46-47).



From the beginning of the sixteenth century until the 1736 year the **Chukhursad beylerbeyate**, one of the most important administrative units of the Azerbaijani Safavi state with its capital city of Iravan had been governed by representatives of the prominent **Azerbaijani Qajar family** appointed by Safavi shahs. Beylerbeys that governed the Chukhursad beylerbeyate who did the state a good turn and were always distinguished from the others had achieved relative independence. They sent messengers not only to neighboring countries, but also distant lands as France.

The Khanate of Iravan (1747-1828) was ruled by khans - descendants of famous **Qajar** dynasty which played an important role in the history of Azerbaijan's statehood. All management system of the Khanate, its social, political, cultural and economic life and culture in every day life of the people living here was an integral part of the system of general historical development of Azerbaijan having lasted for thousands of years.

Since the Khanate of Iravan was located in a strategic position, khans who were ruling the Khanate along with fortification of existing castles and other defensive constructions in the territory of Khanate gave serious consideration to the erection of new ones as well. Therefore, in the 1815-1817 years, on the orders of the Khan of Iravan Hussein Qulu Khan was built the famous **Sardarabad** fortress. This square-shaped magnificent castle erected with the close participation of French engineers was distinguished by double walls and strong towers. This mighty castle was also destroyed by Armenian vandals.



This booklet called *“Rulers of Chukhursad and Khans of Iravan”* written on primary sources, illuminates the heroism and warlord’s bravery of Iravan khans’ who led Azerbaijani patriots in the glorious fight against the occupation of Iravan khanate by the Russian Empire. Khans of Iravan who withstood heavy sieges many times, ready to fight to the last drop of blood for defense of their homeland put up an unparalleled resistance for the freedom of their land.

Muhammad Hussein Khan Qajar (1784-1805), *Hussein Qulu Khan Qajar* (1806-1827) and his brother *Hassan Khan Qajar*, bearing the name of “Aslanlar bashi (King of Lions)” wrote the most glorious pages in history of Azerbaijani people in the heroic fight against the occupiers of Tsarist Russia. Their valiant struggle is an unparalleled sample for the Azerbaijani youth.

This booklet *“Rulers of Chukhursad and Khans of Iravan”* written on primary sources, proves once again that the territory of present-day Armenia created on May 29, 1918 on Azerbaijani lands had been an integral part of Azerbaijan in all historical periods and was ruled by Azerbaijani dynasties.

Yagub Mahmudov

Honored man of science,

Corresponding member of ANAS

State Prize-winner



THE RULERS OF CHUKHURSAD

The territory of present-day Armenia which is an ancient Azerbaijani land was called as **Chukhursad region** in the Middle Ages.

The name of **Chukhursad region** is associated with the name of Saadli or Saadili, one of the Azerbaijani-Turkish tribes of Garagoyunlu tribal unity. The ethnonym Saadli was derived from the name of Emir Saad, the ruler of Garagoyunlu tribe living in the fourteenth century. **Emir Saad** (end of fourteenth century -1410), the ruler of Saadli, died in 1410 and was buried in the vicinity of Iravan.

Azerbaijani-Turkish tribes united under sway of Emir Saad were called as Saadli beginning from the end of the fourteenth century. North-West Azerbaijan's territory in Surmali valley, in riverside areas of Araz River (present-day Yerashadzor village of the Armenian Republic and its surroundings) were called **Chukhursad** region and were ruled as a semi-dependent region beginning from that period. Even Armenian sources confirm Chukhursad to be the Azerbaijani land. Armenian sources name this place as "**Sahata pos**" - "**Sahad pit**" or "**Yerkrin Sahat**" – Sahad's country.²

² ԳրիգորյանՎ.Ռ. Նիեանի խանութեանը 18-րդ դարիվերջում, Նիեան, 1958, էջ, 26: (*Qriqoryan V.R. İrəvan xanlığı XVIII əsrin sonlarında (1780- 1800), İrəvan, 1958, s.26*); *İrəvan xanlığı. Rusiya işğalı və ermənilərin Şimali Azərbaycan torpaqlarına köçürülməsi*. Bakı, 2009, s.37-38.



***Saadli Emir Hassan while
receiving a foreign envoy
(XIV century)***

*(See: Очерки по истории
Армении. Сб. статей.
М.1939, с. 101)*



***Saadli Emir Hassan
while hunting
(XIV century).****

*(See: Очерки по исто-
рии Армении. Сб. ста-
тей. М.1939, с. 102)*

* Armenian letters on the monument were carved later.



After the death of Emir Saad, his son Pir Hussein (1410-1414) became the ruler of the **Chukhursad province**. During the reign of Emir **Pir Hussein** Iravan (Ravan) fortress was the capital of the emirate.³ The Iravan ruler Pir Hussein erected a magnificent sepulchre over his father Emir Saad's grave in 1414.*



The Sepulchre of Jafarabad not far from Iravan, belonging to Garagoyunlu emirs and the inscription on it.

(See: Неймат М. Корпус эпиграфических памятников Азербайджана, т. 3. Баку, 2001, с.175)

³ See: İrəvan xanlığı. Rusiya işğalı., s.37-38.

*This sepulcher erected in Jafarabad village, not far from Iravan is called the Jafarabad sepulcher. On the decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of Armenia SSR from April 4, 1946 the village of **Jafarabad** was renamed to **Arqavand**.



An Armenian historian A. Papazyan records that there were also two smaller sepulchers in the area along with the sepulcher belonging to Amir Saad dynasty.

Later the sepulchers were razed to ground by Armenians, and the stones of these unique historical monuments were used in the construction of nearby buildings.⁴

After the death of Emir Pir Hussein, his sons **Pir Yagub** (20s of the XV century) and **Abdul bey** (40s of the XV century) became the rulers of Chukhursad province. In the 50-60s of the XV century, the Chukhursad province was ruled by **Yagub bey** and **Hassan Ali bey**, descendants of the same Azerbaijani dynasty.

The Chukhursad province was part of Azerbaijani Aghgoyunlu state from 1468 till the beginning of the sixteenth century.

At the beginning of the sixteenth century, the centralized Azerbaijani Safavi state with the capital city of Tabriz was formed. As other regions of Azerbaijan Chukhursad province was also added to the Safavi state. In the 30s of the sixteenth century, the territory of Savafi state was divided into 13 administrative provinces-beylerbeyates. And one of them was the **Chukhursad beylerbeyate** with the capital city of Iravan (Ravan Fortress).

As the capital of Chukhursad province – the Iravan city was close to the Ottoman borders, Azerbaijani ruler

⁴Папазян А. Арабская надпись на гробнице Туркменских Эмиров в селе Аргаванг. Журнал «Ближний и средний Восток». Сб. статей. Памяти Б.И.Заходера, Москва, 1961, сәһ. 68-75.



Shah Ismail paid special attention to the strengthening of it, so he gave his consent to the Safavi commander Ravangulu khan to build from stone and bricks the Iravan fortress on the banks of Zangi River in 1509.⁵ Throughout the sixteenth century the Chukhursad province was ruled by the beylerbeys from Rumlu and Ustajli tribes – **Div Sultan Rumlu, Hussein khan Sultan Rumlu, Shahgulu Sultan Ustajli and Mahammad khan Tokhmag Ustajli appointed by Savafi shahs.**

In 1578, the magnificent **Khan's Palace (Sardar Palace)** of Iravan was built on the order of Mahammad khan Tokhmag Ustajli.⁶

In August 1583, the Chukhursad beylerbeyate was campaigned by Ottoman forces led by Farhad Pasha. After that, in 1583-1604, the Chukhursad beylerbeyate was ruled by the Ottoman Pashas - *Khidir Pasha* and *Mahammad Sharif Pasha*.

Since the beginning of the seventeenth century, the Chukhursad beylerbeyate was again ruled by the beylerbeys - descendants of Azerbaijani tribes, mainly of **Qajar** tribe, appointed by the Safavi shahs.⁷

⁵ Evliya Çələbi. Səyahətnamə. Türk dilindən işləyəni və şərhlərin müəllifi t. e. d., prof. S.Onullahi. Bakı, 1997, s.50; T.Nəcəfli. İrəvan şəhəri Səfəvi-Osmanlı müharibələri dövründə (XVI-XVII əsrin I yarısı). // Antik və orta əsrlər Azərbaycan şəhərləri: arxeoloji irsi, tarixi və memarlığı. Bakı, 2012, s. 459.

⁶ See: İrəvan xanlığı. Rusiya işğalı., s..58-59, 191-195.

⁷ Գրիգորյան Վ.Ռ. Եկեանի խանութխորնը ..., էջ, 26; İrəvan xanlığı. Rusiya işğalı və ermənilərin Şimali Azərbaycan torpaqlarına köçürülməsi. Bakı, 2009, s.37-38.



Azerbaijani coins (Safavi) minted in the city of Iravan.

(See: Государственный музей изобразительных искусств имени А.С.Пушкина. Тринадцатая Всероссийская нумизматическая конференция. Москва, 11-15 апреля 2005г. с. 70-71. Тезисы докладов и сообщений. Москва, 2005. www.nuseum.ru/GMII/tezisi.pdf)



<http://www.rustypennies.com/catalog/pix/ba044a.jpg>



<http://www.rustypennies.com/catalog/pix/ba053.jpg>



<http://www.rustypennies.com/catalog/pix/ba047.jpg>



<http://www.rustypennies.com/catalog/pix/ba054.jpg>



<http://www.rustypennies.com/catalog/pix/ba049.jpg>



<http://www.rustypennies.com/catalog/pix/ba055.jpg>



<http://www.rustypennies.com/catalog/pix/bi051.jpg>



<http://www.rustypennies.com/catalog/pix/ba056.jpg>



<http://www.rustypennies.com/catalog/pix/ba059.jpg>



<http://www.rustypennies.com/catalog/pix/ba058.jpg>

Azerbaijani coins (Safavi) once been in circulation in the Iravan region and the Khanate of Iravan

AZERBAIJAN NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
INSTITUTE OF HISTORY



<http://www.rustypennies.com/catalog/pix/ba060.jpg>



<http://www.rustypennies.com/catalog/pix/ba063.jpg>



<http://www.rustypennies.com/catalog/pix/ba064.jpg>



<http://www.rustypennies.com/catalog/pix/ba067.jpg>



<http://www.rustypennies.com/catalog/pix/ba070.jpg>



<http://www.rustypennies.com/catalog/pix/ba071.jpg>



<http://www.rustypennies.com/catalog/pix/bh001.jpg>



http://ru.wikipedia.org/wiki/Файл:Iravan_1144_AbbasII.jpg

Azerbaijani coins (Safavi) once been in circulation in the Iravan region and the Khanate of Iravan



The Safavi sovereign Shah Abbas I (1587-1629) having released the Chukhursad region appointed Emirguneh Khan Qajar (1604-1625) who for his valours in the battles against the **Ottomans was honored with the nickname “Sari Aslan (Yellow Lion)”**, as the beylerbey of Chukhursad (Iravan). Thus, began the hereditary power of one of the ancient Azerbaijani tribes, the **Aghjagoyunlu-Qajars in Chukhursad beylerbeyate**. After the death of Emirguneh Khan in 1625, his son, the most eminent warlord of Shah Abbas I Tahmasib Qulu bey Qajar (1625-1635) was appointed to this position.⁸

In 1635, for a short time, the Iravan region fell under the Ottoman rule. But soon the Safavi authority was restored, and **Kalbali Khan** (1636-1639) and **Jagata Kotuk Mahammad Khan** (1639 / 40-1648) came into power. He is presented also as **Kotuk Ahmad Khan**⁹ in “Cambr” and as **Jagata Kotuk Mahammad Khan** in a source of the time, and also is mentioned about his participation in the initial round of negotiations of Qasri-Shirin peace treaty (1639) signed between the Safavis

⁸Петрушевский И.П. Очерки по истории феодальных отношений в Азербайджане и Армении в XIX - начале XX вв. Ленинград, 1949, с.125.

⁹Սիմեոնէ Երեւանցիոյ: Ձամբո: Գիրք, որ կոչիլ իտակարան արձանացուցիչ, հայելի եւ պարունակող բնավից որպիսութեանց Սրբոյ Արուստյոս, եւ իւրոյ քրջակայից վանօրէիցն: Վաղարշապատ: ՌՆԻԳ, 156: (*Simeon İravanlı. Cambr. Müqəddəs Üçmüədzin kilsəsinin və ətraf monastirların toplusunun müffəssəl aynası və xətirə kitabı. Vaqarşapad, 1873, s.156*).



and the Ottomans.¹⁰ After him **Khosrow khan** (1648-1652 / 53), **Mahammad Qulu khan** (1653-1659 / 60) and **Najaf Qulu khan** (1660-1663) succeeded one another in the power.

Sources of the time provide with interesting data about the beylerbeys who ruled over the Chukhursad beylerbeyate in the second half of the seventeenth century. In 1663, **Abbas-gulu khan Qajar** (1663-1666), son of Emirguneh Khan Qajar became the beylerbey of Chukhursad (Iravan). But, **Safi Khan Alkhas Mirza** (1667-1674) replaced him soon. Sources of the time contain much interesting information about Safi khan.¹¹ Zakariyya Aylisli mentioned him in one place of his work as Safigulu Khan Timur Qaybek,¹² while in other pages as Safigulu Khan Alkhas Mirza.¹³ Moreover, the seventeenth-century French traveler Chardin noted that while his being in Iravan (1673) just Safigulu Khan was the beyleribey of Chukhursad or the governor of Iravan, as well as he emphasized his love for art and science, and mentioned that he was respected by everybody.¹⁴

Though **Sarikhhan bey** (1674-1675) came into power for a short time after Safigulu Khan Alkhas Mirza, but he was soon replaced by Safigulu khan (1675-1679) shown

¹⁰Канакерци З. Хроника. Москва, 1969, с.129.

¹¹ See: Simeon İrəvanlı. Cambr..., s.156.

¹²Զամարիա Ազուլեցի, Օրագրութիւն: Երևիկան, 1938, էջ, 63: (*Əylisli Zəkəriyya. Gündəlik. Yerevan, 1938, s.63*).

¹³Əylisli Zəkəriyyə. Gündəlik, s.80,84,88.

¹⁴Şarden İ. Səyahətnamə (tərcümə edən V.Aslanov). Bakı, 1994., s.23.



in the sources of the time as the son of Rustam khan of Tabriz¹⁵ This fact is also confirmed by the nineteenth century Russian source.¹⁶

At the end of the seventeenth century the Chukhursad (Iravan) beylerbeyate was ruled by Abbasgulu Khan's son-in-law **Zal Khan** (1679-1688)¹⁷, **Murtuza Qulu Khan** (1688-1691), **Mahammad Qulu Khan** (1691-1694) –son of Mahammad Rza Khan of Nakhchivan¹⁸ and **Zohrab Khan** (1694-1699).

Beginning from the end of seventeenth and early eighteenth century Qajar dynasty managed to restore its power in Chukhursad (Iravan) beylerbeyate. And this indicates that the local Qajar dynasty had a firm standing there. At the time, **Fathali (Farzali) khan Qajar** (1699-1705), **Abdul Mahammad Khan** (1705-1709), **Mahammad Rza Khan** (1709-1715), **Mehrali Khan** (1715-1719) and **Aligulu (Allahgulu) Khan** (1719-1725) were the rulers of Chukhursad.

At the beginning of the eighteenth century, the Chukhursad beylerbeyate had still kept its importance for the Safavi state. Just for this reason, the Safavi ruler Shah Sultan Hussein (1694-1722) sent a great staff of envoys headed by the Iravan ruler Mahammad Rza bey to Paris in 1714.¹⁹

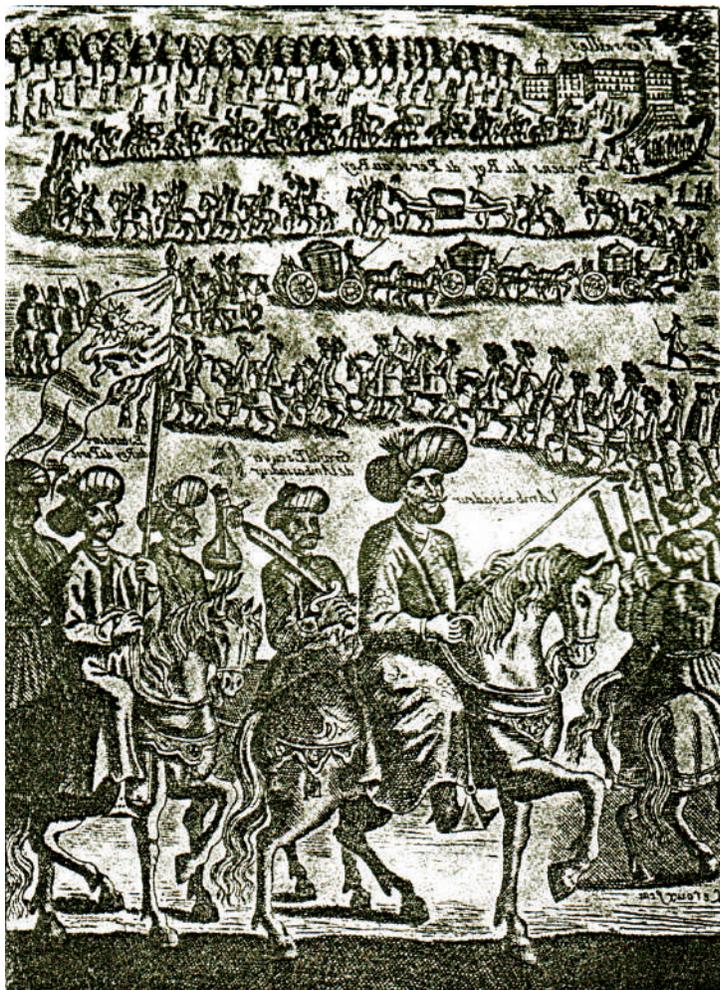
¹⁵Канакерци З. Хроника, с.182; Əylisli Zəkəriyyə. Gündəlik, s.102.

¹⁶ Сборник материалов для описания местностей и племен Кавказа (СМОМПК), вып. I, с.4.

¹⁷Канакерци З. Хроника, с.195.

¹⁸Канакерци З. Хроника, с.224; СМОМПК, вып. I, с.4.

¹⁹ تاریخ پرچم اران. شمارگان چاپ ۱۳۸۲، ۲۲۲ ص



*Staff of envoys headed by Mahammad Rza bey, the ruler of Iravan, in Paris. The year 1714.
Picture drawn by XVIII century artist Lerox Frans.*



In the spring of 1724, being sieged by a 60 thousand troop of the Ottoman commander Ahmad Arif Pasha the Iravan fortress resisted heroically under the leadership of Ali-gulu (Allahgulu) Khan for 92 days. Faced with strong resistance during the siege of the fortress Ahmad Arif Pasha asked the Ottoman sultan to send additional forces. In response to his request the Ottoman sultan sent at first 35 thousand, and then 10 thousand forces headed by Pasha of Kutahya and 3 thousand people from Egypt in addition. Though faced with grave difficulties, Ahmad Arif Pasha was able to seize the Iravan fortress in the end.²⁰

Following the capture by the Ottoman troops the Iravan khanate, as well as the entire Chukhursad beylerbeyate began to be ruled by the Ottoman Pashas – *Rajab Pasha, Ibrahim Pasha, Ali Pasha Defterdar and Haji Hussein Pasha*.

As soon as the Safavi commander Nadir Qulu Khan gained power, he demanded the withdrawal of the Ottoman troops from all the Safavi territories occupied since 1723. However, having got a negative response Nadir Qulu Khan resumed military operations against the Ottoman troops.

Ottoman troops began to leave the Azerbaijani territories under blows of the Safavi troops led by this eminent warlord. The next target was Iravan. The Ottoman garrison inside the fortress preferred to be defended than to fight. But

²⁰ See: Silahsör Kemani Mustafa Ağa. *Revan Fethnamesi*. // Bax: M.Münir Aktepe. 1720-1724 Osmanlı-İran münasibetleri. İstanbul, 1970, s.33-34, 69.



soon realizing it to be senseless the Ottoman garrison entered into negotiations with Nadir Qulu Khan. In the end, on October 3, 1735, Ottoman garrison left the Iravan fortress.²¹

Although **Mahammad Qulu Khan** (1735-1736) was appointed as a ruler in the area after the release of Iravan region from the Ottoman troops, on the eve of the Mugan congress Nadir Qulu Khan appointed **Pir Mahammad (Mahmud) Khan** (1736-1747) who he trusted much, as a ruler of Iravan, as well as the beylerbey of the region.²²

But soon Nadir Shah liquidated the administrative-territorial divisions - Shirvan, Garabagh, Azerbaijan and Chukhursad beylerbeys- that had existed until then on the historical Azerbaijani lands. Instead, a single province of Azerbaijan, with its capital city of Tabriz was established, and Nadir Shah charged his brother **Ibrahim Khan Afshar** with the governing of the newly formed province. "Nadir Shah appointing his brother as the ruler and vicegerent, i.e. the sardar of Atrpatakan called Azerbaijan, commissioned him with governing of Nakhchivan, Iravan and the entire Ararat province (Chukhursad region - ed.) and Georgia, and appointed him the beylerbey and sovereign over other khans."²³

²¹Lockhart L. Nadir Shah. A critical study based mainly upon contemporary sources. London, 1938, p. 89.

²²Абраам Кретацци. Повествование. (*Критический текст, пер. на русский язык и ком. Н.К.Корганяна*). Ереван, 1973, с.245.

²³Абраам Кретацци. Повествование.., с.244.



So, until the formation of the Iravan Khanate the Chukhursad region of Azerbaijan was governed by following rulers:

Emir Saad	(from the end of the XIV century up to the 1410 year)
Pir Hussein	(1410-1413)
Pir Yagub	(1420)
Abdul	(1440)
Yagub bey	(1440)
Hassan Ali Garagoyunlu	(1460)
Div Sultan Rumlu	(from 1515)
Hussein Khan Sultan Rumlu	(from 1550)
Shahgulu Sultan Ustajli	(1550-1575)
Mahammad Khan Tokhmag Ustajli	(1576-1583)
Lele Pasha	(1577)
Khidir Pasha	(1583)
Mahammad Sharif Pasha	(till 1604)
Amirguneh Khan Qajar	(1604-1625)
Tahmasib Qulu Khan Qajar	(1625-1635)
Farhad Pasha	(1635)
Kalbali Khan	(1636-1639)
Jagata Kotuk Mahammad Khan	(1639-1648)
Khosrow Khan	(1648-1653)
Mahammad Qulu Khan Lele bey	(1653-1660)
Najaf Qulu Khan	(1660-1663)



Abbas Qulu Khan Qajar	(1663-1666)
Safi Qulu Khan (Alkhas Mirza)	(1666-1674)
Sari Khan bey	(1674-1675)
Safi Qulu Khan	(1675-1679)
Zal Khan	(1679-1688)
Murtuza Qulu Khan	(1688-1691)
Mahammad Qulu Khan	(1691-1694)
Zohrab Khan	(1694-1699)
Farzali (Fathali) Khan Qajar	(1699-1705)
Abdul Mahammad Khan	(1705-1709)
Mahammad Rza Khan	(1709-1715)
Mehrali Khan	(1715-1719)
Aligulu (Allahgulu) Khan	(1719-1725)
Rajab Pasha	(1725-1728)
Ibrahim Pasha and Mustafa Pasha	(1728-1734)
Ali Pasha Defterdar	(1734)
Haji Hussein Pasha	(1734)
Mahammad Qulu Khan	(1735-1736)
Pir Mahammad Khan	(1736-1747)



THE KHANS OF IRAVAN

After the death of Nadir Shah Afshar in 1747, **Mir Mehdi Khan Qasimli-Afshar** (1747-1748) founded the independent Iravan khanate. Primary sources attribute Mir Mehdi Khan to Qasimli branch of the Afshar kin, and inform that he had been the ruler of Iravan still in Nadir Shah's lifetime.²⁴ Mir Mehdi Khan pursued a policy of expanding the territory of his khanate just like the other Azerbaijani khans. For this purpose, he campaigned on the khanate of Urmia in 1748. Fathali Khan Afshar, ruler of the khanate of Urmia was defeated and had to cede certain parts of his territories to Mir Mehdi khan.²⁵

However, his reign did not last so long; he was replaced by Mahammad Hussein Khan Garayli (1748-1751) in 1748.²⁶ Speaking about the events occurring in the Iravan Khanate in 1749, historian Melikset bey also notes that Mahammad Khan was in power then.²⁷ Other sources also men-

²⁴ See: میرزا رشید. تاریخ افشار. تهران ۱۳۲۹. (*Mirzə Rəşid. Tarixi Əfşar. Tehran, 1329, s.93-94*).

²⁵ Mirzə Rəşid. Tarixi Əfşar, ... s.93-94; Dəlili H.Ə. Azərbaycanın cənub xanlıqları XVIII əsrin II yarısında. Bakı, 1979, s.111.

²⁶ Mirzə Rəşid. Tarixi Əfşar. Tehran, 1329, s.94, 97-98.

²⁷ Լ.Մելիքսեթ – Բեկ, Կրացագրությունը Հայաստանիև հայերիմասին, Կ. Փ, Երևան, 1955, էջ 172, 187. (*L.Melikset Bek. Gürcü mənəbələri Ermənistan və ermənilər haqqında. Yerevan, 1955, s.187*).



tion that the local representative Mahammad Hussein Khan Garayli succeeded Mir Mehdi Khan in power.²⁸

The khan of Urmia Fathali Khan Afshar trying to restore his authority entered into alliance with Azad Khan from Afghanistan and in 1751 their allied forces seized Iravan. Azad Khan also crushed the troops of Georgian King Irakli II who had attacked to seize the Iravan fortress in 1751. Official documents of the Iravan khanate record that after



Khan of Iravan while hunting.
Artist Grigory Gagarin (1811-1893).

²⁸ Mirzə Rəşid. Tarixi Əfşar, s.93.



this event, Khalil Khan Uzbek had managed the official affairs of the Iravan khanate for a short period as a representative of Azad Khan.

Shortly after this event, in 1755, Hassanali khan Qajar (1755-1759) – a representative of Qajar tribe came into power in the Iravan Khanate²⁹ Hassanali khan Qajar was the ruler of Iravan still during Nadir Shah's reign and was punished by the Shah through putting out his both eyes.³⁰

The return of Hassanali khan Qajar into power proves that ancient Azerbaijani tribe of Aghjagoyunlu-Qajars* had great authority among the population of the Iravan Khanate.

Other researchers also confirm the rulers of Iravan khanate to be the descendants of Qajar dynasty.³¹

²⁹ See: Simeon İrəvanlı. Cambr.,s.136; Шопен И.И. Исторический памятник состояния армянской области в эпоху её соединения к Российской империи. СПб., 1852, с. 161; СММПК, вып.І, с.5.

³⁰ See: Simeon İrəvanlı. Cambr.,s.231.

* Ancient Azerbaijani Turks -Qajars is one of the branches of Sham Bayat oymaq of Oghous Bayat kin by origin. This branch together with Yiva, Aghjali and Aghjagoyunlu oymaqs formed the Qajar kin. Ancient Qajar tribes living in Chukhursad province is mentioned as Aghjagoyunlu Qajars in sources. See: Najafli T, Najafli G. Role of Gajars in Azerbaijan's political life in the XVI - XVII centuries.// «Азербайджан и азербайджанцы», Баку, 2006, № 1-4., p.137-147.

³¹ СММПК, вып.І, с.5; Бакиханов А.А. Гюлистан-Ирам., с.185; Bournoutian G.A. The khanate of Erevan under Qajar rule 1795-1828, Mazda Publishers in association with Bibliotheca Persica, Costa Mesa, California and New York, 1992, p.8.



One of the important state symbols of the Iravan Khanate was its flags. Khans of Iravan individually paid special attention to their flags to be developed of quality cloth and tastefully. The four flags of the Iravan Khanate had been taken by Russian troops when the Iravan fortress was captured by them.³² Only two of these flags kept in the Caucasus Military History Museum in Tiflis were handed to present Azerbaijan History Museum in 1924. The images of the Lion and the Sun were sewn on this flag belonging to the Iravan Khanate by the method of patch-



*The flags of the Iravan Khanate.
Azerbaijan National History Museum*

³² Потто В. Кавказская война.1826-1828. Москва., 2006, сәһ.361.



work.* And this is connected with the faithfulness of Iravan Khans to the historical traditions of Azerbaijan statehood.**

Still, since the beginning of the seventeenth century, the Aghjagoyunlu Qajars being the ancient Azerbaijani tribe by origin played an important role in the governance of the Chukhursad province. Just for this reason, I.I.Chopin who described and investigated thoroughly the region, occupied on the Russian troops' commander, General Paskevich's order, wrote that by coming into power Hassanali Khan Qajar put the beginnings of a hereditary government in the Iravan Khanate.³³

After the death of Hassanali Khan Qajar (1759 / 60-1783), his brother **Hussein Ali Khan** succeeded him.³⁴

The Iravan Khan's palace built by Mahammad Khan Tokhmag Ustajli, the Chukhursad beylerbey still in 1578, was reconstructed and significantly renovated by prominent Azerbaijani architect Mirza Jafar of Khoyn during the reign of

* Flags of the Azerbaijan Safavi and Nadir Shah Empire's also have images of the Lion and the Sun on them as a symbol of mighty power.

** The size of a part made of red calico of the triangle flag belonging to Sardar of Iravan is 145x261 x 217cm. Near the tail of the lion in Arabic were embroidered these words with black thread- "I act in accordance with law (Shariah)", and on the other "If fortune favour, the victory is not so far". The flag was hemmed with colorful (brown, light brown and golden) silken fringes.

³³ Шопен И.И. Исторический памятник., с.161; с. 163; Simeon İrəvanlı. Cambr., s.137, 232.

³⁴ See: Simeon İrəvanlı. Cambr.,s.137,232; Шопен И.И. Исторический памятник., с.163; СМОНПК, вып.І, с.



Hussein Ali Khan Qajar. The main part of the palace - the Mirror Hall and Summer Kiosque were added to the palace complex in 1791 by Husseinali khan's son, Mahammad khan Qajar, thus the construction was improved and completed as a monumental palace complex from the view point of architecture.³⁵ The rare gem of Oriental art the Iravan Khan's palace or Sardar's palace was destroyed by the Armenians in 1918.



*An ancient mosque of the Azerbaijani Turks.
Inside the Fortress of Iravan.
Picture drawn by Dubois de Montpyreux (XIX century)*

³⁵ See: İrəvan xanlığı..., s.192-193.



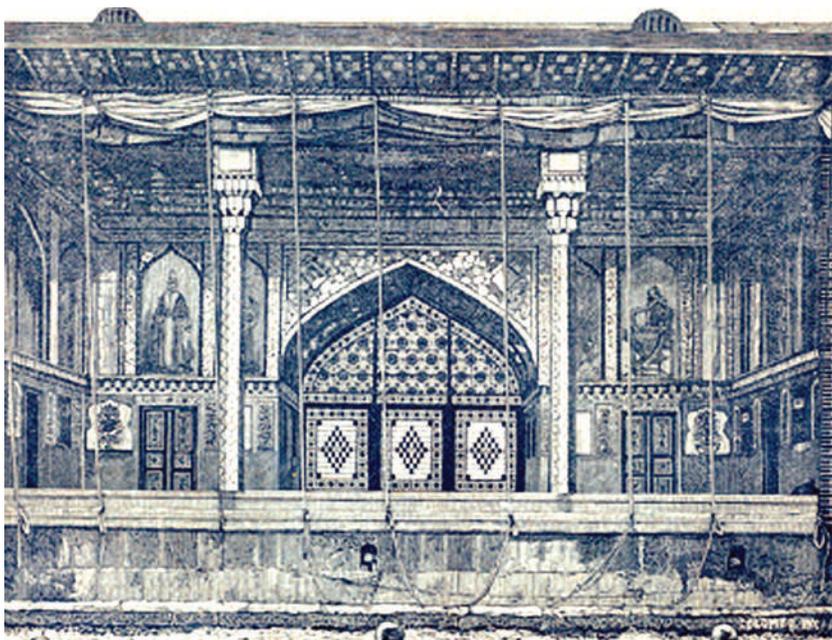
The most spectacular of the mosques in Iravan, the Blue Mosque which is considered a rare gem of Oriental architecture also was built in the 1760-1768 years, during the reign of Husseinali Khan Qajar. It was named as the Blue Mosque due to the blue tiles covering its walls. A stone pool with a fountain in the center was built in the courtyard of the mosque, and with dense and shady trees planted around.³⁶ The mosque was called as the Blue Mosque or Husseinali Khan Mosque among the people.



The Blue Mosque.

(See: August von Haxthausen. Transcaucasia: Sketches of the Nations and Races Between the Black Sea and the Caspian. London, 1854, p. 268).

³⁶ Арутюнян В., Асратян М., Меликян А. Ереван. М., 1968, с. 31.



*The Mirror Hall of the Iravan Khan's Palace.
Artist Grigory Gagarin.*

(See: Alişan Ğevond. Ayrarat (erməni dilində). Venesiya, 1890, s. 309.).

On November 9, 1783, Husseinali Khan Qajar died and his elder son, the 15-year-old **Qulamali Khan Qajar** (1783-1784) replaced him.³⁷ However, Qulamali Khan's reign did not last long. In the summer of 1784, he was attempted and

³⁷ Шопен И.И. Исторический памятник., с.164; Армяно-русские отношения XVIII века. 1760-1800 гг. т. IV, ч. II, Ереван, 1990. Док. №172. с. 267; Дубровин Н.Ф. История войны и владычества русских на Кавказе. т. II, СПб., 1886, с. 40.



The Summer Kiosque of the Iravan Khan.

(See: Kotzebue by Moritz Von. Narrative of a journey into Persia, in the suite of the imperial Russian embassy, in the year 1817.

London: 1819, p.126a).

killed. Husseinali Khan's other son, the 12-year-old **Mahammad Hussein Khan Qajar** (1784-1805) ascended to the throne.³⁸

Western sources and literature provide interesting facts about Mahammad Hussein khan Qajar. H.Busse tal-

³⁸Шопен И.И. Исторический памятник..., 164; Кавказский сборник (КС), т. XXIII. Тифлис, 1902, с.6; Маркова О.П. Россия, Закавказье и международные отношения в XVIII в. Москва, 1966, с. 205.



***Mahammad
Hussein Khan Qajar
(1784-1805)***

*(See: G. Alişan. Ayrarat
(erməni dilində).
Venetsiya, 1890, s.308.)*

king about V.Zubov's campaign to Azerbaijan in 1796 presented this Iravan khan as **Mahammad Hussein Khan Ziyadoglu**, in the other place of the source as **Mahammad Hussein Khan Qoyunlu** and noted that because of his thick lips he had a nickname of "*Lip*"³⁹ However, G.Bornoutian related Mahammad Hussein khan Qajar to Qoyunlu (Agh-jaqoyunlu -ed.) branch of Qajars and considered him Agha Mahammad khan Qajar's relative on his mother line.⁴⁰

³⁹ Busse H. History of Persia under Qajar rule, translated Hasan-e Farsi's "Farsnama-ye Naseri". New York, 1972, p.67,107-109; İravan xanlığı. Rusiya işğalı., s.54.

⁴⁰ Bournoutian G.A. The khanate of Erevan..., p.8; İravan xanlığı. Rusiya işğalı., s.54.



G.P.Butkov as well confirms once again Mahammad Hussein khan's coming into power since 1785.⁴¹

In 1797, Agha Mahammad Shah Qajar arrested the Khan of Iravan Mahammad Hussein Khan Qajar "for his relations with Russian militaries" and sent him to Tehran⁴² G.P.Butkov informs us that when Mahammad Hussein Khan Qajar, the khan of Iravan came to Agha Mahammad shah to express his obedience, despite of being a relative the Shah arrested him and sent him to Qazvin together with his family⁴³ Thus, Agha Mahammad Shah Qajar tried to bring his relatives into the power to govern over the Iravan khanate. Though Agha Mahammad Shah Qajar appointed his own brother-*Ali Qulu khan Qajar* instead of *Mahammad Hussein khan*⁴⁴ nevertheless, the population of Iravan khanate had rebelled and banished him from the khanate.⁴⁵

Taking advantage of the situation, *Hassan khan Makulu* seized the power in Iravan khanate, but his power was short-termed.⁴⁶ After the assassination of Agha

⁴¹ Бутков П.Г. Материалы для новой истории Кавказа 1722 по 1802 г. СПб., 1869. т. II, с.177.

⁴² Шопен И.И. Исторический памятник..., 164.

⁴³ Бутков П.Г. Материалы для новой..., с.428; İrəvan xanlıǵı. Rusiya işǵalı..., s.54.

⁴⁴ Шопен И.И. Исторический памятник..., 164; Бутков П.Г. Материалы для новой..., с.426; Bournoutian G.A. The khanate of Erevan..., p.9.

⁴⁵ Бутков П.Г. Материалы для новой..., с.431; Qriqoryan V.R. İrəvan xanlıǵı ..., s.185.

⁴⁶ Qriqoryan V.R. İrəvan xanlıǵı ..., s.185.



Mahammad Shah Qajar, his successor to the throne *Fathali Shah Qajar* (1797-1834) released immediately the Iravan khan *Mahammad Hussein khan Qajar* from prison.⁴⁷ Been removed from the power for three months *Mahammad Hussein khan Qajar* returned and restored his power in Iravan Khanate.⁴⁸ However, Mahammad Hussein khan did not want to be dependent on Fathali Shah Qajar, despite the latter's expectations. So, after some time - in June 1805, Prince Abbas Mirza arrested *Mahammad Hussein khan Qajar* and sent him to Iran.⁴⁹

According to primary sources of the time, Mahammad Hussein khan Qajar was removed from the power for his dual position,⁵⁰ while to others it was caused by his close relations with the Ottoman state (relations of Qajars with the Ottoman state had been worsened at the time- Ed.).⁵¹ In reality, the Qajar Iran's ruler Fathali Shah and Prince Abbas Mirza were displeased with *Mahammad Hussein Khan Qajar's* independent policy. They were always looking for a chance to remove him from the power and finally succeeded in this.

⁴⁷ See: İrəvan xanlığı. Rusiya işğalı..., s.55.

⁴⁸ See: Bournoutian G.A. The khanate of Erevan..., p.9.

⁴⁹ Акты, собранные Кавказкою Археографическою Комиссиею (АКАК), т. II. Тифлис, 1868, док, 1256, с.626.

⁵⁰ Шопен И.И. Исторический памятник..., 167.

⁵¹ See: Bournoutian G.A. The khanate of Erevan..., p.14-15.



Despite *Pir Qulu Khan Qajar*⁵² (1805),⁵³ *Mehdi Qulu khan Qajar*⁵⁴ (1805-1806)⁵⁵ and *Ahmad Khan of Maragha* (1806, August-October)⁵⁵ came into the power in Iravan Khanate after Mahammad Hussein Khan's removal, however, their authority did not last long.

Soon the local authorities strengthened again and the last representative of the independent Iravan khanate **Hussein Qulu khan Qajar Qoyunlu** came into power (1806, December 1827, October).⁵⁷ The descendant of the Aghjagoyunlu kin of the **Qajars Hussein Qulu Khan Qajar's** father was the khan of Iravan once. He had worked as the head of the courtiers in Fathali Khan's palace, and had actively helped to Fathali Shah to strengthen his power after the murder

⁵² *Pirqulu xan Qacar* isə əslində İrəvan xanı deyil, İrəvan şəhərinin hərbi rəisi olmuşdu. "Qarabağnamə" müəllifi Mir Mehdi Xəzani Məhəmməd Hüseyn xan Qacarın Mehdiqulu xan Qacarla əvəz olunmasını təsdiq edir və Pirqulu Qacarı ordu sərkərdəsi kimi təqdim edir. See: Qarabağnamələr, II kitab. Bakı, 1991, s.156.

⁵³ See: Шопен И.И. Исторический памятник..., 167; Bournoutian G.A. The khanate of Erevan..., p.14-15.

⁵⁴ In some sources Mehdi Qulu khan is attributed to Develi kin of the Qajar . See: Brydges H.J. The dynasty..., p.193.

⁵⁵ See: АКАК, т. II., док, 1256, с.626;СМОМПК, вып.І, с.5; Bournoutian G.A. The khanate of Erevan..., p.14-15.

⁵⁶ СМОМПК, вып.І, с.5; Присоединение Восточной Армении к России. т.І. (1801-1813). (сб.док. под ред. Ц.П.Агаян). Ереван, 1972, с.368-3690.

⁵⁷ АКАК, т. III. Тифлис, 1869, док, 129, с.60-70; док, 424, с.232; Шопен И.И. Исторический памятник..., 167.



*The Reception room of the Khan's Palace.
Artist Grigory Gagarin.*

of Agha Mahammad Shah. In 1800-1802, he was the head of Qazvin guarding detachment on the road to the capital, and due to his personal courage had got the nickname of “**Qazvini**”. In 1802, he was sent to Khorasan to quell clashes among the Afshars and had ruled Khorasan for five years.⁵⁸

⁵⁸ Bournoutian G.A. The khanate of Erevan..., p.17-18; İrəvan xanlığı. Rusiya işğalı., s.56.



Fathali shah awarded the new khan of Iravan Hussein Qulu Khan the title of “Sardar”, i.e. appointed him the commander of all the armed forces on the left bank of Araz River.⁵⁹ Hussein Qulu Khan Qajar having been appointed as the Sardar of Iravan alongside with being trusted with all the military and civil authorities in the province was also provided with numerous cavalry and infantry forces.⁶⁰ Therefore, the last khan of Iravan Hussein Qulu Khan Qajar is mentioned in the sources of the time as the “Sardar of Iravan”.



*Khan of Iravan Hussein
Qulu Khan Qajar.
(1806-1827)*

The grandiose **Fortress of Sardarabad** that once existed in the territory of the Iravan khanate was built on the orders of Hussein Qulu Khan in 1815-1817. This grandiose fortress was square-shaped. The Sardarabad Fortress,

⁵⁹ Bournoutian G.A. The khanate of Erevan..., p.17.

⁶⁰ Brydges H.J. The dynasty..., p.295.



General view of the Sardarabad Fortress.



*Hassan Khan Qajar,
brother of the Iravan
Khan Hussein Qulu
Khan Qajar*



built with the participation of French engineers had double walls, firm towers and a gate.

This fortress was obliterated by the Armenian vandals as well.

Hussein Qulu Khan Qajar's brother, bearing the nickname of the "King of Lions" **Hassan khan Qajar** was the closest associate of the Iravan khan in the fight against the tsarist invaders.⁶¹



The seizure of the Iravan Rortress by tsarist invaders.
(See: *Покоренный Кавказ (очерки исторического прошлого и современного положения Кавказа с иллюстрациями) Книга I-V, СПб., 1904.*)

⁶¹ Qarabağnamələr, II kitab, s.63; Потто В.А. Кавказская война в отдельных очерках, эпизодах, легендах и биографиях, т. III, вып. 1-4, СПб., 1886. s.515; Nəsmi Nasir. Abbas Mirzə (XIX əsr Rusiya – İran – Azərbaycan münasibətləri). // Farscadan tərcümənin, ön sözüün, izah və qeydlərin müəllifi, prof. Nazim Axundov. Bakı, 1993, s.96.



Sardar of Iravan Hussein Qulu Khan Qajar, who headed the Azerbaijani patriots, and his brother Hassan Khan Qajar, whose title was the King of Lions, had repeatedly and bravely defended the Iravan and Sardarabad fortresses against the attacks of Russian invaders in 1827.⁶² Refusing the demand of Tsarist General Benkendorf on capitulation, Fathali Khan Qajar, the grandson of Hassan Khan, answered the invaders sharply and definitely: *“It is better to die under the ruins of the fortress than to surrender”*.⁶³

Thus, the original sources confirm that the integral part of Azerbaijani territories, the Chukhursad (Iravan) province, was ruled by local Chukhursad emirs and beylerbeys from the end of fourteenth century till the 40s of eighteenth century. From 1747 until 1827, one of the independent Azerbaijani states, the Iravan Khanate, had existed in this territory. The Iravan Khanate which was an Azerbaijani state was governed by khans - the representatives of local Azerbaijani tribes such as the Garagoyunlu, Aghgoyunlu, Rumlu, Ustajli, Afshar and Qajar.

⁶² See: İrəvan xanlığı. Rusiya işğalı., s.308-352.

⁶³ Потто В.А. Кавказская война в отдельных очерках, эпизодах, легендах и биографиях, т. III, вып. 1-4, СПб., 1886, с.304-305.



**Azerbaijani khans who once ruled
over the Iravan khanate:**

Mehdi Khan Qasimli (Afshar)	(1747-1748)
Mahammad Hussein Khan Gerayli	(1748-1751)
Khalil Khan Ozbek	(1751-1755)
Hassan Ali Khan Qajar	(1755-1759)
Hussein Ali Khan Qajar	(1760-1783)
Qulam Ali Khan Qajar	(1783-1784)
Mahammad Hussein Khan Qajar	(1784-1805)
Mehdi Qulu Khan Qajar	(1805-1806)
Ahmad Khan Maragali	(1806)
Hussein Qulu Khan Qajar (Goyunlu)	(1806-1827)



RULERS OF CHUKHURSA and KHANS OF IRAVAN

President of Azerbaijan funded by the
Council of State Support to Non-Governmental Organizations,
“Publication of 4 brochures on the history of the Iravan khanate”
History of the Azerbaijan Public Union was published.

Association of Historians
AZ1065, Baku., B.Bagirov str., 7, h.29.
E-mail: mxanbabayeva @ mail.ru. Mob. (055) 353-02-33
National Academy of Sciences Institute of
History was published in the printing-house.
Baku city, H. Javid ave., 125