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THE FATE OF AZERBAIJANI STUDENTS IN GERMANY DURING 1918-1920 (BASED ON GERMAN ARCHIVES)

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This article examines the fate of Azerbaijani students sent to Germany during the brief existence of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic (1918–1920). Based on extensive archival research conducted at the Freiberg Mining Academy, Humboldt University in Berlin, Darmstadt Technical University, and Munich Academy of Fine Arts, the study explores both the financial and social challenges these students faced, as well as their notable academic achievements [4, p. 9-12], [6, p. 1], [10, p. 1-3]. The article highlights the activities of the Azerbaijani Students' Committee in Berlin, its transformation after the Soviet Revolution, and how the inclusion of Communist Party members led to increased surveillance and repression. This surveillance contributed to the exile of many repatriated students, despite their dedication to their homeland. Additionally, the article sheds light on compatriots from northern Azerbaijan who emigrated to Germany during the Russian Empire era to pursue higher education. Despite the hardships, Azerbaijani students successfully defended their theses and made significant contributions to their fields. The author concludes by emphasizing that archival research is ongoing and hopes this work will encourage further studies into the historical connections between Azerbaijan and Germany during this pivotal period.

Keywords: *Students of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, Mining Academy of Freiberg, Archives of Berlin Universities, History of the Homeland, Academy of Fine Arts Munich, Technical University of Darmstadt.*

INTRODUCTION

After the creation of the ADR in 1918, one of the key tasks was to promote the education system in Azerbaijan. Upon the proposal of M.A. Rasulzadeh (one of the founders of the Azerbaijan People's Republic, Chairman of the National Council), it was decided to send students abroad, particularly to European countries. As noted in the archives regarding the activities of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic (ADR), students were sent to countries such as the United Kingdom, Italy, France, Russia, and some students to Germany. One of the students studying in Germany at the time, A. Aliyev, wrote: —In Germany, we were divided as follows: - 10-12 in Berlin, 13-15 in the Grand Duchy of Baden, 7 students were in Freiburg with me [3, p. 47]. The archival documents about the Republic list varying numbers of students studying in Germany – 100, 60, or 50 people. It is also mentioned that the tuition fees, according to some archival documents, were covered by the millionaire and businessman Haji Zeynalabdin Tagiyev [11, p. 6]. Of course, H.Z. Tagiyev, who took on this charitable mission and responsibility, also had his own conditions:

Each student would receive 50 marks per month during their studies. The travel and accommodation costs for summer holidays to and from the Caucasus would also be covered.

After completing their studies, each student would be required to return to their homeland and serve the country.

The student would not marry a non-Turk or non-Muslim.

After graduation and entering professional life, the student would repay the money received from H.Z. Tagiyev in a lump sum or in installments to charitable organizations.



Of course, when editing the conditions set by H.Z. Tagiyev, the point regarding marriage to a non-Turk or non-Muslim was removed. This point was perhaps removed due to the democratic structure of the republic at that time and the legal state ideas of the period. It should be considered that the parliament also had ample representation from non-Muslim peoples, such as Armenians, Russians, and Jews. In this context, the issue of marriage was silently bypassed. The main goal was to promote education and place the students in various positions. It should also be mentioned that many of our successful compatriots received their education with financial support from H.Z. Tagiyev. Prominent statesmen like Nariman Narimanov and Aziz Aliyev serve as examples of this. Aziz Aliyev studied at the Higher Military Medical Academy in Petrograd (Russia) with financial support from H.Z. Tagiyev, the —Father of the People! (as he was called by the Azerbaijani people). The great political leader mentioned in his biography the financial support from Tagiyev when he was Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Azerbaijan SSR. Naturally, it was a great achievement for Azerbaijani students to study at the prestigious universities in Germany, with their high educational standards, but unfortunately, this success was short-lived. After the collapse of the Republic, and despite all the efforts of the prominent statesman N. Narimanov, the tuition fees were reduced to a minimum. Some students abandoned their studies, while others were forced to work to continue their education. The students in Germany founded the "Student Union Society" in Berlin in the first months of their studies [5, p. 1-29]. Later, additional branches of this organization were established in Dortmund, Freiburg, and Leipzig. The time when our students immigrated to Germany coincided with political changes in Germany, when the Weimar Republic was established. Our students tried to adapt to the political changes in German society. However, the collapse of the republic shattered the students' hopes. Due to the ideological orientation of Bolshevism, many of the students studying abroad were labeled as "spies." As a result, many hesitated to return to their homeland after completing their studies. The news that returning students were labeled as "enemies of the people" and exiled to Siberia shook the emigrant students. Some of the returned students, however, achieved great success and were able to work in high positions. Nevertheless, they were constantly monitored and were under state control [2, p. 1-8]. Some of the graduates, who faced hardships during the "Stalinist Repressions" and whose paths to the homeland were closed, died longing for their homeland. The prominent scholar Mammad Jafarli provided information about some of the Azerbaijani students in his book *Political Terror and the Fate of Azerbaijani Germans* [3, p. 3-47]. The book was published in Germany, and a Russian version is also available in Azerbaijan. Professor N. Tahirzade also provides information about some of the students who studied in Germany during the republic [11, p. 3-6]. By using these two sources, we can draw certain conclusions about the fate of the students who studied in Germany during the republic. As mentioned earlier, their number was about 50 or 100 [3, p. 3-47].

MAIN PART

When addressing the future fate of the students sent to Germany for education, two main questions arise. The first question is: Did our students who studied at German universities receive a diploma upon completing their studies? The second question is: Does the list of students sent to Germany for education, as presented by the two authors, represent the complete list, or are there other students whose names are not included in this list? When we speak of Azerbaijani students, we are referring not only to ethnic Azerbaijanis but also to representatives of other peoples who lived in Azerbaijan at that time. Since its founding, the ADR, which presented its democratic views to the world, also sent young people from other nations to Europe, including Germany, for education, as they were also considered Azerbaijanis. Considering that members of the Azerbaijani parliament included representatives of Jewish, Russian, and other nations, it is not surprising that these questions are raised. To find answers to these questions, we decided to take a scientific research trip to Darmstadt, Germany, to examine the archival documents of the Technical University of Darmstadt



from the 1920s. In doing so, we aimed to investigate the subsequent fate of the Azerbaijani students who were sent to this city for education. It should be noted that we have contacted the archives of all the German universities where Azerbaijani students were educated, and we will investigate these in our future articles.

In general, the city of Darmstadt in Germany is very historical and hosts one of the universities, Darmstadt Technical University. Through the examination of archival materials, we were able to gather detailed information about 15 Azerbaijani students. Of the sources mentioned above (Prof. Mammad Jafarli and Prof. Narmin Tahirzade), only three of these students (Rızazade Iskander, Huseynzade Bahram, Mammadov Gahraman) were mentioned, while no information was available about the other 12 students. These new findings belong to the author. Five of these students were ethnically Azerbaijani, while seven others were Azerbaijanis of different ethnic origins. However, it should be noted that even for the three students mentioned earlier, only limited information was available, so we added the new information from the archival documents.

I: Rızazade Iskander – In Mammad Jafarli's book *Political Terror* [3, p. 51], the following is written about this compatriot: (Translation into Azerbaijani) —In 1920, he was sent to Germany for studies by the National Parliamentary Government of the ADR (the city is unknown). After his return to Azerbaijan, he worked as an engineer in the department of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR in Azerbaijan.¶

Our Research:– Rızazade Iskander Khan (the full name is provided in the Darmstadt archive) was born on 05.11.1897 in Tehran. He studied at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering at Darmstadt Technical University. In 1925, he defended his thesis in this field. The Darmstadt Technical University archive indicates that he completed his further studies at Nancy Technical University in France (Archive number: TH12/01 No. 196-9).

II: Huseynzade Bahram bey – (Huseynzade Bahram Ismayıl) – The archive document states that he studied at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering at Darmstadt Technical University from 1922 to 1926 and defended his thesis in 1926. Further details align with the first sources (Archive number: TH-12/01 No. 106-7).

III: Mammadov Gahraman – The name of his father is not mentioned in either source. The first source states that he was sent to Germany by the ADR in 1920 for studies. It is also mentioned that he returned to Baku in 1927 and worked at the Azerbaijan State Design Institute.

Our research shows that Mammadov Gahraman was born on 25.09.1898 in Baku. He studied from 1924 to 1928 at the Faculty of Civil Engineering at Darmstadt Technical University and defended his thesis in this field in 1928. Our compatriot continued his education at the Technical University of Berlin. It was documented in the archival materials that he defended his thesis under the supervision of Professor Kippingen in 1926. The archive materials also note that he created the —Urban Planning, Road Construction, and Foundation Engineering Plan for 3,000 Families as part of the Spendings Municipality Project.¶ In the Darmstadt Technical University archive, we came across information about **Aschurov Aga**, whose name is not mentioned in any source. He was born on February 24, 1886, in Baku. The "Russian Secondary School" he attended was most likely the Seminary School in Tbilisi. The archive documents state that he had a seven-year schooling. From 1907 to 1910, he studied at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering at Darmstadt Technical University and defended his thesis in 1910 with exceptional approval from the German Ministry of the Interior. In M. Jafarli's book *Political Terror and the Fate of Azerbaijani Germans*, there is mention of students who studied at Darmstadt Technical University, including Seyidzade Mirismayıl and Schikhiyev Useyn. It is only assumed that they returned to Baku in 1927 and later went back to Germany. To obtain accurate information about these students, we contacted Darmstadt Technical University and received the following response: "Unfortunately, we must inform you that the individuals mentioned were not found in the examination records of Darmstadt Technical University." This response was sent on December 16, 2024, by Simon Gollch, an archivist at the university. It can be conc-



cluded that these students could not complete their studies due to financial difficulties and did not defend their theses. Another student at Darmstadt Technical University was **Alisade Javad**, born on May 15, 1908, in Baku. He studied from 1928 to 1931 at the university and defended his thesis in 1931 in the field of electrical engineering. The archive materials indicate that he, like many other students, faced financial difficulties. Since his parents lived in the Soviet Union, Alisade Javad could not carry out his thesis defense on time. Another archive document describes that he had to postpone his thesis defense due to financial issues. Another interesting detail concerns his compatriot **Alizade Rahim**, who also faced financial difficulties and lived an extremely stressful and challenging life. Another document confirms that Alizade Rahim defended his thesis in 1931 in the field of electrical engineering. He defended his thesis at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering. In the minutes of the meeting of the Faculty of Electrical Engineering from November 20, 1925, it is noted that at the request of Huseynzade and Rızazade, the Azerbaijani state scholarship recipients, the examination fees were reduced. As previously mentioned, Alizade Rahim was also faced with financial difficulties. He was born on October 6, 1905, in Baku. From 1925 to 1935, he studied mechanical engineering at Darmstadt Technical University and defended his thesis in 1931. Another compatriot, **Mahmudbeyov Aghalar**, was born on January 14, 1879, in Shamakhi. He studied from 1903 to 1904 at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering at Darmstadt Technical University, but there is no information about the defense of his thesis in the archive records. **Huseynzade Huseyn**, born on April 15, 1904, in Baku, studied from 1926 to 1929 at Darmstadt Technical University and defended his thesis in 1929 in the field of mechanical engineering and aeronautical engineering. Now, we would like to answer the initial questions. As seen in the example of Darmstadt Technical University, not everyone had the privilege of completing their studies there with a diploma. The biggest obstacle was certainly the financial situation. In order to be allowed to defend their theses, additional payments were required. Some students were able to make these payments and defend their theses, while others, who could not afford it, were unable to complete their studies. It is still difficult to give precise numbers, but this is the reality. After the collapse of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, the situation for students significantly worsened.

The research has shown that the fate of many of these students is still not fully researched and clarified. As mentioned earlier, not only Azerbaijanis but also non-Azerbaijanis were among the students at the Darmstadt University of Technology, who studied in various years and defended their theses. Here is some additional information:

- **Varonin Salamon**, born on January 17, 1890, in Baku, studied at Darmstadt University of Technology from 1924 to 1925, but there is no information about his thesis defense.
- **Sundström Lars**, born in Baku, studied from 1941 to 1942 at the Faculty of Paper Technology/Printing Technology and defended his thesis in 1942 (Archive number: TH 12/01 Nr. 247-25).
- **Tapken Peter**, born on October 11, 1885, in Baku, studied at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering in 1908 and defended his thesis in 1908 (Archive number: TH 12/01 Nr. 248-38).
- **Gierse Eugen**, born on May 28, 1909, in Baku, studied mechanical engineering from 1930 to 1932 and defended his thesis in 1932 (Archive number: TH 12/01 Nr. 72-4).
- **Neporent Osip**, born on August 14, 1886, in Baku, studied at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering in 1910 and defended his thesis in 1910 (Archive number: TH 12/01 Nr. 169-38). It is also noted that he additionally studied at the University of Kharkiv, but the year is unknown.
- **Seiz Alvin**, born on August 8, 1879, in Baku, studied at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering from 1901 to 1904 and defended his thesis in 1904 (Archive number: TH 12/01 Nr. 231-22).



- **Lentch Valter**, born on February 8, 1883, in Baku, studied mechanical engineering from 1906 to 1909 and defended his thesis in 1909. Additionally, he received a certificate from the Technical University of Charlottenburg in Berlin.

The next fellow citizen also comes from a German family. His family moved from the town of Göppingen in the Baden-Württemberg region to Helenendorf, now known as Khanlar, in 1819. The family is listed in the German archives under number 100 of the people resettled to Helenendorf. The head of the family, Schock Georg Heinrich, is mentioned there [8, p. 1-8]. From Helenendorf, the young Emil Schöck went to Munich to study at the Academy of Fine Arts, at the Faculty of Painting. He is recorded in the academy's archive book under number 00088. He was admitted for the winter semester and studied from 1922 to 1923. Contact with the archives regarding his later fate is ongoing. His paintings are now kept in collections and museums as part of the Munich School (this information comes from the archive of the Academy of Fine Arts Munich) [9, p.1-8]. Another interesting point concerns our fellow citizen Merkurov Sergius, who later became one of the outstanding sculptors of the Soviet Union. He was born in the western Azerbaijani region, the present-day city of Gjumri (formerly Alexandropol) in the Republic of Armenia. He later studied in Tbilisi. According to sources, he was born on November 7, 1881, in Alexandropol (Gjumri). He died on June 8, 1952, in Moscow. Russian sources indicate that his heritage was Greek-Russian. In the Munich Academy archive, he is listed as follows: Registration number 02603, admitted to the Faculty of Sculpture on May 13, 1903. The sources provide the following details: The son of a Greek entrepreneur and the nephew of Georg I. Gurdjieff, Merkurov attended high school in Tbilisi, graduated in 1901, and continued his studies at the Kyiv Polytechnic Institute. However, due to political unrest, he was soon expelled from this institution. In the fall of 1902, he continued his education at the Faculty of Philosophy at the University of Zurich in Switzerland, where he met Lenin. Merkurov was a student of Swiss sculptor Adolf Meyer. On his recommendation, he went to Munich to study under Wilhelm von Rümmer at the Academy of Fine Arts, where he stayed until 1905. Afterward, he lived and worked in Paris until 1907, where he developed a new style through the works of Auguste Rodin and Constantin Méniér, becoming known as a sculptor. In 1907, he returned to the Russian Empire, living initially in Tbilisi and then in Yalta. In the fall of 1910, he moved to Moscow. In November 1910, he was invited to create a memorial mask of Tolstoy. Later, he created memorial masks of prominent figures such as Hovhannes Tumanyan, Lenin, Nadezhda Krupskaya, Maxim Gorky, and Vladimir Mayakovsky. Between 1911 and 1913, he created the statue "Thinking," which was later placed on the grave of Alexander Opekushin at the New Maiden Cemetery in 1956. After the October Revolution, Merkurov, as director of the Pushkin Museum, restored the marble statue of Catherine II, which had been placed in front of the Moscow City Duma in 1896, and saved it from destruction. From 1944 to 1950, Merkurov served as the director of the Pushkin Museum in Moscow. In 1984, the Merkurov Museum was opened in Gjumri in the house of Merkurov's grandfather. In Moscow, a monument to Merkurov was erected at the site of the summer house where he lived and worked until his death in 1920 [11, p. 6].

The book *Political Terror and the Fate of Azerbaijani Germans*, carefully compiled by Dr. Mammad Jafarli, a professor of philology (2003), is based on investigative materials from the archive of the National Security Service of the Republic of Azerbaijan. In this book, the author describes the tragic fate of the students sent to Germany and, for the first time, presents not only the number of students trained in Germany but also those sent to other European countries, as well as Russia and Turkey. A valuable aspect of the book is its portrayal of the sad fate of the Germans residing in Azerbaijan at that time [3, p. 47].

In 2016, the book *The Students of the Azerbaijan Republic* (authors: Adalat Tahirsade, Oguz Togrul Tahirli) was published in an elegant design. It covers not only the founding history of the Azerbaijan Republic but also the general attitude of the time toward education, as well as the fate of the students and their life paths. The book includes the number and lists of students sent to Europe-



an countries, along with available information about each individual [11, p. 6-11]. The information published in both books, along with reports from contemporary press on the study experiences of the dispatched students—especially the difficulties they faced during their studies and whether they successfully defended their dissertations despite these challenges—led us to consult the archives of several German universities. In addition to sending students abroad, the Republic also established its own representations in foreign countries. In the archives of Humboldt University in Berlin, we found correspondence between the "Central Committee of Azerbaijani Students" and German universities [1, p. 89].

I. Letter: *Azerbaijani Student Association in Germany*, February 27, 1924, No. 15, Berlin, Confirmation: With this letter, we confirm that Mr. Mirza Hajisade is to represent the Azerbaijani Student Association in Berlin in the Committee of Foreign Students.

Chairman: I. Sultanov

Secretary: M. Hajiyev

P.S. His address: Pariser Str. 60/4, Berlin, Apartment 15, Pfbg 6-27 [4, p. 19]

II. Letter: *Azerbaijani Students in Germany*, February 27, 1924, No. 16, Berlin, Confirmation: This letter confirms that Engineer Mir Ismayıl Seyidsade is to represent the Azerbaijani Student Association in the Committee of Azerbaijani Students in Berlin.

Chairman: I. Sultanov

Secretary: I. Hajisade [4, p. 18]

III. Letter: *Central Committee of Azerbaijani Students*, June 24, 1924, No. 79, Berlin: Based on your letter from June 13, 1924, the Central Committee of Azerbaijani Students informs that Mr. Nüsrät Bra has been designated as the representative of the Committee of Foreign Students at the University of Berlin to represent foreign students.

Secretary: A. Iskandarli

Address: Berlin 40, Neues Tor, 1, No. 111

Committee Address: Iskandar Sultanov

Charlottenburg, Berlin, 158, Pension Wütle [4, p. 16]

In the city of Freiberg, Germany, we came across the name of the student Seyid Kamil Sadıkhov, who studied at the Mining Academy. What particularly caught our attention was his first-degree diploma, which he received on November 27, 1925. However, the path to this diploma was marked by significant hardships. In a letter he wrote on May 30, 1925, in German to the rector of the university, we learn of his difficulties: "I am submitting six drawings, six reports, and three pictures in a folder, but I kindly ask you to exempt me from the payment of 30 marks for the defense of my thesis, as I only receive 68 marks per month."

The archive documents also include a letter of recommendation sent from Baku for his student activities, as well as a mention of his work as a department head in a munitions and rifle factory during the years 1918-1919 (Ministry of Transport, Certificate No. 157). The letter was notarized on May 9, 1920, in Dresden. After completing his education and returning to his homeland, we also came across a letter from Kamil Sadıkhov, which he wrote on June 8, 1925. In the letter, he stated: "Since I have lost my diploma, I kindly request a copy of it. I will ask someone coming from Baku to Germany to pick up a copy of the diploma I received on November 27, 1925, based on my request." It is strange that the copy of the diploma was not sent at that time, as we also found another letter written in Dresden in 1945, in which he again requested a copy. It was only after this letter that the copy of the diploma was provided to him [4, p. 6].

Another of our fellow countrymen is the student Surkhay Schakhshvarov. He enrolled at the Mining Academy in Freiberg on April 13, 1920, and completed his studies on June 15, 1925. While reviewing the documents, we came across a particularly distressing letter. In it, he wrote to the rector: "Dear Rector, my financial situation is very bad. I have not been able to pay my rent for several months, and therefore I kindly ask you to grant me an extension to pay the semester and library fees



until my final examination." The letter also reveals that the student had already submitted his thesis six weeks earlier, but was not allowed to defend it due to the non-payment of the required fees. In another letter to the rector dated July 22, 1924, he wrote: "I kindly ask you to exempt me from paying the 30 marks for the defense of foreign students' theses, as I have spent 50 marks on medicine due to illness and still owe 80 marks." Despite all these difficulties, Surkhay Schakhshvarov managed to successfully complete his studies at the Freiberg Mining Academy on June 15, 1925, with a first-degree diploma [9, p. 8-12].

We came across archival materials regarding our fellow countryman, the student Huseyn Nagiyev, who studied in Berlin. He wrote a letter to the rector of the Royal Agricultural College in Berlin, which is part of the official collection of documents "ACTA" (published from September 1924 to December 1924). In his letter dated May 9, 1923, he wrote:

"Berlin, May 9, 1923, Neusses Tor 1A – Huseyn Nagiyev. Dear Rector, I kindly ask you to allow me to take the diploma examination according to the new regulations, which will take place in July. I was born on March 13, 1897, in Ganja (Caucasus), and graduated in 1917 from the Russian 8-grade Gymnasium in this city. After that, I studied for one year at the Polytechnic Institute in Kyiv. Due to unrest in Russia, I could not continue my studies and returned to my homeland. In 1920, I was sent by the Azerbaijani state as a scholarship holder to Germany to study agriculture. Since 1920, I have been an official student at the Royal Agricultural College in Berlin. In 1922, I already passed my diploma examination according to the old examination regulations."

He attached his high school graduation certificate and scholarship certificate to the letter. The letter was approved on June 30, 1923, and the Secretariat marked in the lower corner of the document: "Diploma, request for early admission to the examination (Huseyn Nagiyev, Azerbaijani citizen, according to the new examination regulations)." We also found several other letters from Huseyn Nagiyev in the archive of the Agricultural College in Berlin. These revealed that he was successful in his studies. On October 14, 1923, he requested an extension of 14 days from the rector to complete an internship and familiarize himself with agricultural machinery. He also highlighted that life in Berlin was very expensive. Another letter from him to the rector discussed the difficulties he faced as a Turk: "Since I am a citizen of a foreign country of Turkish descent, it is very difficult for me to study the relevant scientific literature. Therefore, I am progressing slowly. Additionally, I lost eight days due to my participation in an exhibition in Hamburg. I kindly ask you to consider this." The rector responded positively to this letter and granted him an extension [7, p. 22-26].

The archival materials and letters of Azerbaijani students who studied in Germany during the 1920s show a largely positive attitude from university administrations toward their concerns, although financial matters were occasionally problematic. The letters sent by students to the rectors and faculties do not document any instances of rejection or negative responses, except in cases where payment of the required fees was concerned. Even so, there was understanding of the difficult financial and personal circumstances many of them faced. This highlights the commitment and support of German universities for educating foreign students during this time.

However, the harsh reality for many of these students upon returning home after their studies was tragic. Despite their education and expertise, they were often viewed by the Azerbaijani government, which was investigating the loyalty and —welfare contribution of returning citizens after the Soviet takeover, as enemies of the state. Many of these students were persecuted, exiled, or even executed, as they were falsely seen as traitors or threats to the new political regime. These tragic fates reflect the difficult political circumstances of the time and reveal the discrepancy between the academic and professional recognition of these students and their fate in their homeland.

One notable case among these students is that of Mirza Hajisade. He was one of those sent to Europe for studies by the government of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic in 1920. In his letters to the university and professors, his dedication and determination to return to his homeland as not only a professional but also as a teacher to contribute to the training of new specialists is evident.



The entire process he went through, from enrollment in Naples to transferring to Berlin, illustrates the uncertainty and challenges he faced. Particularly his request for admission to the teaching examination shows that the government of the Azerbaijan Republic was not only interested in training professionals but also in training teachers who could pass on knowledge and skills to the next generation.

Hajisade, born on September 12, 1897, in Ganja, began his education at the "Ganja Oglan Gimnaziyası" (Boys' Gymnasium) and later continued at various agricultural institutions, including the "Novoaleksandriya Agricultural Institute" in Russia and the "Neapolitan Agricultural Institute" in Italy, before going to Berlin in 1920 to continue his education. The university in Berlin was an important educational institution for many of these students, providing them the opportunity to continue their studies after political unrest in Russia and other parts of the Caucasus had destroyed educational institutions. Hajisade himself describes in his biography how political turmoil interrupted his education, but he was ultimately able to continue his studies in Europe and become a teacher in the field of agriculture.

The archival materials related to Mirza Hajisade and other Azerbaijani students who studied in Germany highlight the variety of challenges they faced, which were not only financial but also related to language barriers. Particularly for those who did not speak German or had limited language skills, it was difficult to adapt to academic requirements and pass the necessary exams. Mirza Hacisade himself seems to have faced these challenges, as evidenced by a document from 1922 that confirms his treatment at a hospital in Berlin. It is reported that he successfully defended his thesis and demonstrated his extensive knowledge in the field of agriculture. In 1924, he completed his studies at the Berlin Agricultural University and obtained his degree as an agricultural specialist.

Another document concerning a different student sheds light on the language difficulties that foreign students faced. For example, Alakber Aliyev attended a German language course for foreigners in Berlin in 1920. The certificate of completion states that he participated in the course from June 8 to July 26, 1920, and had sufficient German language skills to be admitted to the university. These types of language courses were crucial for many foreign students, as they facilitated access to academic life in Germany and helped students overcome language barriers. It is noteworthy that such language programs, organized by institutions like the "Deutsches Institut für Ausländer" between 1908 and 1945, played an essential role in integrating foreign students into the academic community. This support helped many Azerbaijani students complete their studies successfully and establish themselves, despite the challenges they faced.

The archival materials concerning Azerbaijani students in the years following the independence of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic and during the Soviet era offer valuable insights into the profound challenges these students faced. Notably, alongside financial and language difficulties, political shifts and institutional changes played a significant role.

The case of Ashraf Aliyev, a mining engineer from the Freiberg Mining Academy, illustrates the resilience of many students. Despite significant financial burdens and academic challenges, he successfully submitted his thesis and graduated in 1925. This determination reflects the commitment of many Azerbaijani students who, despite adverse circumstances, achieved their academic goals.

However, the political situation after the fall of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic and the Soviet takeover had dramatic effects on Azerbaijani students in Europe. Original student organizations, such as the "Association of Azerbaijani Students in Germany," were replaced by Soviet-controlled organizations like the "Central Bureau of South Caucasian Students." These organizations were quickly dominated by Armenians, leading to further political and social divisions among the students. The shift in power within these student organizations is a notable expression of the political tensions that also affected the academic and social integration of Azerbaijani students abroad.



The impact of these political and social upheavals, as seen in the documents and letters cited above, demonstrates how nationalist and political interests influenced the academic and social development of Azerbaijani students. It is significant that, despite these difficult political circumstances, many students resisted and continued their academic careers. They not only contributed to the development of their homeland but also left a lasting legacy in the history of the Azerbaijani diaspora. Their story highlights how political changes and personal resistance are deeply intertwined and how these students successfully pursued their academic mission despite the adverse conditions.

The founding of the "Turan Student Union" in Berlin in 1924 and the political and social tensions that accompanied it illustrate the complex situation of Azerbaijani students in 1920s Germany. Particularly noteworthy is the influence Armenians had on the organizations of South Caucasian students, especially after 1920. The influence of these Armenian leaders, supported by Soviet institutions, affected not only Azerbaijani students in Germany but also the political and social situation in the students' homeland.

The transfer of archives to Humboldt University after World War II and the fact that some important documents concerning Azerbaijani students are now stored in the university's archives presents another challenge for research. The political and social restructuring that took place after the war and the division of Germany led to many of the historical materials being stored in locations that are difficult for researchers to access. Nevertheless, examining these archives remains crucial in order to gain a comprehensive picture of the experiences and fates of Azerbaijani students who studied in Germany in the 1920s and faced a variety of challenges upon returning to their homeland.

CONCLUSION

The fact that Azerbaijani students, despite these difficulties, not only continued their education but also served as role models for future generations of professionals in Azerbaijan shows their determination and resilience against the political and social upheavals of their time.

During the time of the Republic, the students sent to Germany maintained a fighting spirit despite the challenges they faced and achieved great successes in their education, despite material deprivation as well as physical and moral strain. Through our archival research, it has been documented that, although bureaucratic correspondence and certain delays occurred regarding the defense of their theses, the students we mentioned and listed in the archival materials did indeed obtain their diplomas, with some even receiving a first-class degree.

At the same time, we encountered the issue that the "Student Union Committee" in Berlin, originally led by Azerbaijani students, later fell under the control of the Communists. This development further exacerbated the financial and moral difficulties faced by the students. However, we are confident that our future research will uncover many more details about the fates of our compatriots, and we will be able to report more about this in upcoming articles.

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AZƏRBAYCANLI TƏLƏBƏLƏRİN ALMANİYADA TALEYİ ALMAN ARXİVLƏRİNDƏ TƏDQİQAT

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Bu məqalədə Azərbaycan Xalq Cümhuriyyəti dövründə (1918–1920) Almaniyaya göndərilmiş azərbaycanlı tələbələrin taleyi araşdırılır. Freiberg Dağ-Mədən Akademiyası, Berlin Humboldt Universiteti, Darmstadt Texniki Universiteti və Münhen Gözəl Sənətlər Akademiyasında aparılmış geniş arxiv tədqiqatlarına əsaslanaraq, bu tələbələrin qarşılaşdıqları maddi və sosial çətinliklər, eləcə də onların mühüm elmi uğurları təhlil olunur. Məqalədə Berlində fəaliyyət göstərmiş Azərbaycan Tələbə Komitəsinin fəaliyyəti, Sovet inqilabından sonra bu komitənin transformasiyası və Kommunist Partiyası üzvlərinin komitəyə daxil olması ilə müşahidə və repressiyaların güclənməsi izah olunur. Bu nəzarət nəticəsində vətənə qayıtmış bir çox tələbələr sürgünə göndərilmişdir – onların vətənpərvərliyinə baxmayaraq. Məqalədə həmçinin Rusiya imperiyası dövründə yüksək təhsil almaq məqsədilə Almaniyaya köç etmiş şimali azərbaycanlı həmvətənlərimizin həyatı da işıqlandırılır. Bütün çətinliklərə baxmayaraq, azərbaycanlı tələbələr tezislərini uğurla müdafiə etmiş və ixtisasları üzrə mühüm töhfələr vermişlər. Müəllif qeyd edir ki, arxiv tədqiqatları davam edir və ümid edir ki, bu iş Azərbaycanla Almaniya arasındakı tarixi əlaqələrin bu mühüm dövründə daha dərinlən öyrənilməsinə təkan verəcək.

Açar sözlər: *Azərbaycan Demokratik Respublikasının tələbələri, Freiberg Mining Academy, Berlindəki Universitetlərin Arxivləri, Vətən Tarixi, Münxen İncəsənət Akademiyası, Darmstadt Texniki Universiteti.*

СУДЬБА АЗЕРБАЙДЖАНСКИХ СТУДЕНТОВ В ГЕРМАНИИ ИССЛЕДОВАНИЕ В НЕМЕЦКИХ АРХИВАХ

В.С. Абдуллаев, М.В. Алиева

В статье рассматривается судьба азербайджанских студентов, отправленных в Германию в период краткого существования Азербайджанской Демократической Республики (1918–1920). На основе обширных архивных исследований, проведенных в Горной академии Фрайберга, Берлинском университете имени Гумбольдта, Техническом университете Дармштадта и Мюнхенской академии изящных искусств, в исследовании анализируются как финансовые и социальные трудности, с которыми сталкивались студенты, так и их заметные академические достижения. В статье освещается деятельность Комитета азербайджанских студентов в Берлине, его трансформация после Советской революции и то, как включение членов Коммунистической партии привело к усилению слежки и репрессий. Эта слежка способствовала ссылке многих вернувшихся студентов, несмотря на их преданность Родине. Кроме того, в статье рассказывается о соотечественниках из Северного Азербайджана, эмигрировавших в Германию в эпоху Российской империи с целью получения высшего образования. Несмотря на трудности, азербайджанские студенты успешно защищали свои диссертации и внесли значительный вклад в различные области. Автор подчеркивает, что архивные исследования продолжаются, и выражает надежду, что эта работа послужит стимулом для дальнейшего изучения исторических связей между Азербайджаном и Германией в этот важный период.

Ключевые слова: *Студенты Демократической Республики Азербайджан, Шахтная академия Фрайберга, Архивы университетов Берлина, История родины, Академия изящных искусств Мюнхен, Технический университет Дармштадта.*