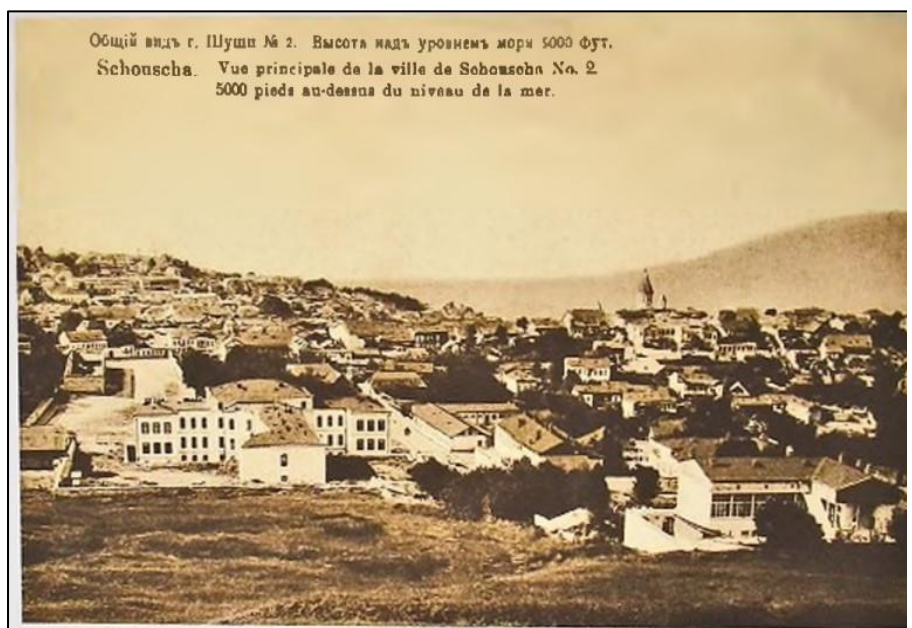


The period of the Russian occupation

From 1755 to 1823, the city of Shusha was the center of the Karabakh Khanate, one of the largest khanates of Azerbaijan. The Karabakh Khanate was annexed to Russia under the Kurakchay Treaty of 1805, abolished in 1822 and became a province. Shusha was annexed to Russia as part of the Karabakh Khanate under the Gulistan Treaty of 1813.

After the abolition of the Karabakh Khanate, Shusha became the center of the newly formed military district. A military commandant ruled the city. Shusha, which became the center of the district of the same name in 1841, was involved in the all-Russian market. In Shusha, a shopping center, silk weaving, winemaking, carpet weaving, etc. developed rapidly.



General view. 19th century

In 1871, Khurshidbanu Natavan built a water supply system in Shusha ("Khan gizi Spring") using his own funds. The masters from the city of Shusha took part in various exhibitions. The Shusha carpet was awarded a silver medal at an exhibition that opened in Moscow in 1872. The development of capitalism in Azerbaijan since the middle of the 19th century affected the economic life of the city of Shusha. Since the second half of the 19th century, industrial enterprises began to appear in Shusha in many areas. This, in turn, led to a rapid increase in the city's population. In 1886, over 25,000 people lived in Shusha.

In 1840, because of the administrative-territorial reform, the Karabakh province with the center of the city of Shusha was reorganized into the Shusha district and was included in the Caspian region. After the abolition of the Caspian region in 1846, the Shusha district became part of the newly formed Shemakha province. The Shusha district has been part of the Baku province since 1859. When the Elizavetpol (Ganja) province was formed in 1867, the Shusha district was



Emblem of Shusha

annexed to it. In 1883, two new counties were created on the territory of the Shusha district - Javanshir and Garyaginsky (Jabrayil).

The coat of arms of the city of Shusha was approved on May 21, 1843:

Description of the coat of arms: In the upper half of the shield, in a gold field, part of the coat of arms of the Caspian region; on the right side there is a standing tiger, and on the left, there is an ignited gas emanating from the ground in jets. At the bottom, in a green field, a galloping golden horse with an Asian

saddle and bridle; the lower part of the shield shows that a breed of excellent horses is being bred in the district, Asian saddles and bridles are being made.

In the 19th century, the cities of southern Azerbaijan and Iran, especially the city of Tabriz, played an important role in the trade relations of the city of Shusha. Most of all textiles were brought to Shusha from these cities. In 1830, 300 bales of burmet (thick cotton fabric), 300 bundles of coarse calico fabric, 1,000 arshins of ganavuz fabric (thick silk plain weave fabric), 200 pieces of painted fabric, 2,000 pieces of silk scarves, 1,000 pieces of bedspreads, etc. were imported from Tabriz to Shusha. These fabrics and other textile products, as well as various spices, sugar, henna, leather and other goods were imported into Shusha from the cities of Khoy, Ardabil and Urmia. In general, the annual volume of products imported to Shusha from South Azerbaijan and Iran amounted to 140 thousand rubles in silver.

The merchants from the city of Shusha also maintained close trade relations with the Ottoman Empire, Russia, India and with the countries of Europe. They traded with the many countries of the West and East. At that time, Shusha was often visited by the merchants from the different cities of the Caucasus, the Ottoman Empire, Iran, Iraq and India. The merchants from the city of Shusha also visited these countries and even took part in the famous Leipzig Fair in Germany. The merchants, who traded in silk, took part in the Nizhny Novgorod fair.

Since the beginning of the 20th century, the peace of the city of Shusha has been disturbed, because, Armenians settled at the 91 out of 242 villages in Shusha district. In the three villages, Armenians and Azerbaijanis lived together. For a long time, the armed detachments of the Armenian political parties were preparing to cleanse the Shusha district from Azerbaijanis, and that is why they were equipped with modern weapons.

As in the entire Caucasus, so in Karabakh, the Armenian churches played the role of a source of material and spiritual food for the Armenian nationalist parties and Armenian chauvinism.

In order to prevent the implementation of the law adopted on June 12, 1903, on the transfer of lands and property of the Armenian churches to the disposal of the Ministry of Agriculture and State Property of Russia, on September 12 of the same year, Armenians staged riots and committed terrorist acts in Shusha.

Arakel Babakhanyan, a native from Karabakh, who published his works under the signature "Leo", writes that at the meeting of the "Dashnaktsutyun" in Tiflis, it was decided to pursue a policy of "cleansing" - that is, ethnic cleansing against the Turks in Karabakh, including in Shusha.

The armed formations of the Dashnaktsutyun



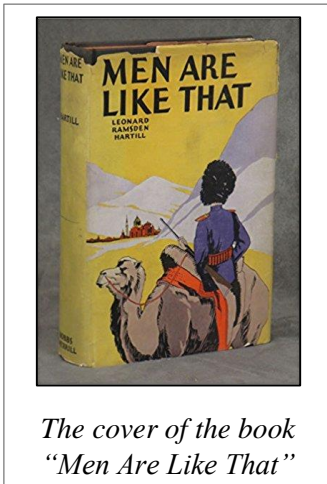
Shusha. 1905

party carried out all the preparatory work in advance to capture the city of Shusha. Hamazasp Srvantstian commanded the Armenian armed forces. The Armenians were looking for an excuse to start the massacre. On August 16, 1905, when the Cossacks tried to disarm one Armenian in Shusha, he resisted and was killed. Taking advantage of this opportunity, the Armenians, accusing the Azerbaijanis of this murder, began the massacre. On the 4th day of the pogroms, the Armenians raised a white flag, realizing that they were defeated. On August 21, the parties signed a peace agreement. During the riots, government forces took up an observer position. According to the Armenian writer A-Do (real name Hovhannes Ter-Martirosyan), during the first massacre in Shusha, the Armenians lost 100 people, and the Turks - 2-3 times more.

On July 12-22, 1906, the Armenians started the massacre in Shusha for the second time. The Armenians showed to the pro-Armenian governor-general of the city of Shusha Goloshchapov, the body of an Armenian who had died a few days ago, and said that the Azerbaijanis had just killed him.

By the order of Goloshchapov, government troops fired at the Gumluk and Kocharli districts. Within five days, all the houses of Azerbaijanis in the Armenian part of the city of Shusha were burned and destroyed by the artillery fire. A-Do wrote that during the second massacre in Shusha, 24 Armenians were killed and 102 wounded, and the losses of Azerbaijanis were many times greater, more than 200 houses were burned, most of which belonged to Azerbaijanis.

Leonard Ramsden Hartill's book "Men Are Like That", published in the American city of



*The cover of the book
"Men Are Like That"*

Indianapolis in 1928, was written based on the recollections of a native of Karabakh, Hovhannes Apresyan. Hovhannes Apresyan, born in Khankendi in 1892 and educated in Shusha, recounts in his memoirs the massacres and inhuman atrocities committed by Armenian armed groups in Karabakh. Apresyan emphasizes that the Armenians served in the Russian army and were well armed, while the calm Turks, removed from military service, had no other weapon than a knife. Describing the tragic events of 1905-1906, Apresyan notes: "When there was a certain lull, I went to Shusha. From the Turkish quarters of the city, only a pile of ruins remained. All houses were burned down, their owners were killed. The same happened with the Turkish quarters in Khankendi".

At that time, the Russian troops in Shusha were indifferent to the massacre perpetrated by the Armenians in the city.

In general, in 1905-1906, Armenian armed detachments perpetrated massacres against the Azerbaijani population in 12 villages of the Shusha district - Gushchular, Khankendi, Khojaly, Gajar, Garadaghly, Varandali, Hajug, Divanallar, Veyselli, Agbash, Avdal, Gyulabli. However, despite the atrocities committed by the Armenians, they could not fully achieve their goals in Shusha. The process of organizing Azerbaijanis, the creation in the fall of 1906 under the leadership of Shusha resident Akhmed bey Agayev of the "Difai" party, which responded with terror to the Armenian terror - forced the Armenians to stop massacres.



"Difai" party seal

Shortly before the fall of tsarist Russia, peace was restored in Shusha, and the city began, albeit partially, to heal its wounds.