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POLISH-DAGESTANI TIES DURING 15th CENTURY
AND THE FIRST QUARTER OF 20th CENTURY

The authors of these lines, deal with the problem of Polish-Dagestani relations beginning with 15th century, which are of both scientific and cognitive interest. These two countries are geographically far from one another, but nevertheless a lot of Poles lived in Dagestan in different historical periods. Even now you can often meet in multinational Dagestan persons who speak Polish and consider it to be their native tongue. The Polish-Dagestani relations developed in close connection with the historical processes which took place in Russia, and they were reflected in the Russian history. Historically the relations between these peoples began to develop in 15th century. It was during that period that trade ties between Poland and Dagestan began to develop. In 16th — 18th centuries those ties were lively. Merchants from Lwów, Kamieniec Podolski, Zamość, who were mainly Polish Armenians, came to Dagestan. They imported carpets, skin, jewellery and many other things from Dagestan. During that period one of the four main trade routes from Poland to the East ran through Dagestan. It was the so-called „Moscow Road”. It ran from Moscow by water, along the Volga river, to the Caspian Sea then farther on to Derbent. It was the safest trade route connecting Poland with the East.

The Polish missionary Tadeusz Krusiński studied the history, geography, traditions and customs of the native population here. As a result of his scientific activity published a lot of books. They were dedicated to the problems mentioned above and were a valuable source for the study of history and culture of the peoples of the Caucasus. They were written in Latin; much attention was paid by the author to the traditions and dwellings of Dagestan.

The Polish-Dagestani relations started to develop intensively in 19th century. A lot of Poles were exiled to Dagestan early in 19th century.

They had served in the Duchy of Warsaw and Napoleonic armies and had been taken prisoners of war by the Russians. They were exiled to Dagestan which was considered to be the most remote district of Russia. Another small group of Poles agreed to move to Dagestan of their own free will. They were ready to do so in hope of obtaining quick promotion there. And indeed it was easier to make one's career in Dagestan than in other parts of Russia in 19th century.

The number of Poles increased in Dagestan after the Polish national uprisings; they were exiled to Dagestan, which was called „the Warm Siberia” then. Dagestan contained the greatest number of the Poles who had been exiled to the Caucasus. The greatest military garrisons were stationed there. In the Dagestan garrisons of Derbent, Port-Petrovsk (now Makhach-Kala), Temir-Khan-Shura (now Buinaksk) the Poles made up as many as 30% of the whole number of servicemen. For the most part, the Polish exiles were highly educated persons. Some of them were writers, poets, scientists; many of them were students. From the first years of their stay in Dagestan they began to show interest in the literature, culture, ways of life, customs and nature of the place they lived in. Mateusz Gralewski lived in the barracks of Derbent for a long time. As a result of the interest he showed in the Caucasus many publications appeared. Among them *Kaukaz. Wspomnienia z dwunastoletniej niewoli, Opisanie kraju. Ludność. Zwyczaje i obyczaje* (The Caucasus. Recollections from 12 years' imprisonment. Description of the country. Population. Customs and traditions) is of special interest. Much attention is given in the book to Dagestan. The book contains numerous stories connected with Derbent and its historical monuments. He described the local customs and narrated, for example, the epitaph to the so called „victim of love” which can be found in the orthodox cemetery of Derbent. The author showed great interest in the history of Derbent. Derbent had always been the residence of vicegerents, the scene of numerous battles fought by the Khasarrs, Persians, Romans, Arabs and Turks for predominance over it. The author gives two versions of the origin of Derbent. According to the first one, the fortress was built by Alexander the Great. According to the other it was the son of a Sasanide sovereign Kababa-Nushervan the Just who built in 6th century. Then the author describes the history of Temir-Khan-Shura. The author's attention was drawn by the village Khumtor-Kala. He called it „the threshold of Dagestan”. In his book, he discussed the socio-economic aspect of the problem, especially the trade ties of Dagestan with other countries. The author's task was to describe the activities of the Poles who lived in the Caucasus at that time. Of special interest is the activity of the Poles who

gained a good reputation in Dagestan: Telesfor Szpakowski, an architect, who designed many interesting buildings in various areas of Dagestan; Julian Surzycki an engineer, who designed a bridge over the Samur river and the Akhti water-main; a famous physician Gerard Łochikowicz and others.

Michał Butowt-Andrzejkowicz described the multiformity of Dagestani life which was going on against the background of the fascinating nature of the Caucasus. Such Polish writers as Tadeusz Łada-Zabłocki, Władysław Strzelnicki, Kazimierz Łapczyński and others, who were well-known in the Caucasus, also wrote about Dagestan. All of them served in the garrisons of Dagestan. Besides the exiles and servicemen of Polish origin there were representatives of almost all professions. Polish physicians, druggists, teachers, engineers and representatives of other professions won especially good fame. In 19th and the early 20th centuries a lot of Poles, who graduated from institutions of higher education, Petersburg University and Mining Institute, were sent to Dagestan. Polish geologists won good fame here. Among them we should recall Józef Chodźko and Karol Bogdanowicz. Chodźko was sent to Dagestan in 1841 to do geological exploration, and he was busy doing it for more than 25 years. He explored the most inaccessible mountain regions. He studied the geography and rock formation of the Caucasus, carried out cartographical work, made a close study of mineral waters and was the first to draw geological maps of that region. It was on his initiative that the Caucasian branch of the Russian Geographic Society was formed. He directed its activities.

For great achievements in the field of geological exploration of the Caucasus the highest decorations of the Russian Geographic Society — large gold medals — were conferred on Chodźko and Bogdanowicz, Kazimierz Kotlicki gained a good reputation for oil prospecting in Dagestan.

Polish biologists also won good fame in Dagestan. Among them Ludwik Młokosiewicz was far-famed as the founder of the first reservation of nature in Russia, where a lot of rare trees were planted by him personally. About 60 species of plants were discovered and described by him. He acclimatized the best species of tea and tobacco in the Caucasus and particularly in Dagestan. He was a corresponding member of many academies of sciences. His works on the plant of the Caucasus were published in Petersburg, Warsaw, Kenigberg and Paris.

Besides exiles and servicemen who lived in Dagestan in 19th and the early 20th centuries there were also Polish emigrants there. That social phenomenon could be observed after 1861. The Polish emigrants

got quickly adapted and acclimatized to the local conditions, and as all the Poles in Russia won the sympathy and respect of the local population. The Poles were well-known here as skilful craftsmen, industrious, educated and honest people.

The Poles played an important role in the preparation and building of the new socialist life in Dagestan. They were active participants of the revolutionary movement. Great fame was brought to a communist, whose name was Oskar Leszczyński. As a member of the Revolutionary War Council he was sent by S. M. Kirov to help the Dagestan Bolshevik underground movement. Then it must be noted that Michał Lewandowski, a Pole, was, commander of the 11st Red Army, which liberated Dagestan and the Transcaucasian region from the foreign invaders and bourgeois governments. He was a pupil of the Bolsheviks of Grozny.

After the victory of the Great October Socialist Revolution a Polish Section was formed at the Dagestan regional committee. It took an active part in the formation of the regional party organization.

The relations between Poland and the Soviet Union assumed a new character after World War II. They are based on the principles of Socialist Internationalism, fraternal friendship, mutual aid and cooperation in all field of social and cultural life.

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O STOSUNKACH POLSKO-DAGESTAŃSKICH OD XV W. DO PIERWSZEJ ČWIERCI XX W.

W artykule wskazuje się na główne ogniwa historycznych kontaktów Polaków z Dagestanem. Jako cezurę początkową tych kontaktów przyjmuje się XV w. Zaczętkowała je wymiana handlowa. Stosunki handlowe między obydwojma krajami dobrze rozwijały się i w następnych stuleciach, a zwłaszcza w XVI—XVII w.

Istotne ogniwo kontaktów polsko-dagestańskich tworzyła działalność misyjna polskich zakonników. Zakonnicy prowadzili na Kaukazie w XVII—XVIII w. nie tylko działalność chrystianizacyjną, ale również ogólnocywilizacyjną, europeizacyjną i kulturalno-społeczną. Dużą aktywnością w tym względzie wykazał się jezuita Tadeusz Krusiński.

Nowy rozdział w stosunkach polsko-dagestańskich zarysował się w XIX w. Dagestan został przyłączony wtedy do Rosji. W stacjonujących tam wojskach carskich

około 30% stanowili Polacy. Byli oni zarówno rekrutami, jak i zesłańcami politycznymi. Wśród nich dość dużo było ludzi pióra: poetów i pisarzy. Niektórzy pobyt swój w Dagestanie utrwalali w strofach literackich bądź spisywali wspomnienia. Wyróżnili się w tym względzie m. in.: Mateusz Gralewski, Julian Surzecki, Florian Zieliński, Hipolit Jaworski, Tadeusz Łada-Zabłocki, Władysław Strzelnicki, Kazimierz Łapczyński. Przebywali oni głównie w garnizonach: Dərbent, Port-Pietrowsk (obecnie Machaczkała), Temir-Chan-Szura (obecnie Bujnask).

W drugiej połowie XIX w. przebywało w Dagestanie też немало polskich inżynierów, lekarzy oraz innych przedstawicieli inteligencji. Trafiali tam głównie jako skierowani do pracy absolwenci szkół wyższych Rosji. Dali się tam poznać jako ludzie zdolni, pracowici i kulturalni.

Duża aktywność Polaków w Dagestanie zaznaczyła się również w okresie przemian rewolucyjnych oraz budownictwa rzeczywistości socjalistycznej. Dziś można też spotkać tam ludzi mówiących po polsku i akcentujących swe polskie pochodzenie.

The author's book is a review of the Polish geographical literature dealing with the Caucasian region. The author has made an attempt to determine possibilities of studying this geographical region on the basis of the Polish literature. The review contains the geographical literature and the literature from other disciplines related to geography. These disciplines include among others geology, history, architecture and town planning, ethnography and folklore. There are presented here all publications, which are valuable in cognitive sense. The evaluation and presentation encompasses scientific contributions published in the Polish journals and compact-editions irrespective of the author's nationality and language in which a given work is written.

The term Caucasus is understood here to cover the geo-political region lying between the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov in the West and the Caspian Sea in the East, and between the Kumuk-Manych Depression in the North and the state boundary of the Soviet Union with Turkey and Iran in the South. Thus, this region includes several morphological units and several political-administrative units of the Soviet Union.

The present publication comprises in principle the literature of the last forty years although in some problems it reaches to older publications.

The structure of the work is characteristic for geographical regional approaches. It begins with a review of the literature devoted to the nature problems, followed by items on economic and social subjects and by other problems discussed in the literature belonging to disciplines related to geography.

(It was prepared as the literature of the world geography, vol. 1, 1974, Warsaw, 1975, p. 40).