

ԵՐԵՎԱՆԻ ՊԵՏԱԿԱՆ ՀԱՄԱԼՍԱՐԱՆ  
ՊԱՏՄՈՒԹՅԱՆ ՖԱԿՈՒԼՏԵՏ

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ИСТОРИЧЕСКИЙ ФАКУЛЬТЕТ

YEREVAN STATE UNIVERSITY  
FACULTY OF HISTORY

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**ՀԱՅԱԳԻՏԱԿԱՆ ՀԱՆԴԵՍ**

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Majid Karimi

## THE ETIMOLOGY AND ORIGINS OF THE NAME NAKHICHEVAN FROM THE HISTORICAL SOURCES

**Key words.** Nakhichevan, Ararat, Armenian, Noah, Ptolemy, Josephus.

*In the south Caucasus there are many geographical names that are very old and have survived until now. One of the very old and important geographical names is the name of ancient city in Nakhichevan. It is the regional name which is important from the point of the history. Names are part of the identity and historical originality of the peoples of the lands. The aim of this study is to examine the origin of the historical name of Nakhichevan and the various forms of this word. Among the historical sources there is information about Nakhichevan word. But these sources are very limited and most importantly are associated with myths and legends. The name of Nakhichevan with its long history has been accompanied by changes in the south Caucasus and generally in Persian history. The goal of this study is to demonstrate the different sources since ancient time until now. It also assesses the information which is among, Armenian, Greek, Jewish historians or recent researches.*

**Introduction**

The origin of the name Nakhichevan<sup>1</sup> is important because its historical and geographical identity can be understood. By the findings, the written and accurate history of this region can be rewritten. Moreover, we can have a more accurate and complete history of Nakhichevan.

There are several ways to trace the origin of the word Nakhichevan. First, its different forms can be found in historical texts and its changes to this name can be found over time. Second, is to see what pronunciation the historians have used and recorded for this city name. Third, is to examine the word itself apart from the historical and linguistic changes and try to find out its meaning. Then, a scientific theory can be given to show on what basis the Nakhichevan was named. Take a look at the natural and political geography of Nakhichevan can help to have better information about this region.

Nakhichevan is the city and center of the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic. This city is in the south of the Republic of Armenia and north-west of the republic of Azerbaijan. Nakhichevan town stands on the right bank of the Nakhichevan river, a few miles above its confluence with the Aras River.<sup>2</sup> This region (landlocked exclave) has not border with the republic of Azerbaijan but internationally recognized as the territory of the republic of Azerbaijan.

On the other hand, Nakhijevan region, situated in the North Eastern part of the ancient Armenia, in the foothills of the legendary Mt. Ararat between the river Arax and the mountain ranges of Vayots Dzor<sup>3</sup> and Syunik, provides a glimpse into the origins and early development of Armenian culture.<sup>4</sup>

The Nakhichevan is located in a basin in the middle reaches of the Araks River, the Zangezur and Daralagez<sup>5</sup> Ridges rimming it.<sup>6</sup> This small land has been under the rulers mostly by Iranians through its history including Mannai, Achaemenid Persians, Macedonians, Armenians,

\* Հոդվածը ներկայացվել է 29.11.2021 թ., գրախոսվել 21.12.2021 թ., ընդունվել տպագրության՝ 30.12.2021 թ.:

<sup>1</sup> The name of Nakhichevan has written in different forms but in this article this form of the written word has been used.

<sup>2</sup> Encyclopedia Britannica, William Benton, Publisher, Chicago, London, Toronto, Geneva, Sydney, Tokyo, first published in 1768, A society of Gentlemen in Scotland, 1972, Nakhichevan.

<sup>3</sup> Vayots Dzor is a province in Armenia, lies at the south eastern end of the country. The meaning of the word is the “valley of sorrows”.

<sup>4</sup> Aliprandi, E., The story of Nakhichevan, Rome, MIA, 2016, P.7.

<sup>5</sup> The region Sharur-Daralagez was a region of the Yerevan governorate of the Caucasus of Russian Empire. The territory was part of Persia’s Eravan and Nakhichevan Khanates until 1828, when according to the Treaty of Turkman chay, the region annexed to the Russian Empire.

<sup>6</sup> Zonn, I.S., Kosarev, A.N., Glantz, M.H., Kostianoy, A.G., The Caspian Sea Encyclopedia, Berlin, Heidelberg, Springer-Verlag, 2010, P.50.

Sassanid Persians, the Eastern Roman Empire, Arabs, Seljuk Turks, Safavid Persians, Russians and the Soviet Union.<sup>1</sup>

The oldest material culture artifacts found in the region date back to the Neolithic Age. The region was part of the states of Mannae, Ararat and Media. It became part of the Satrapy of Armenia under Achaemenid Persia in 521 BC. After Alexander the Great's death in 323 BC, various Macedonian generals such as Neoptolemus<sup>2</sup> tried to take control of the region, but ultimately failed and a native Armenian dynasty of Orontid<sup>3</sup> flourished until Armenia was conquered by Antiochus III the Great.<sup>4</sup>

In 189 BC, Nakhchivan was part of the new Kingdom of Armenia established by Artaxias I. Within the kingdom, the region of present-day Nakhchivan was part of the Ayrarat<sup>5</sup>, Vaspurakan<sup>6</sup> and Syunik provinces.<sup>7</sup>

Its strategic location combined with a myriad of natural resources, including minerals, copper and salt, made Nakhchivan a highly important location of Azerbaijan during the pre-industrial economies.<sup>8</sup> Nakhchivan was the main commerce and economic corridor of communication between India and European countries, through Tabriz, Erzurum and Constantinople. Nakhichevan has played an important role in the development of the historical Silk Road in Persia. It was in the middle of the Silk Road from the province of Azerbaijan in Persia and Armenia in history. This region was part of China's trade route to Iran, then south Caucasus through Armenia and to Anatolia to Europe.

Nakhchivan is located in a great strategic location of Southern Caucasus; it became a region of significant importance including a rich history in Transcaucasia, the Near East, Middle East and the Mediterranean.

The region of Nakhijevan has shaped politically in 1921 as an autonomous government. It is belonging to the republic of Azerbaijan since 1921.

### The name variations of Nakhichevan

Nakhchivan as a modern political unit by the same name firstly was named Nakhchivan at the beginning from March 16, 1921 in Soviet Socialist Republic. Then, after June 16, 1923 it was named Nakhchivan province. Shortly afterwards, it was from February 9, 1924 as Nakhchivan Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic and finally from November 17, 1990 as Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic.<sup>9</sup> Therefore as a name of Political unit and in terms of the historical name of this region, it has always been known by its name in general and has retained its name.

On the other hand, from the point of view of lexical roots and lexical changes the name of Nakhichevan has had various forms and variations in terms of history, linguistic and lexicography. Today the name of Nakhichevan in Iranian literature is Nakhjavan (نخجوان), in Armenian Nakhijevan (Նախ իջուան), in the Encyclopedia Iranica Nakjavan (نخجوان) and in the Encyclopedia Britanica also Nakhichevan (نخچیوان) or Naxçevan have written. The town or region in Islamic time was mentioned as Našawā (نشوا), and in Samāni<sup>10</sup> period has al-našawi (النشوی) for the nesba but from Buyid<sup>11</sup> and Seljuk times onwards, forms like Nakjavān

1 Ibid.

2 Neoptolemus was a Macedonian officer who served under the Alexander. He was died in 321 BC.

3 The Orontid dynasty or native name Eruandid Yerevanduni founded in 6<sup>th</sup> century BC and was a hereditary Armenian dynasty and rulers of the successor state to the Iron Age Kingdom of Urartu (Ararat).

4 Antiochus III the Great was Macedonian Hellenistic king and the 6<sup>th</sup> ruler of Seleucid Empire.

5 According to online encyclopedia Iranica, under name Ayrarat, it is in the region of central Armenia in the broad plain of the upper Araxes; the name is undoubtedly connected with the Assyrian Urauri, later Urartu.

6 According to online encyclopedia of Britannica, Vaspurakan was in easternmost border of Byzantine Empire. The territory was part of the classical kingdom of Armenia and in the medieval in 908 from Lake Van to Lake Urmia.

7 Ayvazyan, Argam., The Historical Monuments of Nakhichevan, New York, Wayne State University Press, 1990, P.10–12.

8 Tase, P.M, The Nakhchivan – Van – Urmiye Painted Pottery of the Middle Bronze Age, DIOGEN pro culture magazine & DIOGEN pro art magazine 2016, P.1-2.

9 The Constitution of Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, International Labor Organization ILO, 1998, P1.

10 Samāni dynasty was an Iranian empire from 819 to 999 in Khorasan and Transoxiana.

11 Al Buyid was an Iranian Shia of Daylamite origin which mainly ruled over Iraq and central and southern Iran from 934 to 1062.

(نخجوان), Naḳčevān (نخچوان) and Naqčevān (نقشوان) become usual.<sup>1</sup> Some sources have written the name Nakhichevan by the following forms; Nakhchivan (نخچیوان) Nakhshivan (نخشوان) Nashvi (نشوی).<sup>2</sup>

Therefore, concerning to the name of Nakhichevan there are many forms of writings in the historical sources as above mentioned. All of these names have shown the originality of the name and record that this name has its roots in more than two thousand years in the south Caucasus and Aras region.

Many names have been said or written in history with different pronunciation or writing style like Naxçivan in Azerbaijani, Nachitschewan, Nakhchyvan, Nakhicevan, Nakhichevan and Nakhichevan in Arabic.<sup>3</sup> The Norwegian Helsinki Committee (NHC) uses only Nakhchivan, which most correctly reflects the name in Azerbaijani. The international media use various spellings, including Nakhichevan, Naxcivan, Naxçivan, Nakhichevan, Naxchivan and Nakhdjevan.<sup>4</sup>

On the other hand, there are variations of the name Nakhchivan which include: Nakhichevan, Naxcivan, Naxçivan, Nachidsheuan, Nakhijevan, Nakhchawan, Nakhichevan, Nakhjavan and Nakhdjevan.<sup>5</sup>

### The name of Nakhichevan from Ancient sources

In the historical sources the name Nakhichevan goes back to the narration of Flavius Josephus. The first information about Nakhichevan city is provided by the Jewish historian Flavius Josephus<sup>6</sup> (first century B.C). Jewish historian Flavius Josephus wrote about Nakhichevan, saying that its original name or “place of Descent” is the proper rendering of the Armenian name of this city.<sup>7</sup> Flavius Josephus<sup>8</sup> in the time of Roman emperor Flavius Domitian in the first century refers to this place and explains that Armenians call this place, the place of descent; for the ark being saved in that place, its remains are shown there by the inhabitants to this day.<sup>9</sup> Nakhchivan was called "Apobatherion"<sup>10</sup> in the first centuries AD, which means "resort and caravanserai". Flavius Josephus calls the place “Apobatherion” literal translation of the Armenian toponymal.<sup>11</sup>

Historical sources show that the city was connected with the Noah's flood. But linguists do not agree whether the name comes from the “Landing Place” or not.<sup>12</sup> Henri Nissen<sup>13</sup> believes that the original Nachidsheuan or Naxuan has possibly been found much closer.<sup>14</sup> The first idea about the storm belonged to Flavius Josephus. The initial information about the storm

<sup>1</sup> NAḲJAVĀN, Iranica, Online Encyclopedia:

<https://iranicaonline.org/articles/nakjavan>. [Last retrieved November 10, 2020]

<sup>2</sup> - Anusheh, H, encyclopedia of Persian literature, Persian literature in Caucasus (Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, Dagestan), Vol. 5, Tehran, 2003, P. 137600.

<sup>3</sup> Nakhichevan, Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, see:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nakhchivan\\_Autonomous\\_Republic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nakhchivan_Autonomous_Republic). [Last retrieved November 10, 2020]

<sup>4</sup> - In the report, the Norwegian Helsinki Committee (NHC) uses only Nakhchivan, which most correctly reflects the name in Azerbaijani. See: Azerbaijan's Dark Island: Human rights violations in Nakhchivan, Norwegian Helsinki Committee, Report, 2009, P.5.

<sup>5</sup> - Armenia- Azerbaijan Border: Nakhchivan Porak. Book LLC, General Books (23 May 2010), P25.

<sup>6</sup> Titus Flavius Josephus or Yosef ben Matityahu also Yosef Flavi (in Turkish) was born in Jerusalem born in 37 CE and died in 100 CE. He was Jewish historian and one of his works was called Antiquities of the Jews which includes 21 volumes and written around 93-94 CE.

<sup>7</sup> *Josephus, F*, ibid, Chapter 3, retrieved June 12, 2016.

<sup>8</sup> Flavius Josephus was the first –century Romano- Jews historian who was born in Jerusalem- then part of Roman Judea.

<sup>9</sup> Josephus, F, “Antiquities of the Jews”, Book IV, P.68.

<sup>10</sup> Flavius Josephus (38 AD, Jerusalem – after 100 AD, Rome) in his works uses a literal translation from Armenian and calls this place Apobaterion (Greek ἀποβατήριον – lit. ‘Place of landing’). Claudius Ptolemy (appr. 90 – appr. 168) in his works also mentions the place calling it Naxuana according to Greek tradition (Greek Νάξουανα). See: Aliprandi, E, The story of Nakhijevan, Rome, 2016, P.14. Also look at: Archeology and Biblical Research, summer, Vol. 5, # 3, 1992.

<sup>11</sup> Josephus F., Antiquities of the Jew, Book I, ch.III.

<sup>12</sup> The “Landing Place” is referred to the land of Nakhichevan.

<sup>13</sup> Henri Nissen is a journalist, independent media consultant and author of 11 books.

<sup>14</sup> Nissen, H, Noah's Ark: Ancient Accounts and New Discoveries (unabridged), Copenhagen, Scandinavia Publishing House, Jan 26, 2015, Chapter seven.



entered the mythology of the other peoples from the Sumerians.<sup>1</sup> Josephus discovered the land of Nakhchivan where Noah's ark stopped there and considered the first territory.<sup>2</sup> He wrote: "And then, when the ark stopped a top a mountain in Armenia, and Noah observed this, the latter opened it and seeing a patch of land near the ark hoped for the best and was reassured ... This place is referred by Armenians as "the site of the landing" and to this day they show there the remains preserved from the ark."<sup>3</sup>

In the Greek time, Nakhichevan was mentioned in Claudius Ptolemy's book and by other classical writers as Naxuana<sup>4</sup>. Armenians call this place the place of descent: for the ark being saved in that place<sup>5</sup>.

Claudius Ptolemy in his book called "Geography" mentioned the city of Nakhichevan in the second century AD.<sup>6</sup> For the first time the name of Nakhchivan city in K. Ptolemy's "Geography" it takes the form of "Naksuana".<sup>7</sup>

The name of the city of Naxouāna is mentioned in Ptolemy Volumes 5, 12.<sup>8</sup> Greek geographer Claudius Ptolemy wrote that "Naksuana"<sup>9</sup> is the center of the vast country.<sup>10</sup> Ptolemy mentions the name of the city of Nakhchivan with 7 major cities of the world drew in a row.<sup>11</sup> He gives a list of cities and Armenian towns. Some of which are not recorded in other sources, and their site remains unknown.<sup>12</sup> Among them he wrote the cities like Armavir<sup>13</sup>, Artašat<sup>14</sup>, and Nakj avān (Nakhichevan). It seems that at that time the city was big and important.

Ptolemy did not explain about the meaning of the city but he noted that it is located in the north of the Aras River. The writing and spelling form of the city as Claudius Ptolemy names is Naksuana (Naxuana)<sup>15</sup> which is according to Greek tradition (Greek Ναξουανα) and so on.<sup>16</sup> The name written in his book is the Greek pronunciation of the word. So, it is not the pronunciation of the word from the locals in that time. It should be noted that "Naksuana" is not the phonetic variant of Nakhichevan. As the Greek and Roman languages did not have to hushing sounds ch, dj, zh, Nakhichevan was called Naksuana.

Modern historian Suren Yeremyan disputes this assertion, arguing that ancient Armenian tradition placed Nakhichevan's founding to the year 3669 BC and, in ascribing its establishment to Noah, that it took its present name after the Armenian phrase "Nakhnakan Ichevan" (Նախնական Իջևան), or "first landing."<sup>17</sup>

### The name of Nakhichevan from Armenian sources

<sup>1</sup> Hacıyev, İ.M., Həbibbəyli, İ.Ə., Səfərli, F.Y., Qədirzadə, Q.İ., Baxşəliyev, V.B., Naxçıvan tarixi. Üç cildə, I cild - Naxçıvan: "Əsəmi" Nyaşriyyat-Poligrafiya Birligi, 2013, 452 səh.134-135.

<sup>2</sup> Hacıyev, İsmayil., Naxçıvan Muxtar Respublikasının İCTİM Aİ-SİY AST Həyatı, Sosial-İqtisadi Və Mədəni İnkişafı (1991-2011-d illər), Naxçıvan – 2011. P.250.

<sup>3</sup> Flavius, J, Antiquities of the Jew, Book I, ch.III.

<sup>4</sup> "Nakhichevan" in the Brockhaus and Efron Encyclopedic Dictionary, St. Petersburg, Russia: 1890-1907. Also see "Nakhichevan" in the 1911 Encyclopedia Britannica, vol.19, P.156.

<sup>5</sup> Josephus, F, *The works of Flavius Josephus, The Antiquities of The Jew, Book I, edited by William Whiston, University of Cambridge, Published by William Borradaile 1823, P.28.*

<sup>6</sup> Aliprandi, E, Ibid, P.5.

<sup>7</sup> Karamanlı, H.M, "Nafacivan", TDVİA, XXXII, Istanbul, 2006, s.294.

<sup>8</sup> Dehkhoda, A.A, Dehkhoda Encyclophedia, editor Mohammad Moen, Vol. 13, Tehran, Tehran University Publication, P.19781.

<sup>9</sup> It is also written "Naxuana".

<sup>10</sup> Basrad, P, The Great Silk Road and the Importance of Nakhchivan, DIOGEN, pro culture magazine & DIOGEN pro art magazine, Peter M. Tase and Sabahudin Hadžialić. P.5.

<sup>11</sup> Hacıyev, İ, Naxçıvan Muxtar Respublikasının İCTİM Aİ-SİY AST Həyatı, Sosial-İqtisadi Və Mədəni İnkişafı (1991-2011-d illər), Naxçıvan – 2011, P247- P248.

<sup>12</sup> The towns which are best known in connection with the writers of Greece are: Artaxata or Artaxiasata; Tigranocerta; Theodosiopolis; Carcathiocerta; Armosata; Artageira Naxuana; Morunida; Buana; Bizabda and Amida and named a city called "Naksuana".

<sup>13</sup> Historically, the territory of modern-day Armavir is located in the Aragatsotn canton at the centre of Ayrarat; the 15th province of ancient Greater Armenia.

<sup>14</sup> It was early Armenian capital on the north bank of the mid-Araxes River, founded by Artašēs (Artaxias) in the 2nd C. b.c. It was also the capital of the later Armenian.

<sup>15</sup> Nakhichevan in the 1911, Encyclopedia Britannica, vol.19, P.156.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

<sup>17</sup> Yeremyan, Suren T. «Նախնական» (Nakhtchavan). Look at: Soviet Armenian Encyclopedia. Vol.8, Yerevan, Armenian SSR: Armenian academy of sciences, 1982, pp. 166-167.

Pavstos Buzand<sup>1</sup> Armenian historian in 5<sup>th</sup> century also narrates the events of the South Caucasus from Nakhchivan.<sup>2</sup> He writes that it is one of the important cities.<sup>3</sup> As Pavstos testifies, there were 18000 houses in its center at those times.<sup>4</sup> *Pavstos Buzand writes about the Tigran the great brought the Jewish prisoners to the safe cities of Armenia. But in this time these cities were ruined and their citizens were captured and they were brought to the city Nakhichevan where it was its military base of his soldiers.*<sup>5</sup>

Moses Khorenatsi one of the medieval historians in sixth century history, has talked about the Nakhchivan.<sup>6</sup> Moses Khorenatsi has mentioned in his book called History of Armenia about the region called Jugha<sup>7</sup> near to Nakhichevan on the left bank of Arax River.<sup>8</sup>

Movses Khorenatsi<sup>9</sup> Armenian historian of the fifth century AD in the book called history of Armenia writes that Artavazd<sup>10</sup> captured Nakhtchavan and all area and castles and villages between Aras River and the north.<sup>11</sup> Based on the Saint Movses Khorenatsi, king Tigranes I of Armenia settled Median prisoners of the war at Nakhichevan in the second century BC.<sup>12</sup> Muses Khorenatsi wrote that the first residence of Noah, after descending Mount Ararat, was in the present location of Nakhchivan. For this reason, the Armenians called it “Nakh-ljvan” meaning the first home.<sup>13</sup> He called the name of this city, Idsheuan; but at the place itself Nichidsheuan,<sup>14</sup> which signifies the first place of descent; and is a lasting monument of the presentation of Noah city or town after the flood.<sup>15</sup>

According to Ashkharatsuits<sup>16</sup>, a treatise on geography and cartography written around the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> and beginning of the 7<sup>th</sup> century, presumably by Anania Shirakatsi, the Nakhijevan region was comprised of five smaller units (called gavar) which in their turn, were belonged to the three provinces: Airarat, Syunik and Vaspukaran.<sup>17</sup> In the history of Ghevond<sup>18</sup>, Armenian Preist and historian, he wrote the Nahcavan, and Kirakos Gandzaketsi<sup>19</sup> in his book wrote Nahicevan.

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<sup>1</sup> Faustus Byzantium was an Armenian historian of the 5<sup>th</sup> century. He has 6 volumes of books about history which two of them are missed.

<sup>2</sup> Memmedov, ibid, P.22-23.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> *Pavstos, Buzand., The history of Armenian, translated by Garon Sargisyan, Tehran, Nairi publication, 2004, P211.*

<sup>6</sup> Memmedov, R, ibid, P.242-243.

<sup>7</sup> Today's name is Julfa.

<sup>8</sup> Makhmourian, G.G., Collection of Papers Relating to the Armenian District of Nakhijevan (1918-1920) From the U.S. Department of State and the National Archives of Armenia, Fundamental Archeology, No 2 (4), 2016, P.1.

<sup>9</sup> He was prominent Historian from the period of “Late Antiquity” and the author of the History of Armenia (410 CA- 490 AD).

<sup>10</sup> - Artavazd was the Artaxiad king of Armenia from 159 BC to 115 BC. He was the son and successor of Artaxias I.

<sup>11</sup> Khorenatsi, M, History of Armenia, edited by Edic Baghdasarian, Tehran, Ahsan, 2001, P.175.

<sup>12</sup> In his description of the deeds of the Armenian king Tigran, Yervandyan the historian notes that the king “settled his wife and many maidens of his family together with the youths and numerous captured people in the eastern side of the great mountain which reached the borders of Goghthn, i.e., in Tambat, Oskiokh, Dajguin and other settlements. <https://caucasus.fandom.com/wiki/Nakhichevan>. [Last retrieved November 10, 2020]

<sup>13</sup> Hovsepian, S, A brief look at the history of Nakhichevan region, Peyman, Armenian Cultural journal, No 45, Year 12<sup>th</sup>, Autumn 2008, P.160.

<sup>14</sup> Movses Khorenatsi calls this place by this form of writing, Nachidsheuan, which means the first place of descent. See: Ledo, Michael., The secret Astrology of the Bible, Lulu.com, May 2, 2010, P.70.

<sup>15</sup> Josephus, F. The works of Flavius Josephus, The Antiquities of The Jew, Book I, edited by William Whiston, University of Cambridge, Published by William Borradaile, 1823, P.28. Also look at: Sons of Ham: Part 1, No. 45A, Australia, Christian Churches of God, 2007, P.3.

<sup>16</sup> *Armenian medieval atlas Ashkharatsuits compiled in the 7th century by Anania Shirakatsi but sometimes attributed to Movses Khorenatsi as well.*

<sup>17</sup> Aliprandi, E, Ibid, P.14.

<sup>18</sup> Ghevond or Ghevond was a late 8<sup>th</sup> –century Armenian historian.

<sup>19</sup> Kirakos Gandzaketsi (1200/1202–1271) was an Armenian historian of the 13<sup>th</sup> century and author of the History of Armenia, a summary of events from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> century and a detailed description of the events of his own days.

Nineteenth-century linguist Johann Hubschmann<sup>1</sup> suggested that the literal meaning of the word Nakhchivan in Armenian is "landing place" and refers to the landing of Noah's ark on Mount Ararat and the settlement of the people inside the ark on the northern bank of the Aras River. Hubschmann writes that Nakhichevan in ancient times was not known by this name today. He wrote that the name Nakhichevan in Armenian literally means the place of descent, a Biblical reference to the descent of Noah's Ark on the adjacent Mount Ararat.<sup>2</sup> He added that the toponym "Nakhijevan" originate from the Armenian prefix "nakh" and the root "avan" meaning the place of first landing.<sup>3</sup> Hubschmann states the present-day name evolved to "Nakhchivan" from "Naxčavan". The prefix "Naxč" was a name and "avan" is Armenian for "town".<sup>4</sup> However, this theory has also been opposed. Bill Crouse believes that Noah's ark was landing on Mount Judi.<sup>5</sup>

The geographer al-Sharifi al Idrisi (شريفی ادریسی)<sup>6</sup> in the 12 century considered the land of Al-Joudi (الجودی) Mount or the "Mount of eighty" to be the first place where Noah's ark stopped.<sup>7</sup>

### The name Nakhichevan in the story of Noah's Ark: Armenian narratio

In tracing the origins of the name Nakhichevan, researchers have come across to sources that generally refer to the story of Noah's ark.<sup>8</sup> Armenian tradition and Armenian sources generally have mentioned that the Nakhichevan name is related to the Legend that the founder of the city of Nakhchivan was Noah, who left it to his son "Hayk, the great ancestor of the Armenians", and the land of Noah is in Nakhchivan.

Based on archeological excavations in the ancient hills of Tuyereh Tappeh<sup>9</sup>, Shumer Tappeh<sup>10</sup>, and Kol Tappeh<sup>11</sup>, samples have been obtained that show that the city of Nakhchivan in the first and second millennium BC was a nomadic settlement and it seems that they were the founders of this city.<sup>13</sup> This narrative is based on a Legend.<sup>14</sup>

Ali Akber Dehkhoda Iranian scholar in his encyclophedia writes: Nakhchivan in the Armenian word means "first center". The name of this city Nakhchivan is one of the most prevalent among the people means the first. Noah gradually settled down. They say the death of Prophet Noah was in there.<sup>15</sup>

*Travelers, historians and scholars also provided the necessary information about the ordinary rule of the city. John Chardin wrote about the city that its toponymal is related to the name of Noah, the great ancestor of mankind.*<sup>16</sup> Chardin did not elaborate on the name of Nakhichevan, but says that authors attribute the origin of the name of Nakhichevan to the name of Noah.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Johann Heinrich Hubschmann (1848-1908) was a German linguist and professor of Iranian language at Leipzig and philology at Strasbourg. He showed in 1875 that the Armenian language was not a branch of the Iranian languages but an entirely separate Indo-European branch.

<sup>2</sup> Coene, F., *The Caucasus: an introduction*, Routledge, 2009, P.35.

<sup>3</sup> Crouse, B. Franz, G., *Mount Cudi - True Mountain of Noah's Ark*, *Archaeology and Biblical Research* vol. 5, #3, summer 1992; TJ vol. 15(3).

<sup>4</sup> Crouse, B., *Noah's Ark: It's Final Berth*, *Journal: Bible and Spade (Second Run)*, Volume: BSPADE 05:3, summer 1992.

<sup>5</sup> - Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Muhammad al Idrisi (1100-1165) was Arab Muslim geographer and cartographer originally Spanish who lived in Palermo, Sicily at the court of King Roger II.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Since the Armenians were Christianized through missionaries from Edessa in Syria, they were trained in the traditions of their benefactors. This included the Gordyene (Kingdom of Gordyene was between Armenia and Persia in south Lake of Van) location of the Ark. Friedrich Murad in his work called *Ararat und Masis* has explained it. Please see: Lanser, Richard. D., *An Armenian Perspective on the Search for Noah's Ark*, Annual Meeting of the Near East Archaeological Society November 14-16, 2007 San Diego, California.

<sup>9</sup> In Persian (توئیره تپه).

<sup>10</sup> In Persian (شومر تپه)

<sup>11</sup> In Persian (کول تپه)

<sup>12</sup> Tappeh is Persian name means hill.

<sup>13</sup> Anusheh, H, *ibid*, P. 137600.

<sup>14</sup> Mahmudov, Y., & Shakurov, K, *ibid*, P.9.

<sup>15</sup> Dehkhoda, A.A., *ibid*, P.19781.

<sup>16</sup> Karamanlı, H.M., "Nafacivan", TDVİA, XXXII, Istanbul, 2006, s.294; M. Fahrettin Kuzioğlu, *Yukan-Kiir ve Comkboylan'nda Kıpçaklar*, Ankara, 1992, s.40.

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid*, P.389.

Dubois de Montpéroux<sup>1</sup> in 18<sup>th</sup> century *also refers to Nakhchivan that is the first destination.*<sup>2</sup> *It takes its name from the fact that Noah's ark sank in the lands of Gemikaya<sup>3</sup> in Ordubad province during the World Storm and that the Noah came to the land (Nuhçikan- Nakhchivan) the name of the city of Nakhchivan later had a broader meaning, referring to the name of a great region.*<sup>4</sup>

A letter published in the Journal of the American Oriental Society is based on American missionary H.G.O. Dwight who observed about Nakhichevan in 19<sup>th</sup> century. He wrote the name of Nakhichevan in the Armenian is composed of two words; Nakh, first, and ichevan, descent, or resting-place. It means "the first descent" or "the first resting place," which they say is the first place of abode built by Noah and his sons after the flood. Dwight goes to further pains to point out that other ancient authorities other than the Armenians attested to the significance of the name "Nakhichevan."<sup>5</sup>

*Armenian tradition holds that Nakhichevan was founded by Noah, of the Abrahamic religions. The oldest culture artifacts found in the region date back to the Neolithic Age (6000 B.C.E. to 4000 B.C.E.).*<sup>6</sup>

According to another popular legend, the toponym of "Nakhchivan" is associated with the prophet Noah, or rather, "the world's flood", and "Nuhchivan" means "the abode of Noah's followers", "the land of Noah".<sup>7</sup> Indeed, an ancient settlement called Gamigaya<sup>8</sup>, located at an altitude of 3,725 meters above sea level near Nakhchivan, and a very ancient cemetery called the Land of the Prophet were discovered in that settlement. The tomb of Noah is in the city of Nakhchivan. In general, among the people, including the population of Nakhchivan in ancient monuments and antique with goods related to "Noah" there is a phrase "stay away from the prophet" ("stay away from Noah") is often used. Also has mentioned that the word "Nakhchivan" (Nakchuan / Nakhchivan) -means "land of miraculous or good waters", or it is also interpreted as "the country of healing mineral waters."<sup>9</sup>

According to legend, Noah founded the city of Nakhijevan. He erected stone walls that encircled the city and lived there with his children and his wife Noemzar.<sup>10</sup> After the adoption of Christianity, a chapel was built over Noah's final resting place and an Armenian cemetery stretched around it.<sup>11</sup>

### The name Nakhichevan in the story of Noah's Ark: Josephus narration

There are some narrations in the historical sources, texts and myth that show the link between the story of Noah ark and the name of Nakhichevan. Based on the story and also the narration of people and Armenians in the region, the Noah ark is located near the Ararat Mountain. The Noah myth was in the minds of the people in the millennia BC and continued to be alive in local beliefs until today. Therefore, the geography and name of Nakhichevan is intertwined with the Noah's Ark narration. Even more importantly, it probably influenced the naming

<sup>1</sup> Marie-Frédéric Dubois de Montpéroux (1798-1850) was French scientist and geologist. He was born near Neuchâtel in Switzerland and was Head of the Chair of Ethnology at the University in Strasbourg.

<sup>2</sup> Kürkçüoğlu, E., Nahçıvan Tarihi (V-XV. Yuzyıllar), Erzurum, Guneş Vakfı Yayınları, 2007, P. 4.

<sup>3</sup> *Gemikaya or Gamigaya rock carvings are dated to the 4<sup>th</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> millennia BC including the Bronze and early Iron Age in the territory of Ordubad in Nakhichevan near to Armenian Border. The images that one sees are small human and animal figures along with representations of celestial bodies, scraped through the hard, element-blackened surface of scattered iron-rich rocks. It is from Nasirvaz, then a 20-minute walk.*

<sup>4</sup> Seferli, F., *Nahçıvan bölgəsinin tarixi coğrafiyası haqqında notlar*, Adım Adım Azərbaycan, IRS, 4(8), KİŞ 13, P.46.

<sup>5</sup> Smith E., *Researches of the rev. E. Smith and rev H.G.O. Dwight in Armenia*, Crocker and Brewster, Washington, 1855, P. 190.

<sup>6</sup> Nakhichevan, New world Encyclopedia: <https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Nakhichevan>. [last retrieved November 30, 2020]

<sup>7</sup> Mahmudov, Y., Shakurov, K., *Nakhchivan: History and Monuments*, Təhsil Nəşriyyatı, Bakı, 2007, P.9.

<sup>8</sup> Gamigaya rock (stone ship) carvings are in the region of Ordubad and is the name of Gapyjiq summit.

<sup>9</sup> Mahmudov, Y., Shakurov, K., *Ibid*, P.9. *Also see: Naxçıvanın etimologiyası haqqında digər mülahizələr haqqında bax: Axundov A. Naxçıvan sözünün mənşəyi / Naxçıvan tarixinin səhifələri («Uluslararası qaynaqlarda Naxçıvan» beynəlxalq simpoziumunun materialları). Redaksiya heyəti: Vasif Talıbov və b. Bakı, 1996, s.50; Azərbaycan toponimləri, Ensiklopedik lüğət, Bakı, 1999, s.380.*

<sup>10</sup> It is possibly Naamah. Look at: Aliprandi, E., P.6.

<sup>11</sup> Aliprandi, E., *ibid*, P.6.

and has forming the name of this city. The religious aspects of this myth also have helped to make the idea more rooted and believable.

First of all in explaining the etymology of the word Nakhichevan, attention is drawn to the first part of the name i.e. "nax" (Nakh). This composition is mainly studied in the forms of "nax", "naxch", and "naxik". A group of researchers associated the name with the name of Noah.<sup>1</sup>

According to Flavius Josephus, the first residence of Noah, after descending Mount Ararat, were in the present location of Nakhchivan. For this reason, the Armenians called it Nakh-ljevan meaning the first home.<sup>2</sup>

William Whiston<sup>3</sup> translator of Josephus's works identified "the place of descent, "with the modern day city of Nakhichevan situated southeast of Ararat. But Bill Crouse did not believe and disputed this theory.<sup>4</sup> He argued to identify the current Mt. Ararat as the landing place of the Ark as per the footnote of Whiston. He wrote it is contrary to Josephus which clearly identifying it as a mountain in Gordyene<sup>5</sup>. Second, the early Armenian historians identified the Gordyene ("Gortuk") mountains as the landing place of Noah's Ark at least up to the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Centuries. Thirdly, according to Heinrich Hubschmann German's scholar and expert on the Armenian language, the city of Nakhchavan, which does mean "Place of First Descent" in Armenian, was not known by that name in antiquity. Rather, Hubschmann says the present-day name evolved to "Nakhchavan" from "Naxcavan." The prefix "Naxc" was a name and "avan" is Armenian for "town."<sup>6</sup>

Argam Ayvazian Armenian historian<sup>7</sup> writes: Flavius Josephus, a well-known Jewish historian, also made such an interpretation in the first century AD. According to the Bible, the name Nakhichevan means the first landing place of Noah.<sup>8</sup> In Armenian, Nakh means "the first" and "ljevan" means the landing.<sup>9</sup>

Josephus in his famous book called "Antiquities" refers to this place and explained: "Then the ark settled on a mountain-top in Armenia...Noah, thus learning that the earth was delivered from the flood, waited yet seven days, and then let the animals out of the ark, went forth himself with his family, sacrificed to God and feasted with his household. The Armenians call that spot the Landing-place [literally, Apobaterion], for it was there that the ark came safe to land, and they show the relics of it to this day."<sup>10</sup>

In a letter published in the Journal of the American Oriental Society, based on American missionary H.G.O. Dwight<sup>11</sup> observed about Nakhichevan. In the Armenian language this name is composed of two words, nakh, first, and ichevan, descent, or resting-place, i.e. "the first descent" or "the first resting place," which they say is the first place of abode built by Noah and his sons after the flood.<sup>12</sup>

Dwight went to further and makes it clear that it cannot be accounted for on the ground that the Armenians devised this name in order to give strength to their tradition about Mount

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<sup>1</sup> Наси́ев, І.М., Нəбйбəyli, І.ə., Səfərlı, F.Y., Qədirzadə, Q.İ., Bəxşəliyev, V.B., Nəxçıvan tarixi. Üç cilddə, I cild - Nəxçıvan: "Əsəmi" Njəşriyyat-Polıgرافیya Bırliyi, 2013, 452 səh. 131.

<sup>2</sup> Hovsepian, S, A brief look at the history of Nakhichevan region, Peyman, Armenian Cultural journal, No 45, Year 12<sup>th</sup>, Autumn 2008, P.160.

<sup>3</sup> He was an English theologian, historian. Whiston translated the works of Josephus (1737), with notes and dissertations which was often reprinted. It is mentioned that the Whiston's translation of Josephus' works had many errors.

<sup>4</sup> Crouse, Bill., Geological and Historical Reasons Why Noah's Ark Did not Land on MT. Ararat, P370-371.

<sup>5</sup> Gordyene was a kingdom in ancient time located in the south of Lake Van (present day in eastern Turkey) between Persia and Armenia.

<sup>6</sup> Heinrich Hubschmann in "Armeniaca," in Strassburger Festschrift zur XLVI Versammlung Deutscher Philologen und Schulmänner (Strassburg: Verlag von Karl Taubner, 1901), Section V. cited in Lloyd R. Bailey, Noah, Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina Press, 1989, p. 190.

<sup>7</sup> Argam Ayvazian (1947) is an Armenian historian, born in the village of Arinj, in the Nakhichevan ASSR. He was researcher at the Institute of Archeology and Ethnography, Armenian Academy of Science.

<sup>8</sup> Baghdasarian, Edic., Armenian history and Culture, selected Articles, Articles in Persian, Nameh Farhang Armen, Vol. 1, Toronto, 1993, P 198.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> Whiston, William., Jewish Antiquities 1, 3, 5–6, in the New Complete Works of Josephus, Grand Rapids: Kregel.

<sup>11</sup> Harrison Gray Otis Dwight (1803-1862) studied theology and was an American Congregational missionary in Constantinople in 1820s. He assisted Armenian missions in the city for over 30 years.

<sup>12</sup> Armenian Traditions about Mount Ararat, Journal of the American Oriental Society 5 (1855–1856): P. 190.

Ararat and the ark; for it is proved by ancient historians of other nations that both the name and the tradition existed hundreds of years before the Armenians embraced Christianity.<sup>1</sup>

He mentioned Josephus' declaration about the Apobaterion in Armenia clearly indicates that the spot—which in the Armenians' own language means "Landing place"—is to be found in Armenia, and he asserts that it has nothing to do with the Kardu Mountains.<sup>2</sup> The local tradition confirms this memory of the Apobaterion in the city of Nakhichevan.<sup>3</sup>

In the nineteenth-century linguistic scholar, Heinrich Hubschmann, claim that "Nakhichevan" thus reflects a renaming, similar to New Amsterdam becoming New York. But the fact remains: Josephus, as early as the first century, noted that the Armenians tied the Noah tradition to the site prior to any significant Jewish or Christian influences from outside. And noting the similarity of "Naxc" to "nakh," if Dwight's derivation of the etymology of "nakh" is correct, the original name may well have signified "First Town".<sup>4</sup>

The Armenians had their own native legend of a flood and of an ark which rested on Masis<sup>5</sup>—this at least as early as the first century of our era, long centuries before they adopted Christianity.<sup>6</sup>

Flavius Josephus in the Antiquities of the Jews wrote: "When God gave the signal, and it began to rain, the water poured down forty entire days, till it became fifteen cubits higher than the earth which was the reason why there was no greater number preserved, since they had no place to fly. When the rain ceased...after one hundred and fifty days..."<sup>7</sup>

Josephus continues: "After this the ark rested on the top of a certain mountain in Armenia which, when Noah understood, he opened it and seeing a small piece of land about it."<sup>8</sup> For when Josephus is describing the circumstances of the flood, he goes on thus: "It is said there is still some part of this ship in Armenia, at the mountain of the Gordyaeon."<sup>9</sup>

Josephus stated that the name of the first city built by Noah after the Great Flood was either<sup>10</sup>, and this city has been identified as an alternate name for Nakhchivan. The name "Themanin" (ثمانين) means either "eight" or "eighty," referring to either, the eight people who survived the flood on the ark in Jewish tradition or the eighty who survived in Islamic tradition (Themanin).<sup>11</sup> In the Islamic sources "Themanin"<sup>12</sup> is a city near Ibn Umar island above Mosul the foothills of Mount Judi. It is said that after Noah's ark landed on Judy, eighty men who came down from the ark with him settled here and built a village. Therefore, this place was called Themanin (eighty). It is a blessed and comprehensive city. From the city is Umar Ibn Thabet e-Themani Nahvi (عمر بن ثابت ثمانى نحوى).<sup>13</sup> But Flavious Josephus has said that the Noah Ark has landed in Nakhichevan. Also K.N.Smirnov<sup>14</sup> Russian scholar has supported the idea of Josephus that the Noah ark has come down of this region.<sup>15</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Armenian Traditions about Mount Ararat. Journal of the American Oriental Society 5 (1855–1856): P. 190.

<sup>2</sup> It is Kurdistan today an area that spans Northeast Syria, Southeast Turkey, Northwest Iran and Iraq. Mount Ararat is the highest mountain in this area. According to Lee Spencer and Jean Luc Lienard based on H. Ainsworth's view Mountains of Kardu can be translated to Kurdish Mountains or Mountains of Kurds. And are equivalent to the Gordyaeon Mountains of the Greeks. See: Spencer, Lee. Lienard, Jean Luc., The search for Noah's Ark, Keene, Texas, Southwest Adventist University, 2009.

<sup>3</sup> Dwight H. G. O., Armenian Traditions about Mount, Ararat. Journal of the American Oriental Society 5 (1855–1856): P. 190.

<sup>4</sup> Aivazian, Argam., Nakhijevan Book of Monuments. Yerevan, Anahit, Conybeare, Frederick C. 1990.

<sup>5</sup> Masis is the Armenian name for the peak of Mount Ararat.

<sup>6</sup> Conybeare, Frederick C., Review of Ararat und Masis: Studien zur armenischen Altertumskunde und Litteratur, by Friedrich Murad. The American Journal of Theology 5(2): 1901, P. 336.

<sup>7</sup> Flavius Josephus, the Antiquities of the Jews, Book I (Containing the Interval of Three Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty-Three Years from the Creation to the Death of Isaac), Chapter 3, Part 5-6.

<sup>8</sup>-Flavius Josephus, *ibid*, Part 5-6.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid*.

<sup>10</sup> *Themanin* (ثمانين) is Arabic word means eighty.

<sup>11</sup> Book, LLC., Armenia- Azerbaijan Border: Nakhchivan, USA, Porak, General Books (23 May 2010), P25.

<sup>12</sup> Sharif Idrisi, Muhammad, Nozhat al-mushtaq fi Ekhtraq al Afaq, Vol. 1, Cairo, Maktab al Thakhafat al diniyeh, 2002, P. 664.

<sup>13</sup> Dehkhoda Encyclophedia, under the name Themanin; See: the book Rawzat al- Jannet (روضه الجنات), P 322.

<sup>14</sup> Konstantin Nikolaevich Smirnov was Russian orientalist.

<sup>15</sup> Talibov, Vasif., Naxçivan Tarixi Atlası, Bakı, 2010, Naxçivan Muxtar Respublikası, P.10.

### The name Nakhichevan in the story of Noah's Ark: Turkish narration

A. Akhundov<sup>1</sup> linguist and Turkologist of Azerbaijan in international symposium "Nakhchivan in Historical Sources" held in 1996, connected Nakhchivan name with Noah's flood, and the composition of "Nakh" accepted as a distortion of the word "Noah".<sup>2</sup> Thoughts on the territory of Nakhchivan (ناخچوان) and the connection of its name with Noah's flood it is also found in the works of A. Husseini, Sabir Rustamkhanli<sup>3</sup> philologist in the republic of Azerbaijan.<sup>4</sup>

In Turkish sources also there is the word Nuhdaban (نوحدابان) which is another form of Nakhichevan and in those sources means the place of where Noah settled there. About the place of residence of Nuhdaban there are different considerations. Among the people in Nuhdaban near Ordubad district it is noted that it is located above the village of Nasirvaz, i.e. in the foothills of the Gamigaya. Prominent Russian historian and orientalist Konstantin Nikolaevich Smirnov's "Nakhchivan Materials on the history and ethnography of the land " Not far from the city of Abbasabad, there is a tomb of the Prophet Noah. It is indicated that it exists on the ground. Even according to K.N. Smirnov<sup>5</sup>, Noah's grave is also in Nuhdaban.<sup>6</sup>

The Toponymic unit related to Noah as in Nakhchivan (Nuhdaban, Nakhchivan, Nahajir, Nehram, etc.) is mostly closed to this area. Widespread stories are among the people and this is according to the belief that still exists in the south of Nakhchivan. Also they believe there is the grave of Noah in there.<sup>7</sup>

Turkish contemporary sources especially some not all researchers in Nakhichevan also refer to the etymology of the name and mention the areas in Nakhchivan where traces of Nuhdaban original name of Nakhichevan, are in there like "place of residence". They believed the first city located in the southern part of Nakhchivan and there is a connection between current name and Noah name and the first residence. The researches like Ismayil Hacıyev wrote the name of Nakhchivan city is derived from the word Nuhchikhan.<sup>8</sup> Nuhdaban is the name of Nuhchikhan which gained the status of the first city. The original city of Nuhdaban later expanded and became the city of Nakhchivan.

Nakhichevani or Azerbaijani researchers have written to the old walls of the fortress called "fortress" which were once built over the city of Nuhdaban and state that the tomb of the Prophet Noah is also protected inside this fortress. That castle called "Old Fortress" also means that it was built before the Sassanid times and indicates that major renovations are underway around and over later. Turkish researchers according to the legend due to the name of the prophet Noah mentioned the name of the city of Noah is the original urban-type settlement. Cemetery consisting of several layers in Nuhdaban also indicates the ancient history of settlement here.<sup>9</sup>

Azerbaijani historians have considered Nuhdaban as another pronunciation of Nakhichevan. They did not refer to the root of this form. On the other hand few of them have tried to trace the word to ethnic issues and relate and interpret it as the name of a tribe.<sup>10</sup>

## Conclusion

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<sup>1</sup> Akhundov Agamusa Agasi oglu (1932-2015) born, Kurdamir, Azerbaijan SSR a well-known literary critic, linguist and Turkologist of Azerbaijan, a member of the Writers' Union of Azerbaijan since 1981, Doctor of Philology (1964), Professor (1967), Full Member of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences (2007), Laureate of the State Prize of the Republic of Azerbaijan (1986), Honored Scientist of the Republic of Azerbaijan (1990).

<sup>2</sup> Hacıyev, İ.M., Həbibbəyli, İ.Ə., Səfərli, F.Y., Qədirzadə, Q.İ., Baxşəliyev, V.B., *Naхçivan tarixi. Üç cildde, I cild - Naхçivan: "Əsəmi" Няшрийат-Полиграфийа Бирлийи*, 2013, 452 səh.132.

<sup>3</sup> Sabir Khudu oğlu Rustamxanlı is an Azerbaijani philologist. He is the author of over 30 books in the Russian and Azerbaijani languages. Sabir Rustamkhanli is chairman of the Assembly of the World Congress of Azerbaijanis.

<sup>4</sup> Hacıyev, İ.M., *Ibid*, P.133.

<sup>5</sup> - Konstantin Nikolaevich Smirnov was Russian orientalist.

<sup>6</sup> - Hacıyev, İ.M., Həbibbəyli, İ.Ə., Səfərli, F.Y., Qədirzadə, Q.İ., Baxşəliyev, V.B., *Naхçivan tarixi. Üç cildde, I cild, aхçivan: "Əsəmi" Няшрийат-Полиграфийа Бирлийи*, 2013, PP. 248, 258. Also see: Hacıyev, İ.M, *ibid*, P149.

<sup>7</sup> - Hacıyev, İ.M., *ibid*, P. 249.

<sup>8</sup> - *Ibid*.

<sup>9</sup> - *Ibid*.

<sup>10</sup> - We can see such interpretations in the works of Ismayil Hacıyev, Yaqub Mahmudov and İ.Ə.Həbibbəyli, F.Y. Səfərli, Q.İ.Qədirzadə, and V.B.Baxşəliyev.

People have named places and cities based on what happened there or who built the city, how was the natural geography of the region, or the first feeling they had of entering an area. Nakhichevan is no exception to this rule.

From the assessing of the historical sources, we can find out that the Name of Nakhichevan has different forms of the writing through the ancient history. The different forms of writings have helped to follow the changes. More importantly, the result of the studies show that the root of the word can be related to the legends and stories that have formed in the minds of the people of the region and it has also influenced ancient historians.

Linguistics also helps to understand the meaning of the name of the city. The research results emphasize that in the first part of the name Nakhichevan, one can speculate. There is disagreement about the origin of the “Nakh” as the name of Noah and one can only speculate that the first place, first person or first settlement can be mostly accepted meaning. This interpretation has had the most use and support and is probable. However, there are other meanings that need further investigation.

**Մաջիդ Քարիմի, ՆԱԽԻՋԵՎԱՆ ԱՆՎԱՆ ՍՏՈՒՂԱԲԱՆՈՒԹՅՈՒՆԸ և ԾԱԳՈՒՄԸ ԸՍՏ ՊԱՏՄԱԿԱՆ ԱՂՅՈՒՐՆԵՐԻ:** Հարավային Կովկասում կան բազմաթիվ աշխարհագրական անուններ, որոնք շատ հին են և պահպանվել են մինչ այժմ: Շատ հին և կարևոր աշխարհագրական անվանումներից մեկը Նախիջևան հնագույն քաղաքի անվանումն է: Դա տարածաշրջանային անվանումն է, որը կարևոր է պատմության տեսանկյունից: Անունները այս տարածքի ժողովուրդների ինքնության և պատմական ինքնատիպության մի մասն են: Սույն հոդվածի նպատակն է ուսումնասիրել Նախիջևան անվան ծագումը և այս բառի տարբեր ձևերը: Պատմական աղբյուրներում տեղեկություններ կան Նախիջևան բառի մասին: Բայց այս աղբյուրները շատ սահմանափակ են և ամենակարևորը կապված են առասպելների և լեգենդների հետ: Նախիջևան անվանումն իր երկարամյա պատմության ընթացքում ուղեկցվել է փոփոխություններով Հարավային Կովկասում և ընդհանրապես պարսկական պատմության մեջ: Այս ուսումնասիրության նպատակն է ներկայացնել տարբեր աղբյուրներում առկա տեղեկությունները՝ հին ժամանակներից մինչ այժմ: Այն նաև գնահատում է այն տեղեկությունները, որոնք կան հայ, հույն, հրեա պատմիչների կամ վերջին շրջանի հետազոտողների գործերում:

*Հիմնաբառեր՝* Նախիջևան, Արարատ, հայերեն, Նոյ, Պտղոմեոս, Հովսեփոս Փլավիոս

**Маджид Карими, ЭТИМОЛОГИЯ И ПРОИСХОЖДЕНИЕ НАЗВАНИЯ НАХИДЖЕВАН ПО ИСТОРИЧЕСКИМ ИСТОЧНИКАМ.** На Южном Кавказе существует множество очень старых географических названий, сохранившихся до наших дней. Одно из очень старых и важных географических названий – это название древнего города в Нахичевань. Это региональное название, которое важно с исторической точки зрения. Имена являются частью самобытности и исторического своеобразия народов этих земель. Целью данного исследования является изучение происхождения исторического названия Нахичевань и различных форм этого слова. Среди исторических источников есть сведения о слове Нахичевань. Но эти источники очень ограничены и, самое главное, связаны с мифами и легендами. Название Нахичевань с его многовековой историей сопровождалось изменениями на Южном Кавказе и в персидской истории в целом. Цель этого исследования - продемонстрировать различные источники с древних времен до наших дней. Он также оценивает информацию, полученную от армянских, греческих, еврейских историков или недавних исследований.

*Ключевые слова:* Нахиджеван, Арарат, армянский, Ной, Птолемей, Иосиф Флавий.



ՊԱՏՄՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ ԵՎ ՄՇԱԿՈՒՅԹ

*ՀԱՅԱԳԻՏԱԿԱՆ ՀԱՆԴԵՍ*

ИСТОРИЯ И КУЛЬТУРА

*АРМЕНОВЕДЧЕСКИЙ ЖУРНАЛ*

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Սրբագրումը՝ Մերի Հովհաննիսյանի  
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