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The socio-economic situation of Nakhijevan according to the Great Defter of Yerevan Vilayet of 1590

After the war between the Ottoman Empire and Safavid Iran at the end of the XVI century (1579-1590), the Ottoman Government, together with a number of territories, conquered the Caucasus. The victory in the war allowed The Sublime Porte to control the territories previously occupied by Safavid Iran by initiating extended tax registration processes. Traditionally, Constantinople regularly created the tax registers in the country, and according to different sources, the Ottoman authorities organized them throughout the Empire every 40 years periodically.

The Ottoman Government implemented the Great Defter of Yerevan Vilayet of 1590 (Defter-i Mufasssal-i Vilayet-i Revan), the administrative-political part of which was Nakhijevan. The Ottoman tax register of Nakhijevan of 1590 is an exceptional primary source for studying the names of villages, demographic picture, its ethnic composition as well as examination taxes collected from the taxpayers. It should be emphasized that we concentrated our attention on the study of socio-economic situation of Nakhijevan in the paper. The examination of taxes collected from taxpayers plays a crucial role to draw a more objective conclusion about the social-economic state of Nakhijevan administrative-political unit of 1590.

It is important to highlight the tax rates and understand their size in kilograms. This allows detect the potential of the social-economic situation in more precise form. In addition, the tax

names need a more thorough examination, because the Ottoman authorities took into account the traditions and characteristics of the region when registering the taxes. Apart of these, the data referring to the province will be compared with that of the other neighboring regions.