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Some issues according to the “Great book of Gurjistan’s Vilayet of 1574 year”

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ABSTRACT

The paper deals with the historical past of Southwest Georgia, which led to the overthrow of the Ottoman-occupied Georgian provinces and the establishment of an Ottoman socio-political system in the country. As it is known, from the first half of the XVI century the Ottomans invaded Southwest Georgia and created Ottoman sanjaks. Over the centuries, both the territory of Georgia and the names of the toponyms have been changed. The population was being displaced and their national and confessional structure or economic life was changed. Our study of the „Great Book of Gurjistan’s Vilayet of 1574“ is studied in detail in terms of administrative-territorial arrangement, and it deals with the distribution of agriculture, particularly the distribution of cereal crops, and the number of taxes by livas and Nahies. From the statistical point of view, the villages, ruined villages, grazing lands / dominion grazing lands, chiptliq, summer pastures, fortress, church, district and vineyard of the XVI century Gurjistan’s Vilayet livas and Nahies. Taxes on the major agricultural crops (wheat, barley, rye, millet, lucerne / hay, pea, chick-pea, lentils, flax) are being verified in Gurjistan’s Vilayet livas and Nahies.

Keywords: Liva, Nahie, Village, Ruined village, Seed-land, Cereal crops.

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Introduction

One the most important source of study is the „Great Book of Gurjistan’s Vilayet of 1574“ [1], a 16th-century document drawn up by the Turks for the occupied Georgian territories: „And Ottomans became reinforced by their own rule“[2].

In XVI century mentioned district turned out to be between two aggressors. As noted, „From the West, it was followed by the Ottomans, and from the South and South-east it was surrounded by Iran Khan. Weak neighbor was watched by both enemies to be swallowedThe book depicts a period when Southwest Georgia was part of the Ottoman Empire and the source of Ottoman state’s livelihood was robbery of conquered or its own people“[3].

In the Great book of 1574 Ottomans described occupied Georgian provinces by that time and called them „Gurjistan’s Vilayet“, after what both long and

short logs of population were created. One of these documents is „Great Book of Gurjistan Vilayet“ by S. Jikia, which is preceded by Kanun-Name of Gurjistan’s Vilayet [4]. This Kanun-Name is published by N. Shengelia [5].

„The Great Book of Gurjistan’s Vilayet of 1574“ includes very important materials regarding discussion of social-economic condition and culture, also historical geography and other issues of Southwest Georgia of XVI century.

Gurjistan’s Vilayet was located mainly in the upper basin of the river Mtkvari and covered territories of both modern and historical Georgia. Only small part of Vilayet covered some parts of riv. Oltistskali and rivers of its right basin – Bardusistskali, Banistskali. Administratively, it was included in the livas of Oltisi and Phanaki. The total area of Vilayet was 15204 km². Most part of this territory (8681 km²) nowadays is outside of modern Georgia [6].

Methods and initial data

In the Book of 1574 many unique references are reserved for the better representation of this region. For establishment of a political organization for Ottoman ownership violation of Georgian land ownership and transforming it into Ottoman style was needed [1].

Research book is done in traditional form for Ottoman Books. After village household titles in Nahies tax type and their quantity was listed. Capacity of each part, village and district was calculated. Ottomans were particularly cruel towards Christians. Christian population was obligated to pay such additional taxes, which weren't paid by Muslims. For example, Georgian population had to pay tax „Ispenci“ in amount of 25 Akhchis.

In the list of taxes we also find taxes on: wheat, barley, rye, shire, oil, vineyard, vegetable and fruit, lucerne and hay, hive, pigs, sheep, honey and desh-tiban, mill, dye-houses, etc.

We explored „The Great Book of Gurjistan's Vilayet of 1574“ in terms of administrative-territorial arrangement, after what we found out quantity of villages by levies, villages distribution by nahies and levies, distribution of villages and ruined villages by nahies and levies, sowing lands percentage

by levies, cultural distribution of grains and taxes amount by levies and nahies.

Main results

Research had been carried out in several steps:

- Creating database of „The Great Book of Gurjistan's Vilayet of 1574“.
- Listing the geographic objects (Classification of livas, Nahies, villages, ruined villages, seed lands, etc. Covered by Gurjistan's vilayet).
- Determining distribution and quantity of taxes of basic agricultural corps (wheat, barley, rye, millet, lucerne / hay, pea, chick-pea, lentil, flax) by Nahies and livas.
- Exploring and observing of these issues revealed that Gurjistan's Vilayet consisted of four livas in XVI century: Artanuji, Great Artanuji, Tortumi and Oltisi. Artanuji Liva covered Artanuji, Ishkhani, Taoskari and Khacheni; Great Artanuji Liva covered - Mzvare, Mishe I Tkiani, Phanaki, Phanaskerti, Kiamkhisi and Chrdili; Tortumi Liva - Tortumi, Kudrusuri, Phertegreki, Judrukhuri and Hudurjuri I Huldurjuri; Oltisi Liva covered - Anzavi, Bardizi, Gobi I Kavi, Masarsori, Mzvare and Chrdili Nahies.

Table. *Gurjistan's Vilayet (1574 year.) administrative-territorial arrangement*

Livas	Nahies	Villages	Ruined village	Seed-land	Grazing land II Dominion grazing land	Chiptliqi	Pasture	Fortress	Church	District	Vineyard
Artanuji	Artanuji	56	7	3	3					1	3
	Ishkhani	7									
	Taoskari	26									
	Khacheni	6		1							
	Total	95	7	4	3					1	3

Great Artaani	Mzvare	58	11	11				1	1		
	Mishe ႁ Tkiani	70	33	10							
	Phanaki	34	6	40							
	Phanaskerti	36	4	25	1						
	Kiamkhisi	13	3	14							
	Chrdili	34	3	6							
	Total	245	60	106	1			1	1		
Tortumi	Tortumi	1		3							
	Kudrusuri	1									
	Phertegreki	22		32		1					
	Judrukhuri	2		1				1			
	Hudurjuril	1									
	Total	27		36		1		1			
Oltisi	Anzavi	17	3	10				1			
	Bardizi	18	22	17							
	Gobi ႁ Kavi	16	13	10				1			
	Masarsori	8	5	4							
	Mzvare	23	4	13	1						
	Chrdili	19	8	14			2				
	Total	101	55	68	1		2	2			
Total		468	122	214	5	1	2	4	1	1	3

According to „The Great Book of Gurjistan’s Vilayet of 1574 year“ quantitatively most villages were confirmed in Great Artaani Liva (245 village), next in Oltisi and Artanuji livas (101, 95 villages), least – in Tortumi Liva (27 village) (Table, Fig. 1).

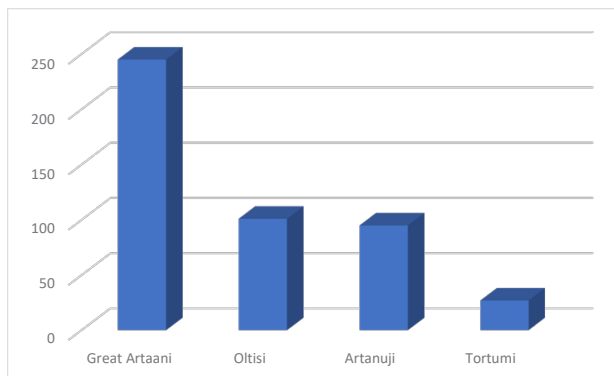


Fig 1. Villages quantity by livas

By the quantity of villages of Great Artaani Liva Mishe I Tkiani Nahie was on the first place (up to 70 %), next was Mzvare Nahie (up to 60 %), almost similar situation was in Phanaskerti (up to 40 %), in Phanaki and Chrdili Nahies (up to 40-40 %), the least quantity of villages was confirmed in Kiamkhisi Nahie (10 %). In Artanuji Liva villages by spreading more than 50 % was held by Artanuji Nahie, next Taoskari Nahie (more than 20 %), while there was slightest difference was between Ishkhani and Khacheni Nahies (more than 5-5 %). In Oltisi Liva Mzvare Nahie was on the first place (20 %), more than 10 % of villages were found in Chrdili, Bardizi, Anzavi and Gobi I Kavi Nahies, also more than 5 % in Masarsori Nahie. In Tortumi Liva we have most of indicators in Phertegreki Nahie (20 %), almost same situation was found in Judrukhuri, Tortumi, Kudrusuri and Hudurjuri I Huldrajuri Nahies (1 %) (Table, Fig. 2).

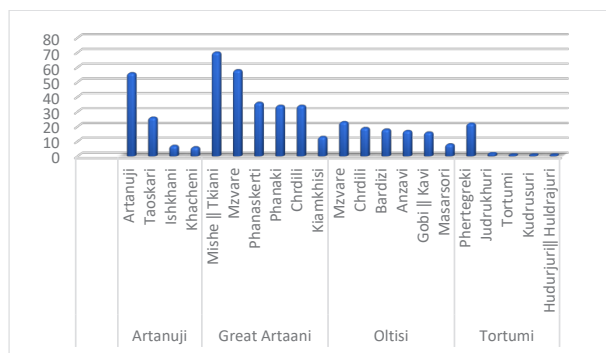


Fig 2. Distribution of villages by Nahies and livas

One of the objectives of our study was comparison of villages and ruined villages by their distribution and showing overall image by Nahies and livas. We have already discussed villages above. At this time we will focus on the ruined villages. We have most indicators in Miche Nahie if Great Artaani Liva, where quantity of ruined villages was up to 30 %; next in Bardizi Nahie of Oltisi Liva (20 %). In the Gobi I Kavi Nahies of this Liva quantity of ruined village was more than 10 %. Ruined villages were not found in Taoskari, Ichkhani and Khacheni Nahies of Artanuji Liva and Tortumi Liva (Table, Fig. 3).

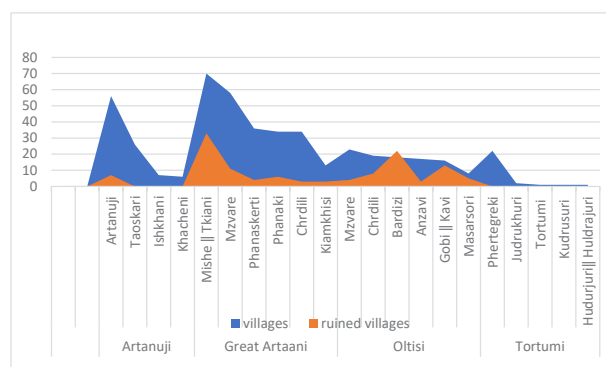


Fig 3. Distribution of villages and ruined villages by Nahies and livas

According to „Great Book of Gurjistan’s Vilayet of 1574 year“, most part of seed-lands are confirmed in Great Artaani Liva (49 %), next in Oltisi (32 %), seed-lands of Tortumi Liva was holding 17 %, and Artanuji Liva - 2 %. (Fig.4).

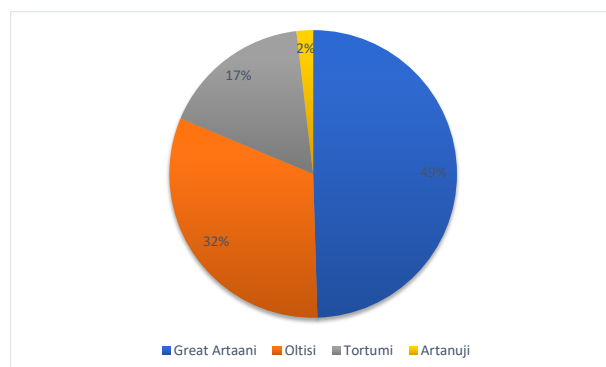


Fig 4. Percentage distribution of seed-lands by livas

According to „Great Book“ of study the The major agricultural crops in Gurjistan Vilayet were: wheat, barley, rye, millet, lucerne / hay, pea, chick-pea, lentil, flax. The highest rate of taxes is evidenced in Mzvare Nahie of Great Artaani Liva (rye - 225000 Akhcha), Miche I Tkiani Nahie (wheat - 150 000 Akhcha), Mzvare Nahie (barley – up to

100 000 Akhcha); the least – in Mzvare Nahie on pea and chick-pea. The greatest indicator in Artanuji Liva was found in Artanuji Nahie (wheat - up to 100 000 - Akhcha), the least for lucerne and hay. In Tortumi Liva most taxes were evidenced in Judrukhuri Nahie (rye - more than 50 000 - Akhcha), the least – for lucerne / hay, chick-pea, flax. The greatest indicator in Oltisi Liva was found in Mzvare Nahie (wheat - more than 50 000 - Akhcha), the least – for lucerne / hay, chick-pea. (Fig. 5).

Conclusion

As some observations of Great book of Gurjistan's Vilayet of 1574 year have shown, Gurjistan's Vilayet covered total of 468 villages, also 122 ruined villages (villages empty from population). Also named seed-land – 214, grazing land / dominion grazing land – 5, chiptliqi – 1, pasture – 2, fortress – 4, church – 1, District – 1, vineyard – 3.

By quantity of villages Great Artaani Liva was on the first place, on the last place – Tortumi Liva. Most of seed-lands were evidenced in Great Artaani

Liva. By the taxes for cereal crops the greatest indicator was seen in Mzvare Nahie of Great Artaani Liva.

It looks like that the vine was quite widespread in Gurjistan's Vilayet. From more than 1000 villages vineyard was named in 3 top tens, which may indicate small distribution of the vine at the first glance. Vineyards were very scattered on the whole territories of Vilayet. But vineyards were found in strongly dispersed Nahies (Artanuji, Great Artaani, Totroma, Oltisi) and several villages. This scattering is considered to be authentic proof that viticulture must be promoted and separate facts preserved by 1574 year should be considered, as relics of the once existing field [7].

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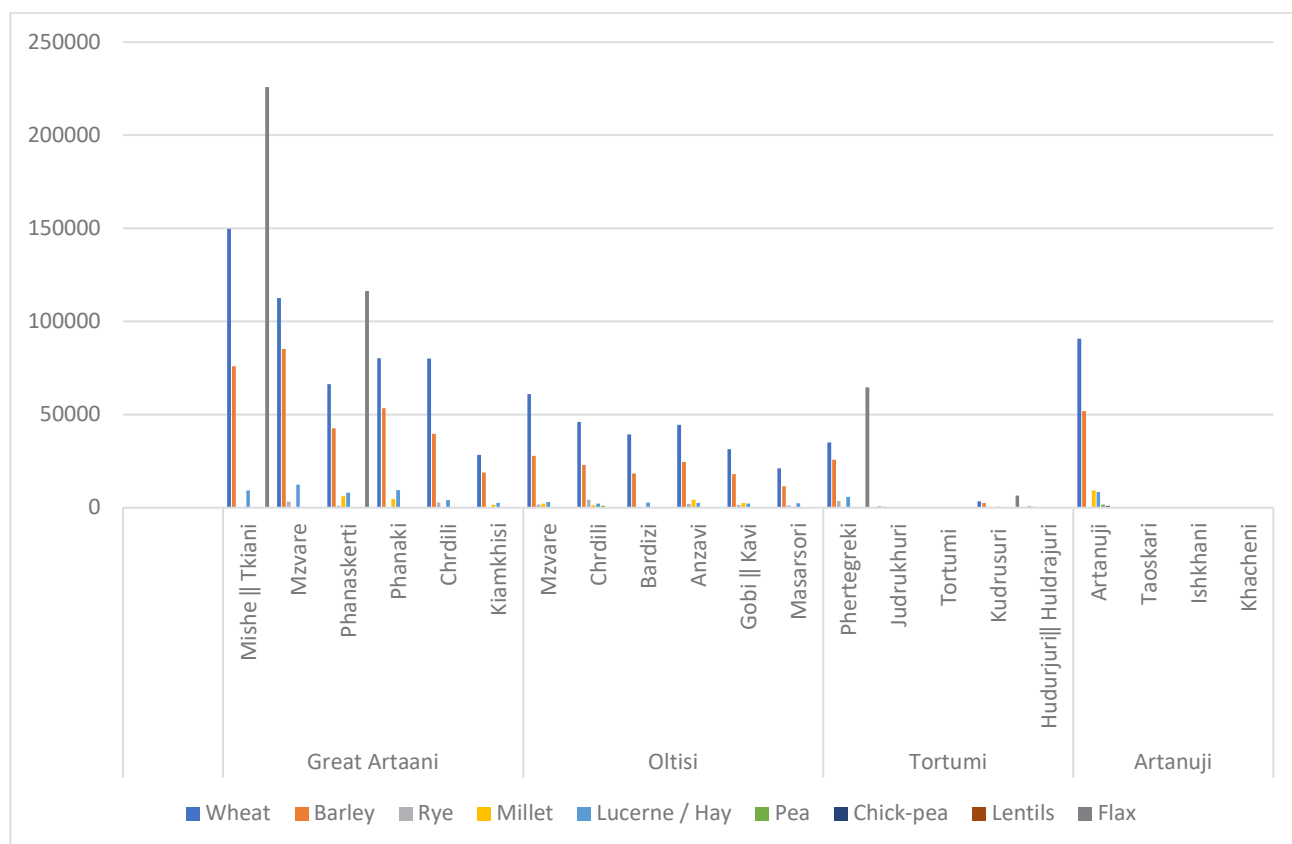


Fig 4. Distribution of cereal crops and taxes quantity by livas and Nahies

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