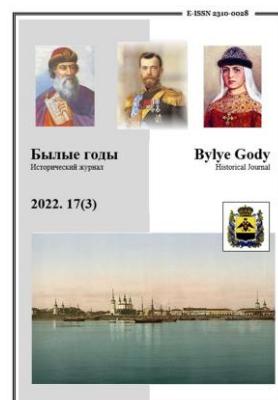


Copyright © 2022 by Cherkas Global University



Published in the USA
Bylye Gody
Has been issued since 2006.
E-ISSN: 2310-0028
2022. 17(3): 1073-1080
DOI: 10.13187/bg.2022.3.1073

Journal homepage:
<https://bg.cherkasgu.press>



The Place and Role of the Historical and Architectural Heritage of Russia in the Eastern Caucasus (XVIII – first half of the XIX centuries)

Abidat A. Gazieva ^{a,*}, Machach M. Vagabov ^b, Mustafa Ozturk ^c, Elena I. Lelina ^d

^a Dagestan Federal Research Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Russian Federation

^b Federal State Autonomous Educational Institution of Higher Education Moscow Polytechnic University, Moscow, Russian Federation

^c Akdeniz State University, Antalya, Turkey

^d St. Petersburg State University, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation

Abstract

This article makes an attempt to determine the historical and architectural heritage of the Eastern Caucasus, presented in the form of cordon sections of the Left Flank of the Caucasian Cordon Line. Historical and architectural structures include fortresses, fortifications, fortifications, posts, temples, churches, erected by the Russian administration for the purpose of military-political, cultural and everyday development of the region.

Having carried out an analytical analysis of the frontier zone in the geographical space of the Eastern Caucasus, we make an attempt to determine the historical and architectural heritage, which is an important component of the cultural heritage of the region.

Keywords: acculturation, frontier, Eastern Caucasus, fortresses, cities, temples, churches.

1. Introduction

The Caucasus, due to its strategic and geopolitical position, has been an arena of contradictions between major world powers for many centuries. One of the main geopolitical players in the region since the 16th century was the Russian Empire, which wanted to expand and secure the southern borders of the state.

The most optimal system for the entry and further involvement of the Eastern Caucasus in the all-Russian political, economic, administrative and cultural space of Russia was the construction of border fortifications in the south of the state. This practice already existed in the history of the Roman Empire, Austrian and others. The cordon sections, erected for the purpose of the military-political subordination of the region, eventually became sites for the development of interethnic and intercultural communication.

Each fortress, with adjacent fortifications and towers, contributed to the formation of the historical and architectural complex of the Caucasian frontier.

2. Materials and methodology

Primary information on this research topic was collected in the scientific archive of the Institute of Archeology and Ethnography of the DPhIC RAS (Russia, the Republic of Dagestan, the city of Makhachkala). The study also analyzed the documents stored in the funds of the Central State Archives, dedicated to the Caucasian War. Also, as a source base for the study, Acts were used, collected by the Caucasian Archaeographic Commission, in which bills and orders regarding the Caucasian policy of the Russian Empire in the Eastern Caucasus are presented.

* Corresponding author

E-mail addresses: gazieva.abidat@mail.ru (A.A. Gazieva), mustafaozturk@akseniz.edu.tr (M. Ozturk), lelinae@mail.ru (E.I. Lelina)

In our study, a distinction is made between the concepts of "colonization" and "border" as structurally alternating, but not synonymous. In our understanding, colonization is a process, in turn, a border is an end result that may not occur during the historical process of colonization. We regard the creation of border fortifications in the Caucasus as the creation of a border zone, which has shaped the historical and geographical environment of the Eastern Caucasus.

Theoretical terms, we used the theory of the Great Frontier, V.P. Webb ([Webb, 1964](#)), who finalized the «Turner boundaries» (F.J. Turner ([Turner, 2009](#)) – founder of the theory of boundaries) a broader understanding and expanded the geography of its application. In general, the frontier theory, in our understanding, is a historical and geographical landscape that includes all components (peoples, natural and geographical environment, architecture prevailing in a given area, traditions, economic models).

At the heart of the theoretical and methodological basis of scientific research, we have used the following general historical principles: historicism and objectivity. The complex application of general historical research methods - historical-comparative, historical-situational, made it possible to systematically study historical facts in the context of historical events of the military-political subordination of the region in the specified period.

Using this approach allows you to give a historical assessment of phenomena, processes and events, and also allows you to represent a historical event at different levels of research, using such scientific categories as «place», «role», «meaning», «experience».

At the heart of the methods of studying this topic, we used two approaches – systemic and multidisciplinary. The versatility of the phenomenon of fortifications as an object of study suggests its multidisciplinary nature, the range of issues is extremely large: from strategies, goals, processes of acculturation and communication, considering cordon fortresses as the main elements of historical memory.

3. Discussion and results

Historical and architectural base of the Caucasian frontier in the 18th – 19th centuries.

In the course of the centuries-old relations of the peoples of the Eastern Caucasus with the Russian state, various methods of developing these territories were tested, but the most successful, within the framework of historical realities, turned out to be the concept of building a chain of fortifications, by means of which, in parallel, there was a process of military-political subordination of the region with elements of civil colonization, which made it possible to involve the highlanders in the socio-economic, cultural and legal life of the Russian Empire.

For the first time, the idea of creating such fortifications was implemented by P. Apraksin, who at the beginning of the 19th century acted as the acting governor of Kazan and Astrakhan. In 1711–1712, he proposed a plan for the construction of defensive structures along the left bank of the Terek River. This is how the first cordon line was formed ([Piotrovskiy, 1988: 409](#)). The lower reaches of the Terek can be considered the first platform for establishing contacts between the Caucasian peoples by the Russian state. For a short period of the 20s of the 18th century, most of the rulers of Dagestan accepted Russian citizenship ([Gasanov, 1986: 118](#)).

The next historical stage of development came during the Persian campaign of Peter the Great. According to the project of Peter I, in 1722 in the lands of the shamkhal estate of Tarkovsky (67 km from the mouth of the Agrokhyan Bay, where the Sulak river was divided into two branches), the fortress of the Holy Cross was laid. The military-strategic position of this point was very favorable. On the one hand, it made it possible to observe the situation in Dagestan, on the other hand, it «covered the rear and served as a convenient base for future offensive operations» ([Butkov, 1869: 62](#)).

With the construction of the fortress, the cordon was moved to the south, making new lands and peoples dependent on the empire. From the moment the first fortifications and fortresses appeared in the Eastern Kavaz, the cordon Line was gradually transferred to the mountains, the fortresses changed their appearance, adjusting to the peculiarities of the natural and geographical environment. Not a long-term period of the existence of the fortress of the Holy Cross, nevertheless, it was an experience of the founding and development of cordon fortifications in the Caucasus. Due to the fact that the geopolitical situation in the Caucasus became more complicated, the relations between long-standing rivals and the main political players for leadership in the Caucasus: Russia, Iran, Turkey, were heating up.

As a result of political negotiations between Russia and Iran, the Treaty of Ganja was concluded in 1735, which resulted in the destruction of the fortress of the Holy Cross and the transfer of the cordon to the Terek. Russia began to actively engage in the development of the Terek River region.

The construction of the fortifications began in 1735–1739 the construction of the Kizlyar fortress, which became the center of Russian possessions in the Caucasus, and a number of fortifications along the Terek, which eventually made up the Kizlyar section of the Terek Line.

Historians associate the beginning of construction with 1735, and in subsequent years it was completed and rebuilt. The author of the project of the fortress in 1744 was the engineer-general Lyuberas ([Aganesova, 2007: 55](#)). The fortress looked like a regular pentagon, with five bastions, ravelins, which were additional protection. The fortress was built in accordance with all the rules for the construction of

fortifications. Inside the fortress there were teams of military garrisons, shops, a residential part – a prison, a church, an infirmary.

The city of Kizlyar settled east of the fortress, between the left bank of the Terek and the right bank of the Kizlyarka river. It consisted of eight multi-lingual quarters, separated from each other by earthen ramparts. The Kizlyar section of the Terskaya cordon Line began from the village of Chervlennaya and went to the Caspian Sea. Its construction dates back to the early-first half of the 18th century. It is known that after the Russian-Turkish war of 1787–1791 according to A.V. Suvorov and G.A. Potemkin, it was decided to strengthen the line on which by that time 10 fortresses were located at the Cossack villages ([Potto, 1887: 92](#)).

In 1803, the construction of the Sunzhenskaya Line began. The plan for its construction was developed by Lieutenant General P. Tsitsianov, who, during its creation, was guided by the need to subordinate and control the foothill regions of the North-Eastern Caucasus. Under his leadership, a plan-project of the Fortress Line from Yekaterinodar to Vladikavkaz was drawn up. The completed line was supposed to consist of 11 redoubts located in the most strategically important places. P.D. Tsitsianov proposed «to occupy the Cossack settlements line from Yekaterinograd to Vladikavkaz and from Vladikavkaz along the Sunzha River, including the vast expanse of the Sunzha foothills» ([Omel'chenko, 1991: 110-111](#)).

He brought to life the project for the development of the territory along the Sunzha River, A.P. Ermolov. He said that «It is necessary to occupy the Sunzha River and build fortresses along its course ... Settlements along the Line will remain safe behind the chain of fortresses ... strengthening gradually and transferring troops from the Line, in two years the entire course of the Sunzha will be in our hands and, giving peace to the Line, we will not inhabit the mountains by captive subjects of Your Imperial Majesty and endure the insolent actions of the Chechens and, without shedding their blood, will force us to change the predatory way of life for our own benefit» ([AKAK, 1875: 498-499](#)). The general's idea, ultimately, boiled down to the fact that the denser the fortresses, the guard posts will be located among themselves, the higher will be the possibility of ensuring calm and protecting the borders.

A.P. Ermolov started from the idea «Not a step to the mountains! I will build redoubts and good dugouts. I will collect the grain sown by them (the mountaineers of the Eastern Caucasus) and will not allow them to graze cattle on the plane for the whole winter» ([Pis'mo A.P. Yermolova..., 1890](#)).

Alexey Ermolov, addressing the emperor, tried to convince him: «Sooner or later, Emperor, it is necessary to start this ... but now peace and tranquility are favorable everywhere. The Caucasian line requires protection, and I wish that during your reign it will take advantage of peace and security» ([Potto](#)). The sovereign gave the go-ahead for transformation and construction activities.

On May 20, 1818, Ermolov submitted a report «On ways to strengthen the left flank of the Caucasian line with a brief description of the population» ([Agiyeva](#)), in which he outlined a plan for the construction of the Sunzhenskaya line. The project, which included the creation of the Sunzhenskaya line proper and the founding of the Cossack villages on the territories thus liberated, was approved by the emperor. A characteristic feature of the Yermolov period is that it was he who began to apply in parallel the methods of military-political subordination with civil colonization, the construction of Cossack villages.

On June 10, the Groznaya fortress was laid, which was destined to become the main support of the Russian forces in the North-Eastern Caucasus ([Klychnikov, 1998: 49](#)).

At the same time, work was underway to build the Vnezapnaya fortress, which, together with Grozny, was the backbone of the Line. To connect the fortress with the old Terskoy line, a small redoubt was erected at the Staro-Yurtovsky aul. Subsequently, the cordon line was even more fortified and along the Sunzha, starting from Groznaya to Vladikavkaz, a number of fortifications were built. With the advent of the Sunzhenskaya Line, all fortresses and new cordon Lines along the Terek began to be called the Left Flank. Later, fortifications were built in 1820 Amir-Adzhi-Yurt, which covered the crossing of the Terek, and Umakhan-Yurt, which ensured the crossing of the Sunzha, on the way between Vynezhnaya and Grozny, as if completing and building the fortifications into a clear chain of fortifications that deprived the non-peaceful Highlanders have loopholes for attacking troops.

With the construction of the Fortress Vysenka in the Kumyk Line system, the leadership made a decision to cut down the forest along the Sunzha and to build two new fortifications on the cleared glades: the Ust-Martan redoubt in 1820 and the Evil Trench, at the same time as work towards the Sunzhenskaya line.

On May 3, 1820, at the confluence of the Martana River with the Sunzha, the Ust-Martan redoubt was laid. In the summer, between the Shelkozavodskaya and Shchedrinskaya stanitsa (between the Sunzhenskaya Line and the Kizlyar section of the Terek Line), the Amir-Adzhi-Yurt fortification was set up, which covered the crossing of the Terek. The fortification will be rebuilt in 1825, after the capture of the highlanders. To ensure the crossing of Sunzha, the Umakhan-Yurt fortification is being built on the way between Vnezapnaya and Groznaya, and near the Aksai village, the Gerzel-Aul fortification for 200 people, which stood in the way of communication with the Grozny fortress. In 1825 the Gerzel-Aul fortification was moved to Tash-Kichu. The territory along the banks of the Sunzha was completely built up by the mid-30s of the XIX century.

Almost parallel to the construction of the Sunzhenskaya Line, work was underway to build the Sulak cordon. Until 1845, the Sulak line did not have large fortifications, its protection was entrusted to a number of small fortifications. This was due to the fact that the once existing village of Chir-Yurt was ravaged in 1831

by the troops of the tsarist army, and was not rebuilt. The entire course of Sulak was guarded by several fortifications and watchtowers built at different times. The Line began with the Eugene fortification built in 1841 for the needs of the campaign against the Salavans, as the southernmost on the Line.

In 1841 E.A. Golovin laid the Evgenievsky fortification on the Sulak River, named after the founder. It was erected after the conquest of the Chirkei aul, to anchor in the new territory. The fortification had a citadel, towers across the Sulak River, a bridge, and a number of settlements near the fortress.

The northernmost point of the Kordon was the Kazi-Yurt fortification. It did not have structures that were significant for defense, and was used as a cover for the road to Kizlyar, but with the advent of the Chir-Yurt fortification, it lost its significance and fell into disrepair. Line in the 40s. was divided into two sections: «the Sulak mountain current to the Khudombashevskaya tower was under the jurisdiction of the commandant of the Evgeniy fortress, and the space from Khudombash to Kazi-Yurt inclusive was subordinate to the commander of the Nizhny Novgorod dragoon regiment, with whose title was associated the title and chief of the Sulak lichen» (From travel notes. Caucasus).

The fortifications on the Line also included the Miatlinskaya tower and the Kaziyurtovskaya fortification. The construction of the Line began after the Dargin operation, which was unsuccessful for the Russian troops, when the Caucasian administration realized for itself the rule, the founder of which was still Field Marshal Prince Vorontsov, which boiled down to the idea that «it is impossible to conquer mountains without first conquering the planes and foothills». (From travel notes) The entire territory of the Line was flat, steppe terrain. The line extended from the Sulak River and ended with the forts of the Andean ridge. The main function of the erection of this Line was to divide and prevent clashes between Chechens and residents of the Tarkovsky shamkhal estate. The Chir-Yurt fortress became a barrier and defense for the lands of Shamkhal. To the south of Chir-Yurt, the Miatlinskaya watch tower was built, which, due to the small garrison, wore a signal hacker rather than a defensive one. The Chir-Yurt fortress was the front edge, the forefront of shamkhalism.

Despite the small command structure and relatively short length, in comparison with other Lines, the function of the Sulak Line was extremely great, it acted as a connecting link in the system of fortresses of the left wing of the Caucasian Line.

The construction of the Advanced Kumyk Line was based on the Vnezapnaya fortress, founded in 1819 on the Aktash river near the settlement of Endirey. This fortress with Grozny, in the future, will be considered one of the most fortified and powerful military-defensive fortifications of the Caucasian Line. Its defensive priority was that it was located on the border of the Chechen and Dagestan possessions, controlling movement in both directions. The next fortress of the Kumyk cordon was Tashgechiv the spring of 1820, to cover the Lower Terek on the Kumyk plane on the site of the former aul of Isti-su, which had been moved to another place, under the leadership of Colonel Verkhovsky, a 300-man stronghold was erected ([Klychnikov, 1998: 49](#)).

The main task of the fortification was to protect the northern lands of Dagestan from raids. Due to the harsh climatic conditions and the resulting outbreaks of epidemics, the fortification was disbanded.

For greater cover of the Lower Terek, Ermolov laid two more small fortifications on the Kumyk plane: on the site of the former aul of Isti-Su – the Permanent Camp, which provided the way to Kizlyar, and Gerzel-Aul, near Aksai itself, which stood on the way communication with Groznaya.

In addition, a line of fortifications was erected from the Sunzhenskaya Line in the direction of Shamkhalstvo Tarkovsky and the Kumyk front line was fully equipped. The main task of the Kumyk Line was to ensure the safety of the Lower Terek from the raids of the Chechens, especially after the construction of the Grozny fortress, which defended the approaches to the Upper Terek. In order to prevent the ruin of the lands of the Lower Terek, it was decided to build a system of fortresses and fortifications on the Kumyk plane.

The responsibility for the construction of a fortress serving as the fundamental Kumyk Line was entrusted to N.V. Grekov. On the instructions of A.P. Ermolov, he was supposed to carry out an intelligence operation from the Kumyk plane to the lands of the Chechens, cut openings in the forests and bring the recalcitrant auls to obedience.

Energetic activity of N.V. Grekova soon allowed government troops to seize the Khankala Gorge. The population was severely punished for disobedience and «the inhabitants were imposed a new tax – the delivery of logs for fortifications» ([Murdalov](#)).

In April 1821 Velyaminov begins construction of the Otradnaya fortress near Tarki ([Klychnikov, 1998: 53](#)), which will later be renamed Burnaya. The essence of the construction of this fortress was that in this way the complete subordination of the feudal possession - shamkhalism of Tarkovsky was formalized, and the construction of the Left Wing of the Caucasian Line was completed.

The completion of the construction of the left wing of the line indicated that the region was placed under complete economic and political dependence on Russia. The line of confrontation moved from the Terek to Sunzha made it possible to optimize the costs of maintaining the fortresses, to liquidate the Shelkozavodskaya fortress in 1825, which was also washed away by frequent spills ([Klychnikov, 1998: 104](#)).

In 1832, the commander of the Russian troops in Northern Dagestan, Lieutenant Colonel Franz Karlovich Kluki-von-Klugenau laid the foundation of the Temir-Khan-Shura fortress. Since the strategic importance of the fortress was great, the construction proceeded at a rapid pace, after 5 months it began to

function in working order. To increase the defensive capabilities, in 1836 a two-story watchtower was built near the Cavalier Battery, and a battery of cannons was installed over the entire area of the rock. In the 40s, 4 more towers were erected, which were connected by walls. The fortification became more impressive in size, had 4 exits.

During the period of fierce hostilities in Dagestan and Chechnya, all the disadvantages of the structure and location of the Line began to appear. In the 40s, there was a need for reforming activities at the Kumyk Line. The transformations were associated with the activities of M.S. Vorontsov. He realized that in the region there was a need to strengthen and even partially relocate some of the fortifications of the Lines. For him, as for the military who replaced him in the Caucasus, the goals and objectives of the Kumyk and Sunzha Lines were identical, which is why it would be necessary to build up and strengthen the distance between them as much as possible.

By order of M.S. Vorontsov, at the place of the patrol on the banks of the Yaryksuv River, the construction of a large fortress Khasavkala began. Since the area was wooded, work was initially carried out on the laying of clearings and logging for construction needs. From its very foundation, the fortress began to perform not only a defensive function, but also the function of an economic center.

To maintain peace and order on the Kumyk plane, fortifications, pontoon bridges near Nizhniy Chiryurt and Bavtogai, and watch towers from Khasavyurt to Chiryurt were in constant combat readiness. The Sudden Fortress is losing its strategic superiority, as the theater of operations changes its directional vector.

The fortification system of the Kumyk Line was an important component of the fortification system in the Eastern Caucasus. The functions of the Kumyk, Sulak and Sunzhenskaya Lines were the same, so the administration took measures to create communication lines, fortified distances and towers between the main fortifications of fortification systems.

Since the 30s of the XIX century, the situation in southern Dagestan began to heat up as a result of the constant raids of the mountaineers in Kakheti and Dzhary. It was decided to build a number of fortresses and fortifications that made up the Lezgi Cordon Line. The idea of creating and the plan for the geographical justification of the construction belonged to Field Marshal Prince I.F. Paskevich.

According to his plan, 12 posts were built, 7 of which covered the Kakhetian distance, and 5 the Lezgin one. Fortifications were built at the exit of the mountains, where there were loopholes for attack. The posts were located near the villages: «Mukhakh, Dzhary, Katekhi, Belokany, on the tracts of Lagodekhi, Karatuban, Bezhanyan and near the villages of Kvareli, Shildy, Napareul, Pshavel and Matany» ([Tri goda..., 1884](#)).

The administration of the Line, realizing the need to move some fortifications and build new ones, after conducting intelligence activities, led by Major General L.Ya. Sevarsemidze, petitioned the leadership about the need for radical reforms at the cordon. As a result of the reconnaissance, a decision was made to build a fortification on a hill near the Akvan mountain, to exercise control over the neighboring gorges and protect Kakheti.

The result of the restructuring of the Line was that many fortifications were abolished and new ones appeared in connection with the emerging strategic need. The line was also presented in the form of a division into three distances: Bezhanyan, Belokanskaya, Zagatala.

In the period 40-50-ies the line continued to be built up, and the existing fortifications were improved, either in terms of weapons, or in matters of expanding fortifications. During this period, the largest and most strategically important structures on the Line were the Zakatala fortress and the Belokana fortification.

In 1846, the Line was divided into two sections and was of the following form: 1) the right flank, enclosing the posts of the Sheki district and the Belokan district, with fortifications: the city of Nukhi, in the village. Kakh, the fortress of the new Zagatal and the Bekan fort (that is, from the Ukrainian Lagodekh to the city of Nukha); 2) the left flank, embracing the posts of the Karelian section and fortifications: Lagodekhi, Karatuban, Bezhanyany, Kvareli, Natlis-Mtsemeli, and since 1847 – the Kodori fortification. Control of the right flank was entrusted to the Belkan district commander, and the left – to the commander of the Georgian line number 16 battalion, located in the Kvareli fortification ([Volkonskiy, 1885](#)).

The reconstruction of the Line was associated with the coming to power in the region of Prince M.S. Vorontsov. There is a transformation of the functional tasks assigned to the Lezgin Line.

M. Vorontsov realized that the Line has not only strategic importance, but also geopolitical one. Based on the awareness of this fact, road construction begins. A military Akhtyn road was built – from the town of Nukha along the Shinsky gorge to the fortification of Akty.

At the same time, a road was being built from Kakheti to Mount Kodor, with further construction of fortifications on the mountain. The old posts and fortifications, which were in a dilapidated state, were demolished, some were built according to a new plan, and those that had lost their strategic importance and were completely moved to more convenient places. In order to increase the defense capability of the Line, a number of decisions were made: «to put up a tower between Zagatala and Belokan, ... to relocate the aul near Bezhenyany, where the Kapuchinians settled, ... to cut through glades in several places, ... to establish a guard post between the fortress of Zakatala and the Muganin ferry» ([TsGARD. F. 133. Op. 4. D. 13. L. 5](#)). M. Vorontsov's plan, in its end, boiled down to the fact that over time it was necessary to move the Lezgi Line higher, to the mountains, in order to better control the situation. The implementation of this plan began with the construction of the Kodori fortification. A number of towers and fortresses were built in front of the

location of Kakheti «at the foot of the main Caucasian ridge, partly on the very ridge of the mountains, in the space from Mskhalt Mountain and Ugeltekhili to Mount Sairmo and the Stora River» ([Baratov, 1876](#)).

In the spring of 1820, to cover the Lower Terek on the Kumyk Plane on the site of the former aul of Isti-su, which was moved to another place, under the leadership of Colonel Verkhovsky, a 300-man stronghold was erected ([Klychnikov, 1998: 98](#)). The main task of the fortification was to protect the northern lands of Dagestan from raids. Due to the harsh climatic conditions and the resulting outbreaks of epidemics, the fortification was disbanded.

For greater cover of the Lower Terek, Ermolov laid two more small fortifications on the Kumyk plane: on the site of the former aul of Isti-Su – the Permanent Camp, which provided the way to Kizlyar, and Gerzel-Aul, near Aksai itself, which stood on the way communication with Groznaya.

According to the statement V.A. Potto «A fortification is a stone thrown in a field: rain and wind will blow it away; the village is a plant that digs into the ground with its roots and gradually covers and covers the entire field» ([Klychnikov, 1998: 98](#)).

The fortresses and the adjacent defensive structures were a place where, in parallel with the war, peaceful life was in full swing, in all its manifestations (trade was actively conducted, which contributed to the emergence of elements of the material culture of central Russia among the mountaineers, marriages were concluded, and therefore there was a confusion of mentality, etc.) The arrangement of the villages and the conduct of everyday life proceeded in parallel with the hostilities, this happened until the middle of the 19th century.

Religious buildings of the Russian Orthodox Church as a historical and cultural phenomenon of the Caucasian frontier

From the moment of the gradual development of the territory of the Eastern Caucasus by the Russian Empire, the landscape-historical phenomenon of the Caucasian frontier arose. A process of cultural mutual influence took place on the Caucasian frontier. Since the contact of different civilizations on the Caucasian frontier, the Russian administration has changed the vector of Caucasian politics from military-political subordination to civil colonization, which, by means of acculturation – everyday, material, spiritual culture introduced the highlanders into the Russian economic, political, legal, cultural space, where the key role was played by cordon Lines and fortresses.

From the day of its foundation, the city of Kizlyar was called to become the religious center of Russia in the Caucasus. The city of Kizlyar was the leading edge of the spread of Orthodoxy in the Eastern Caucasus. In Kizlyar, at the beginning of the 19th century, Orthodox religious buildings were represented by the following buildings: the Cathedral in the Fortress, the Exaltation of the Cross for a man's monastery, the Georgian Church in the name of the Life-Giving Source, Stanichnaya and Cemetery «Nikola». The first two of them are stone. In the Georgian Church, the service is performed in the Slavic language, and the Gospel is read in Georgian ([Shidlovskij](#)).

In 1736, Archimandrite Daniel founded the Exaltation of the Cross Monastery. Initially, it functioned as a men's monastery. In addition to the monastery, the following religious institutions functioned in the city. Back in 1748, a special commission for baptism was created in Kizlyar. According to some sources, in 1798, 11 thousand Karabakh meliks adopted a new religion, and many of them moved to Kizlyar ([Gadzhiev, 2006: 46](#)). Also in the city there was a spiritual board that oversaw all religious issues in the Kizlyar region. By the 30s of the XIX century, in connection with the devastation of the city, all its offices and institutions were in a difficult financial situation, and the Kizlyar spiritual government was no exception ([Ocherki istorii..., 2002: 176-177](#)).

The monastery was financed from the means of the Diocese, and also had its own subsidiary farm – numerous vineyards were planted at the monastery, which brought income to the monastery. In addition, the monastery owned 2500 thousand dessiatines of arable land, 4 shops, which were rented out and a dacha.

In the 30-s in the 19th century, the monastery fell into decay due to difficult financial problems and the devastation of the city of Gazi-Magomed in June 1831. The main religious Orthodox building in the city was the Kazan Cathedral cross-domed church, built of red brick in the Old Byzantine style, which got its name in honor of the Kazan Icon of the Mother of God. Its erection is connected with the foundation of the fortress and was carried out in parallel.

In the subsequent period, in the 20-s XIX century, when the idea of civil colonization of territories came to replace the tactics of military subordination of the region, the idea of cultural contacts, integration, socio-economic and cultural communication came to the fore.

It was during this period that the increase in the number of churches on the Line, both civil and military, began. This was followed by the Decree of the ruling Senate of October 28, 1835 «On permission to continue to build wooden churches everywhere» ([PSZRI](#)).

The control system of religious life in the Caucasus was presented as follows. Regimental churches, Cossack units, military fortifications and stanitsa churches on the territory of the Caucasian Territory were under the jurisdiction of the military department.

In addition to Kizlyar, where the construction of the church and the temple proceeded in parallel with the foundation of the city, at the beginning of the 19th century, religious buildings were erected in all large fortifications of the Left Wing of the Caucasian Line. There was a camp church in Grozny ([Levyj flang...](#)).

In Khasav-Yurt, in the second quarter of the 19th century, a forstadt and a new regimental headquarters were built. The sources say that «on the suburb there is a church and many pretty houses and shops» ([Ol'shevskij](#)).

There was a military church in the fortification in honor of the Venerable Martyr Andrew of Crete ([Sergeev, 2012: 67](#)).

In Temir-Khan-Shur, a chapel was erected in memory of Azarov's squadron, which was hacked to death by the highlanders in the lowlands near the village of Erpeli ([Gadzhiev, 2006: 107](#)).

By the 50s of the XIX century, the Temir-Khan-Shura fortress became the administrative center of Dagestan and it became necessary to erect religious Orthodox buildings in it. By order of the regional authorities, the construction of a temple begins, a large center of Orthodoxy «worthy of the name of the Russian» ([Dagestanskij sbornik, 1904: 162](#)). The temple was not the first Orthodox religious building in the fortified city. In the city functioned the Church of Our Lady of Joy of All Who Sorrow at the 16th Line Battalion ([Sergeev, 2011: 49](#)), founded in 1843.

The new temple was laid in 1854 on the square, in the ancient Georgian style, according to the project of the engineer-lieutenant colonel von Miller and according to the facade drawings of Prince G.G. Gagarin. The interior decoration of the temple was magnificent, there was a carved iconostasis made by «the lower ranks of the Samur regiment» ([Sergeev, 2011: 50](#)).

In 1846, at the fortified headquarters of the Nizhny Novgorod dragoon regiment at Chir-Yurt ([Sergeev, 2012: 67](#)) the «stone church» was built ([Kapkov, 2008: 82](#)). Later, in 1879, another church was built in Chir-Yurt at the expense of officers and lower ranks of the 82nd Infantry Dagestan His Imperial Highness Grand Duke Nikolai Mikhailovich Regiment ([Citovich, 1913: 444-445](#)).

Religious architectural structures played a significant role not only in the spread of Orthodoxy in the Eastern Caucasus, but also contributed to the formation of a special cultural and historical space, where tolerant, good-neighborly relations prevailed, elements of the material and spiritual culture of the East and Europe harmoniously existed.

4. Conclusion

The importance of cordon Lines as an important factor in the formation of the historical and architectural landscape of the Eastern Caucasus is great. They contributed to the formation of a special type of frontier identity, which was formed as a result of interethnic dialogue, communication within the multi-confessional environment. Fortresses and adjacent buildings not only shaped the natural and geographical environment, but also became sites for the formation of a special type of culture and cultural relationships.

The Cordon Lines, which ran through the territory of the Eastern Caucasus, were repeatedly rebuilt as a result of geopolitical rearrangements and the mobility of military operations, covering all new territories in their cultural and architectural advance.

These fortress lines, over the centuries, are important links in the cultural development of the region, cultural heritage, becoming the basic centers of cultural and historical tourism.

5. Acknowledgements

This paper was carried out within the framework of the project "The Eastern Caucasus as part of the Russian Empire: the experience of integration and modernization": FMSW-2022-0019.

References

- [Aganessova, Suzdal'tseva, 2017](#) – Aganessova, D.V., *Suzdal'tseva, I.A.* (2007). Armenian communities of Dagestan in the 18th-19th centuries [Armyanskiye obshchiny Dagestana v XVIII-XIX vv.]. Makhachkala. P. 244. [in Russian]
- [Agiyeva](#) – Agiyeva, L.T. K voprosu o Sunzhenskoy liniij] [On the question of the Sunzhenskaya line]. Chast' I. [Electronic resource]. URL: ghalghay.com (date of access: 11.01.2020). [in Russian]
- [AKAK, 1875](#) - Akty, sobrannye Kavkazskoj arheograficheskoy komissiej [Acts collected by the Caucasian Archaeographic Commission]. Tiflis, 1875. T. VI. P. 2. P. 950. [in Russian]
- [Baratov, 1876](#) – Baratov, N.N. (1876). Opisaniye nashestviya skopishch Shamilya na Kakhetiyu v 1854 godu [Description of the invasion of Shamil's flocks to Kakheti in 1854]. *Kavkazskii sbornik*. Vol. 1. 1876. Vostochnaya Literatura. Srednevekovye istoricheskie istochniki vostoka i zapada. [Electronic resource]. URL: http://www.vostlit.info/Texts/Dokumenty/Kavkaz/XIX/1840-1860/Baratov_N_N/text1.htm (date of access: 12.11.2020).
- [Butkov, 1869](#) – Butkov, P.G. (1869). Materialy dlya novoy istorii Kavkaza s 1722 po 1803 [Materials for the modern history of the Caucasus from 1722 to 1803]. SPb., 1869. Part 2. P. 62. [in Russian]
- [Dagestanskij sbornik, 1904](#) – Dagestanskij sbornik [Dagestan collection]. Issue II. Compiled by E.I. Kozubsky, full member-secretary of the committee. Temir-Khan-Shura: "Russian printing house" V.M. Sorokin, 1904. P. 551. [in Russian]
- [Gadzhiev, 2006](#) – Gadzhiev, B.I. (2006). Tsarskie i Shamilevskie kreposti v Dagestane [Tsar and Shamilev fortresses in Dagestan]. Epoch. Moscow. 330 p. [in Russian]

- Gasanov, 1986** – Gasanov, M.R. (1986). U istokov bratstva [At the origins of the brotherhood]. Makhachkala. [in Russian]
- Kapkov, 2008** – Kapkov, K.G. (2008). Pamyatnaya kniga rossijskogo voennogo i morskogo duhovenstva XIX – nachalo XX vekov [Commemorative book of the Russian military and naval clergy of the XIX – early XX centuries]. M.: Informatsionnyi tsentr «Khronika», 136 p. [in Russian]
- Klychnikov, 1998** – Klychnikov, Yu.Yu. (1998). Deyatel'nost' A.P. Yermolova na Severnom Kavkaze 1816-1827 gg. [A.P. Ermolov in the North Caucasus 1816–1827]. Dissert, k.i.n. Armavir. [in Russian]
- Levyj flang...** – Levyj flang Kavkazskoj linii v 1848 godu [The left flank of the Caucasian line in 1848]. *Kavkazskii sbornik*. Vol. 10. 1886. [Electronic resource]. URL: http://www.vostlit.info/Texts/Dokumenty/Kavkaz/XIX/1840-1860/Lev_flang_linii_1848/text5.htm (date of access: 15.04.2021). [in Russian]
- Murdalov** – Murdalov, M.M. Chechnya i Kavkaz: etyudy, zametki iz proshlogo [Chechnya and the Caucasus: sketches, notes from the past]. [Electronic resource]. URL: <https://mybook.ru/author/muslim-murdalov-2/chechnya-ikavkaz-etyudy-zametki-izproshlogo/read/?page=1> (date of access: 10.10.2020). [in Russian]
- Ocherki istorii..., 2002** – Ocherki istorii Astrahanskoy eparhii za 400 let eyo sushchestvovaniya: v 2 t. : Ocherki istorii Astrahanskoy eparhii s 1902 po 2002 gg. [Essays on the history of the Astrakhan diocese for 400 years of its existence: in 2 volumes: Essays on the history of the Astrakhan diocese from 1902 to 2002]. Under total. ed. Jonah, Archibishop Astr. and Enotaevs. Rostov-on-Don.: Folio, 2002. T. 2. 561 p. [in Russian]
- Ol'shevskij** – Ol'shevskij, M. Caucasus from 1841 to 1866. [Kavkaz s 1841 po 1866 g.]. [Electronic resource]. URL: <http://www.vostlit.info/Texts/Dokumenty/Kavkaz/XIX/1840-1860/Olsevskij/frametext5.htm> (date of access: 10.03.2021). [in Russian]
- Omel'chenko, 1991** – Omel'chenko, I.L. (1991). Terek Cossacks. [Terskoye kazachestvo]. Vladikavkaz. [in Russian]
- Piotrovskiy, 1988** – Piotrovskiy, B.B. (1988). Iстория народов Северного Кавказа с древнейших времен до конца XVIII в. [The history of the peoples of the North Caucasus from ancient times to the end of the 18th century]. M. [in Russian]
- Pis'mo A.P. Yermolova..., 1890** – Pis'mo A.P. Yermolova k A.A. Zakrevskomu 1812–1828 [Letter to A.P. Ermolov to A.A. Zakrevsky. 1812–1828]. SIRIO. M., 1890. T. 73. [in Russian]
- Potto** – Potto, V.A. Kavkazskaya voyna v otdel'nykh ocherkakh, epizodakh, legendakh i biografiyakh [The Caucasian War in Selected Essays, Episodes, Legends and Biographies]. T. II. Vostochnaya literatura. Srednevekovyye istoricheskiye istochniki vostoka i zapada. [Electronic resource]. URL: http://www.vostlit.info/Texts/Dokumenty/Kavkaz/XIX/1800-1820/Potto_V_A/Kavk_vojna_2/text13.htm (date of access: 10.08.2020).
- Potto, 1887** – Potto, V.A. (1887). Kavkazskaya voyna v otdel'nykh ocherkakh, epizodakh, legendakh i biografiyakh [Caucasian war in separate essays, episodes, legends and biographies]. Vol. 1. V. 1. St. Petersburg. [in Russian]
- PSZRI** – Polnoe sobranie Zakonov Rossijskoj imperii (1825–1881) [Complete collection of the Laws of the Russian Empire. (1825–1881)]. Vol. 10: Part 2. No. 8517.
- Sergeev, 2011** – Sergeev, A.D. (2011). K istorii sozdaniya cerkvej na territorii Dagestana po proektam knyazy G. G. Gagarina [On the history of the creation of churches on the territory of Dagestan according to the projects of Prince G.G. Gagarin]. *Izvestiya Dagestanskogo gosudarstvennogo pedagogicheskogo universiteta. Seriya "Obshchestvennye i gumanitarnye nauki"*. Makhachkala. 3(16): 43-50. [in Russian]
- Sergeev, 2012** – Sergeev, A.D. (2012). Iстория военных православных храмов в сел'skoj mestnosti Dagestana (II polovina XIX – nachalo XX veka) [History of military Orthodox churches in the countryside of Dagestan (II half of the XIX – early XX centuries)]. *Izvestiya Rossiiskogo gosudarstvennogo pedagogicheskogo universiteta im. A.I. Gertsena*. Pp. 60-70. [in Russian]
- Shidlovskij** – Shidlovskij, Yu. Zapiski o Kizlyare [Notes about Kizlyar]. Vostochnaya literatura. [Electronic resource]. URL: http://www.vostlit.info/Texts/Dokumenty/Kavkaz/XIX/1840-1860/Sidlovskij_Ju/text1.htm (date of access: 02.04.2021). [in Russian]
- TGARD** – Central State Archives of the Republic of Dagestan Foundation [Central State Archives of the Republic of Dagestan Foundation]
- Tri goda..., 1884** – Tri goda na Kavkaze (1837–1839) [Three years in the Caucasus (1837–1839)]. *Kavkazskiy sbornik*. T. 8. 1884. Vostochnaya literatura. Srednevekovyye istoricheskiye istochniki vostoka i zapada. [Electronic resource]. URL: http://www.vostlit.info/Texts/Dokumenty/Kavkaz/XIX/1820-1840/Tri_goda_Kavkaz/text3.htm (date of access: 15.11.2020). [in Russian]
- Turner, 2009** – Turner, F.J. (2009). Frontir v amerikanskoi istorii [Frontier in American history]. Per. s angl. A.I. Petrenko. M.: Ves mir. [in Russian]
- Volkonskiy, 1885** – Volkonskiy, N.A. (1885). Trekhletiye na lezginskoy kordonnoy linii (1847–1849 gody) [Three years on the Lezghin cordon line (1847–1849)]. *Kavkazskiy sbornik*. T. 9. Vostochnaya literatura. Srednevekovyye istoricheskiye istochniki vostoka i zapada. [Electronic resource]. URL: http://www.vostlit.info/Texts/Dokumenty/Kavkaz/XIX/1840-1860/Volkonskij_N_A_4/text1.htm (date of access: 14.10.2020). [in Russian]
- Webb, 1964** – Webb, W.P. (1964). The Great Frontir. Austin: University of Texas Press.