

## An Investigation of Historical Geography of Shahindezh Region

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### ABSTRACT

Shahindezh Region is one of the pristine places of Aneient Iran. This study explores the historical geography of its old history. Besides exploring this region, it will also take into account Azarbaijan, as a basic and important territory and a key to shed some light on the history. In the research present the history of shahindezh region, by using many document and experiment and well–documented researches' and interviewing people & also using new contents which are as accurate as possible. The survey explain the research objective and a brief review of the subject background and research methods, a look at natural geography of shahindezh county includes the a brief description locution & geology of rivers, climate and appellation of the region and its neighbor provinces. The study explain "Shahindezh in pre-Islamic period", the original inhabitants & tribes (of the region) and so on.

**KEY WORDS:** Geography, Historical Geography, Azerbaijan Tribes, Shahindezh and Iran

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### INTRODUCTION

Before the 20th century, the term 'historical geography' was used to describe at least three distinct intellectual endeavors: the recreation of the geographies described in the Bible and in 'classical' Greek and Roman narratives; the 'geography behind history' as revealed by the changing frontiers and borders of states and empires; and the history of geographical exploration and discovery. Historical research on regional landscape change received a powerful stimulus after the First World War when the re-organization of national boundaries in Europe and the Middle East re-focused attention on regional landscapes as products of long-term economic, social and political evolution that could be objectively analysed by the scientific interrogation of historical and archaeological evidence. Due to geographical and historical climate, Sahindezh area is the considered by various ethnic groups from many years ago [6, 7, 15 and 17]. Different ethnic groups chose it to live so that it has climatic special conditions. Shahin Dezh, in the West Azerbaijan Province in Iran, is the city capital of Shahin Dezh County. In the 2006 census, its population was 34, 204, with 8,671 families. West Azerbaijan Province is one of the Iran provinces . It is in the northwest of the country, bordering Iraq, Turkey, and Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, and the provinces of East Azerbaijan, Kurdistan and Zanjan. The province of West Azerbaijan covers an area of 39,487 km<sup>2</sup>, or 43,660 km<sup>2</sup> including Lake Urmia. In 2006 the province had a population of 3,015,361. The capital city and largest city of the province is Urmia, other papers on this subject include [8-14].

Some events in the 19th and 20th centuries are in West Azerbaijan Province:

- Shaikh Ubeidullah Attacks, west and south of Urmia Lake in 1880;
- Simko Attacks, west of Urmia Lake from 1918 to 1922
- the Soviet occupation in 1946;
- the foundation and destruction of the Azerbaijan People's Government and Republic of Mahabad in 1946; and
- Periodic severe fighting from 1979 until 1990s between Iraq backed Kurdish fighters in frontier areas and the Iranian state.

According to certain sources most of West Azarbaijan is inhabited by Azerbaijanis with 76.2 percent of the population and Kurds with 21.7 percent. Azeris are living mostly in Chaldoran, Khoy, Salmas, Urmia, Maku, Naghadeh, Bukan, Miandoab counties and Takab counties and Kurds inhabit mostly Sardasht, Oshnaviyeh, Mahabad, Piranshahr and Shahindej[3 and 5].

### The Geographical situation of Shahin Dezh

In terms of geographic coordinates Shahin Dezh is Between 24 and 36 to 5 and 37 the north latitude degrees 15 and 46 to 59 and 46 the east longitude degrees and due to the political divisions it was considered a part of Miandoab City Until 1961. And now, it is an independent city. Its area is 2144 square kilometers. Shahin Dezh is

located southeast of Lake Urmia, about 1,300 metres above sea level. The population is made up of Azeri Turks and Kurdish and Chahardoli. The city is mostly populated by Turks up to 60%, while some Kurdish villages can be found south and east of the city. The water filled and permanent river, Zarrinehroud (Jefatav), is and at a distance less than 700 meters of the location old town. And recent archaeological researches indicate that this area has a rich history of ancient date. The aim of this study is to identify Sahindezh in terms of the historical geography and the ethnic. [1, 2 and 4]



Sahindezh in general is the mountainous city and is surrounded with are relatively long mountains such as: Avchmazoo, Gol daman dagh, Arbt dagh, Khaleh ovshaghy, Shahm soun daghy, Sandakh sandran, Aokouz aoloun, Sofreh salan and... . There are numerous mountains in the borderes of Tekab city which it makes difficult to pass between Tekab and Sahindezh cities in winter [18 and 6].

**The surface and Groundwater water resources:**

The most important river in Sahindezh City is Zarineroud which is also called Goghtay. Other rivers in this city as following [20 and 21]

- 1 - the river of Goorachay
- 2 - the river Hoolaso
- 3 - the river Hachaso
- 4 - the river ookhchy
- 5 - the river Jooshato
- 6 - the river aLagoz
- 7 - the river ajarlo

Table1. Subterranean in **Sahindezh City**

the name of subterranean	Place of emergence	Description
Dadashblaghi	In the yard of the army	
Shakarblaghi	Next to the famous Khanzinei	
Safaraliblaghi	In the Department of Education	The longest aqueduct (nearly one kilometer)
Mirzjanblaghi	Before the Present Taleghani Street	
Avliuvanblaghi	Before the Present Taleghani Street	
Qharokheyaqblaghi	Before the Present Taleghani Street	
Buick Khanblaghi	Moradian Alley (known as Buick Khan Bagh)	
Kourehblaghi	Tekab road (known as Garden Kvrhblagh Bagh)	

**Shahin Dezh on the pre-Islamic**

However there are some books and very old historical works about the scope the present city from the distant past but the remaining hills inside of the city and the remaining symbols on the surrounding of the city and nearby villages is full of the ancient and history symbols. The works and archaeological remains on Bibyikand, 5 km of

Shahin dejh, is a symbol of the civilization of the first millennium BC on this village and also Smaqannnn rock and valuable historical works in Takab area, Takhte soliman, which the its distance was less than the its present distance at long time ago and the writing of historians about this specifies this area has too much historical antiquity enriched with Works of different periods [19, 20 and 21]

### **Initial tribes in Azerbaijan**

#### 1- Lvlvbyan

Lvlvby ethnic were occupied in the upper range of the Diyala River to Lake Urmia and its surrounding areas. The name means alien and enemy at Avratvyy language. Lvlvby ethnic were Asian race. Anubanini was one of ethnic famous Kings. The dominate area of this ethnic in Azerbaijan has been called Zamva in the Ashoorian inscriptions that is in the southwest of Lake Urmia. They live in the Zagros Mountains [20 and 21].

#### 2- Gutian

The Word of Guti was referred to an ethnic group in the eastern and northwestern Lvlvbyan and who probably lived at present Azerbaijan and Kurdistan at third and second millennium BC. Guti had resided in the Zagros Mountains at the third millennium BC. M. Later it was the name of various ethnic groups who lived in the north and east of Babel, and was been referred to a specific territorial unit. Gutian ethnic was established during the reign of Naram Sin, Akad king, in 2300 BC. M. This ethnic attacked to Mesopotamia of Iran West. They reigned in that land for about 125 years and they destroyed the royal dynasty of Akad. Their capital was Kirkuk in the north Svbartv. Finally people of Mesopotamia were hank from their transgressions and overcome them. After Guti loss, in the Babel period was called Gotium all of Iranian plateau. The Gutian ethnic came to power in Mesopotamia around 2150 BC by destabilising Akkad, according to the Sumerian kinglist at the end of the reign of king Ur-Utu (or Lugal-melem) of Uruk. They reigned for perhaps around one century (copies of the kinglist vary between 25 and 124 years; 91 years is often quoted as probable). The ethnic was succeeded by the 3rd dynasty of Ur. The Gutian people (Guti) were native to Gutium, presumably in the central Zagros Mountains, though almost nothing is known about their origins [20 and 21].

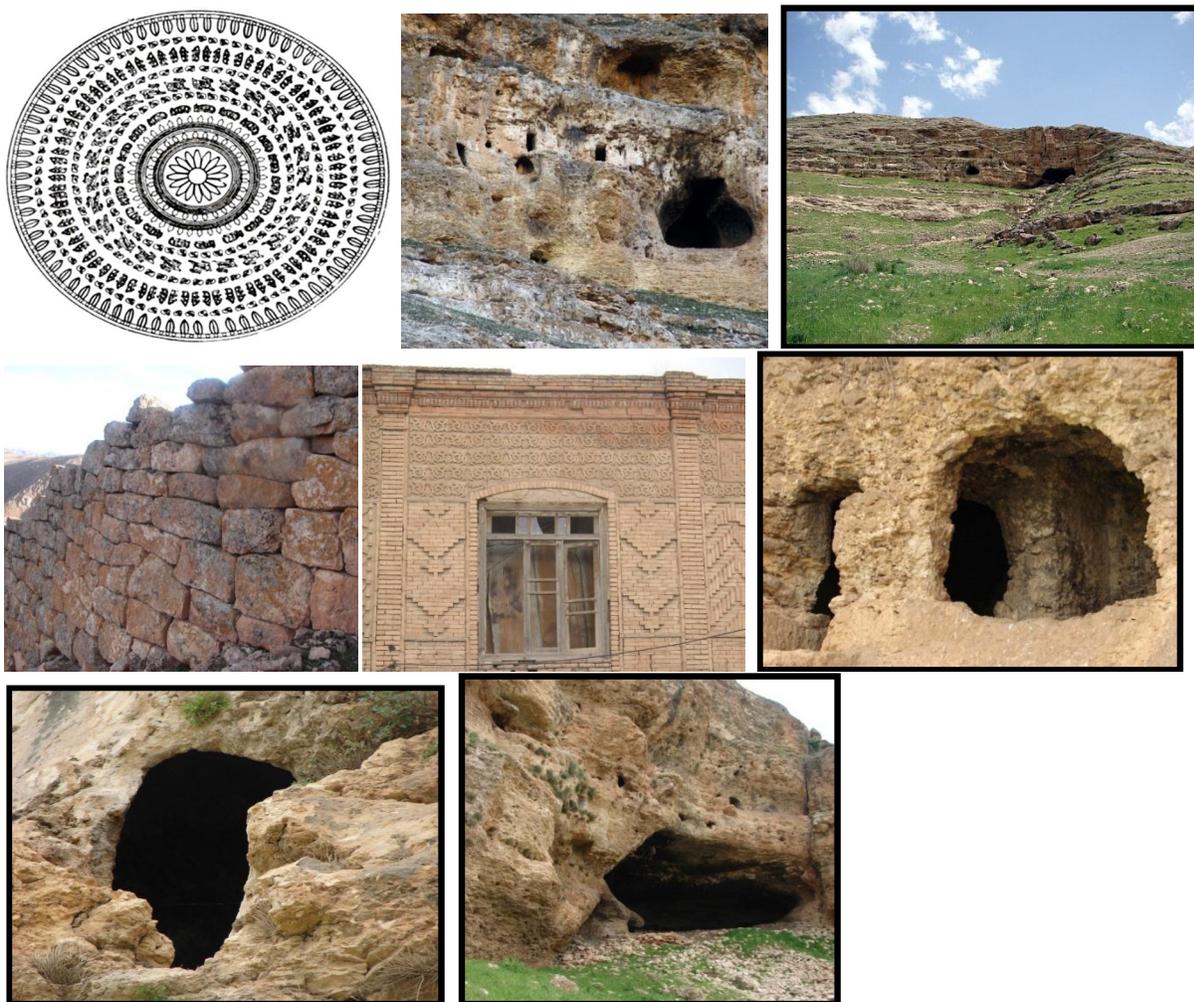
#### 3- Manna tribe

After Lvlvbyan and Gutian, another tribe lived in Zamva area in South Orumiyeh Lake, the Joghto river basin, which was called Manna. They formed a powerful government in the west of Iran. The people of Azerbaijanis are the Turkic-speaking ethnic group living mainly in the two Azerbaijan, as well as in neighboring government. Also referred to as Azeris, they live in a wider region from the Caucasus to the Iranian plateau. The Azerbaijanis are predominantly Shi'a Muslim and have a mixed cultural heritage including Turkic, Iranian and Caucasian elements. Following the Russo-Persian Wars of 1813 and 1828, the territories of the Qajar Empire in the Caucasus were ceded to the Russian Empire and the treaties of Gulistan in 1813 and Turkmenchay in 1828 finalized the borders between Czarist Russia and Qajar Iran. The formation of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic in 1918 established the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Despite living on two sides of an international border, the Azerbaijanis form a single ethnic group. However, northerners and southerners differ due to nearly two centuries of separate social evolution Iranian Azerbaijanis and in Russian/Soviet-influenced Azerbaijan. The Azerbaijani language unifies Azerbaijanis, and is mutually intelligible with Turkmen, Qashqai, Gagauz, Turkish, and the dialects spoken by the Iraqi Turkmen, all of which belong to the Oghuz, or Western, group of Turkic languages [20, 21 and 23].

### **Conclusions**

Historical geography is a sub-discipline of human geography concerned with the geographies of the past and with the influence of the past in shaping the geographies of the present and the future. People with a very rich culture live in Azerbaijan who created some advanced civilization for example Urartu, Ashour, Hiti, Kadousi, Manna, and Medeha. According to research findings, Shahin Dezh is one of the most important of Azerbaijan cities in the times past and present.

### Some pictures about Shahindezh Region Historical Geography



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