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DAGESTAN AND THE RUSSIAN- SAFAVID WAR IN 1651–1653

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HISTORICAL SOURCES

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DAGESTAN IN THE 17TH CENTURY

- Shamkhal of Tarku
- Qazi-Kumukh Khan
- Qara-Qaitag Utsmi
- Endirey Khan
- Governor of Darband



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WHO WAS INVOLVED?

RUSSIAN SIDE

- Circassian kniaz Mutsal
- Kabardians
- Baraguns
- Greben and Terek Cossacks
- Russian gunmen (streltsi)

SAFAVID SIDE

Dagestani local rulers

- Surkhai III Shamkhal of Tarki (c. 1610–1667)
- Khan Kazanalp of Endirey
- Qara-Qaytag Utsmi Amirkhan Sultan

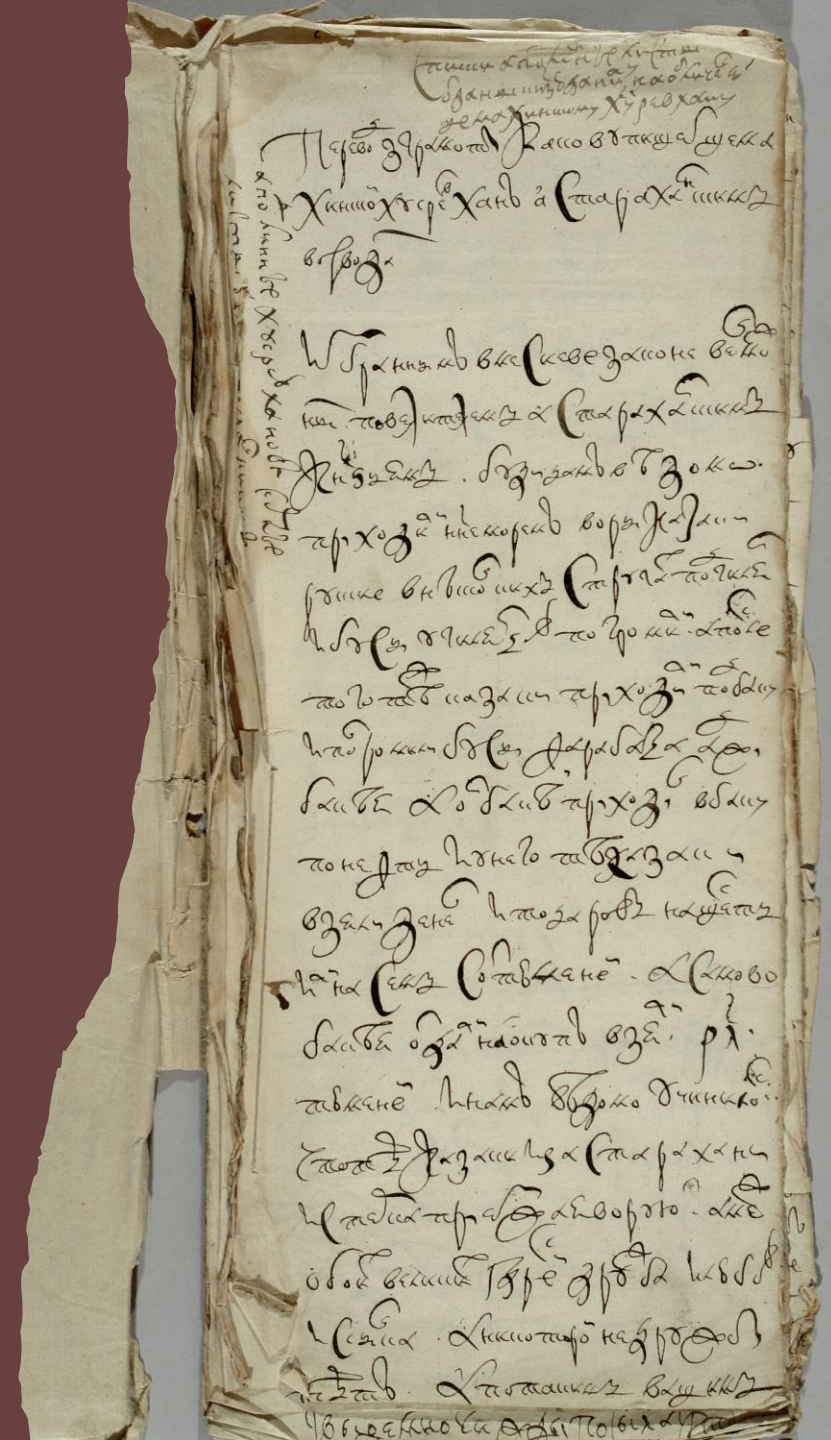
Non-Dagestani local rulers

- Shirvanian beylerbey Khosrow Khan
- Nogay leader Cheban Murza

THE RUSSIAN- SAFAVID CONFLICT

Primary causes of the conflict

- Continuous Cossack attacks on merchant vessels
- Construction of the Sunzha Fortress
- Baragun raids on a trade caravan



THE RUSSIAN- SAFAVID CONFLICT

Main instigator and coordinator

- Shirvanian Beylerbey Khosrow Khan

Two attacks on the Sunzha Fortress

November 1651: Unsuccessful

March 1653: Sunzha Fortress destroyed

April 1653: Preparation for an assault on the
Terek Fortress



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SURKHAI III SHAMKHAL OF TARKI

- A skilled diplomat, adeptly navigating between Russian and Safavid powers for political advantage
- The most influential local ruler in Dagestan during this period
- Surkhai's merchants were attacked by the Baraguns, exacerbating tensions
- Served as the commander-in-chief of the army in the attacks on the Sunzha Fortress in 1651 and 1653

"...a posle togo nam družiam khudo uchali delat', ...na nashei dannoi doroge gorod pastavia, baraguntsev podle posadili, i obiezzhali i priezshikh nashikh liudei dorogu peresecli a khudo uchali delat' ...A inykh poimav peregrabili i samovo poimav v Terskoi gorod otoslav, durno uchinili terskie kniazia...".

"...then they did bad things to us, friends... They built a town (Sunzha) along our road, and Baraguns settled near it, and blocked the road, committing wrongs against our people who were passing through... The Terek princes captured, robbed others, and sent them in handcuffs to the town of Terek..".

Surkhai III Shamkhal of Tarki to the Voivodes of Astrakhan, 1653



KHAN KAZANALP OF ENDIREY

- A long-time ally of the Russians and primary adversary of Surkhai III
- After the Battle of Germenchik (1650) he reconciled with Surkhai III, shifting political dynamics in Dagestan
- Engaged in a dispute with the Circassian kniaz Mutsal, which ultimately prompted his participation in the military attack on Sunzha Fortress.

"...A shakh menia v kholopstvo prizyvaet, i ia u nego ne khochiu v kholopstvo byt', potomuchto ia kholop vash... Mutsal menia ot vas, gosudaria, otgoniaet... Primaniv brata moego Alibeka skovav, v ego mesto 4 syna u menia v omanaty vzial.. i po ego prisylke Choban murza otognal u menia 300 ovets... i vziali iasyriu i verbliudov zhivotinu... Da po Mutsalovu veleniu ubili moikh 2 chelovekov Kurdiukovo gorodke i vzial tovaru 3 viuka..."

"...The shah summons me to be his servant, but I do not wish to serve him, for I am Your servant (the Russian tsar)... Mutsal drives me away from Your Majesty... He lured my brother Alibek to his side and took my four sons as hostages... He sent Cheban-Murza to take 3,000 of my sheep... They captured prisoners and camels... On Mutsal's orders, they killed two of my men in the settlement of Kurdiukovo and took three bundles of goods..."

Khan Kazanalp of Endirey to the Russian Tsar Alexei Mikhailovich August 1653

QARA-QAYTAG UTSMI AMIRKHAN SULTAN

- Early 1640s: involved in internal political disputes with Rustam Khan, leading to his flight to the court of Shah Abbas II
- 1645: Became the Utsmi of Qara-Qaytag with assistance from Shah Abbas II
- 1651, 1653: Participated in the military attacks on the Sunzha Fortress

"...A on, Amirkhan Saltan... de shertovat' emu, velikomu gosudariu, bez shakhova ukazu ne smee, potomu shto v utsmeistvo v Kaidatskuiu zemliu pozhaloval evo shah Abasovo velichestvo... I kak shah ukazhet emu... shert uchinit...".

"...(he), Amirkhan Saltan... cannot swear allegiance to His Imperial Majesty without the Shah's permission, because the Utsmiat in the land of the Qaytags was granted to him by His Majesty, Shah Abbas... as the Shah commands, so shall he swear...".

Otpiska terskikh voevod v posol'skii prikaz o ... Kaitagskom Utsmii, 1645



CONCLUSION

Russian-Safavid Conflict

- Death of Khosrow Khan (1653/1654)
- Mutual disinterest in open conflict driven by foreign policy considerations
- Diplomatic settlement of the conflict (Ivan Lobanov-Rostovskii)

Dagestani Rulers

- Motivated to participate in the conflict primarily driven by personal interests, with significant domestic political implications
- Presciently petitioned the Russian Tsar to seek admission to his service (kholopstvo) in anticipation of political shifts

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