

Abstract: The purpose of this work is a detailed study of the four largest ethnic groups that made up the main population of Baku at the turn of 19th and 20th centuries: Azerbaijanis, Russians, Jews and Armenians. The paper examines the characteristics of each ethnic group on the example of the brightest representatives, its influence on the city and interaction with other ethnic groups. In the context of non-autochthonous ethnic groups, special attention is paid to the history of their emergence and consolidation as a significant ethnic minority among the urban population, as well as the accompanying prerequisites and the ensuing consequences. The work aims to reveal the phenomenon of Baku cosmopolitanism in the context of the non-intrusive policy of the Russian Empire in the South Caucasus and its position at the time of the collapse of the empire and the formation of an independent state.

Key words: Baku, cosmopolitanism, Azerbaijan, ethnic minorities, South Caucasus, Russian Empire, Armenians, Jews, history.