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Population of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast According to the
All-Union Census of 1959

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The purpose of the article is to reveal the demographic characteristics of the population of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast according to All-Union Population Census of 1959. The objectives of the study are to present the size, distribution, ethnic composition, gender composition and age structure of the population of Nagorno-Karabakh according to the census data.

The study was conducted on the basis of the results of the Soviet population census, other statistical sources and special literature. Descriptive, statistical and analytical methods have been used and applied.

Studying the topic, we have come to the conclusion that the All-Union Census of 1959 showed the consequences of the military-political developments of the previous period on the demographic characteristics of the region. As a result of the Great Patriotic War, the deportation of the Armenian population (1949), the labor recruitment, mass emigration, the population of the autonomous oblast has significantly decreased compared to the pre-war period.

The ethnic composition of the autonomous oblast was predominantly Armenian. In the period between censuses, in contrast to a significant decrease in the number and share of the Armenian, Russian and other ethnic communities of the oblast, there was a noticeable increase in the number and share of the Azerbaijani population. In accordance with the post-war demographic patterns, the female population of the oblast significantly predominated over the male. As for the age structure, a sharp decrease occurred in the age group under 15 years old and especially in the age group of 35-44 years old in comparison to the census of 1939. The 1959 census also showed the process of demographic ageing of the population of Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast.



**Լեռնային Ղարաբաղի Ինքնավար Մարզի բնակչությունը ըստ 1959 թ.
համամիութենական մարդահամարի**

Գայանե Հովհաննիսյան

«Հայոց Ցեղասպանության թանգարան-ինստիտուտ» հիմնադրամի Արցախի, Նախիջևանի և Ադրբեջանի հայաբնակ շրջաններում հայության բռնաճնշումների ուսումնասիրության բաժնի գիտաշխատող, ԵՊՀ Պատմության ֆակուլտետի հայոց պատմության ամբիոնի ասպիրանտ

Հիմնաբառեր՝ 1959 թ. մարդահամար, բնակչություն, թվաքանակ, տեղաբաշխում, ազգային կազմ, սեռային կազմ, տարիքային կառուցվածք:

Հոդվածի նպատակն է բացահայտել Լեռնային Ղարաբաղի Ինքնավար Մարզի բնակչության ժողովրդագրական հատկանիշներն ըստ 1959 թ. համամիութենական մարդահամարի տվյալների: Այդ նպատակին հասնելու համար հետազոտության առջև դրված են հետևյալ խնդիրները. ներկայացնել ԼՂԻՄ բնակչության թվաքանակը, տեղաբաշխումը, էթնիկ կազմը, սեռային կազմն ու տարիքային կառուցվածքը, ցույց տալ ժողովրդագրական հատկանիշների փոխակերպումները նախորդ մարդահամարի համեմատությամբ:

Հետազոտությունն իրականացվել է 1959 թ. մարդահամարի արդյունքների, վիճակագրական այլ աղբյուրների և մասնագիտական գրականության հիման վրա: Ուսումնասիրության ընթացքում կիրառել ենք նկարագրական, վիճակագրական և վերլուծության մեթոդները:

Ընդհանրացնելով հետազոտության արդյունքները՝ գալիս ենք այն եզրակացության, որ 1959 թ. մարդահամարի արդյունքները ցույց տվեցին մարզի ժողովրդագրական հատկանիշների վրա նախընթաց ժամանակաշրջանի ռազմաքաղաքական իրադարձությունների հետևանքները: Մասնավորապես՝ Հայրենական պատերազմի, 1949 թ. հայ բնակչության արքայի, աշխատուժի հավաքագրումների, լայնածավալ արտագաղթի հետևանքով ինքնավար մարզի բնակչությունը զգալիորեն նվազել էր նախապատերազմյան ժամանակաշրջանի համեմատությամբ:

Էթնիկ պատկերով մարզը շարունակում էր գերազանցապես հայկական մնալ: Միջմարդահամարային ժամանակահատվածում մարզի հայ, ռուս և այլէթնիկ հանրությունների թվաքանակի և տեսակարար կշռի զգալի նվազմանը հակընթաց տեղի էր ունեցել ադրբեջանական բնակչության թվաքանակի և տեսակարար կշռի նկատելի աճ: Համահունչ հետպատերազմյան ժողովրդագրական օրինչափություններին, մարզում իզական բնակչությունը զգալիորեն գերակշռում էր արական բնակչությանը: Տարիքային կառուցվածքում նկատվում էր մինչև 15 տարեկան տարիքային խմբի խիստ նվազում և հատկապես 35-44 տարիքային խմբի կրճատում 1939 թ. մարդահամարի համեմատությամբ: 1959 թ. մարդահամարը ցույց տվեց նաև ԼՂԻՄ բնակչության ժողովրդագրական ձեռացման գործընթացը:

Население Нагорно-Карабахской Автономной Области по данным Всесоюзной переписи населения 1959 года

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Ключевые слова: перепись 1959 г., население, численность, размещение, национальный состав, половой состав, возрастная структура.

Цель статьи – выявить демографические характеристики населения Нагорно-Карабахской автономной области по данным всесоюзной переписи населения 1959 года. Задачи исследования - представить численность, размещение, национальный состав, половой состав и возрастную структуру населения Нагорного Карабаха по данным переписи 1959 года.

Исследование было проведено на основе результатов советской переписи населения, других статистических источников и специальной литературы. В исследовании были использованы описательные, статистические и аналитические методы.

Изучая тему, мы пришли к выводу, что Всесоюзная перепись 1959 года показала последствия военно-политических событий предшествующего периода на демографических характеристиках региона. В результате Великой Отечественной войны, депортации армянского населения (1949 г.), набора рабочей силы, массовой эмиграции, население автономной области значительно сократилось по сравнению с довоенным периодом.

Этнический состав автономной области был преимущественно армянским. В период между переписями, в отличие от значительного уменьшения численности и доли армянской, русской и других этнических общин области, произошло заметное увеличение численности и доли азербайджанского населения. В соответствии с послевоенной демографической закономерностью женское население области значительно преобладало над мужским. В возрастной структуре резкое снижение произошло в возрастной группе до 15 лет и особенно в возрастной группе 35-44 лет по сравнению с переписью 1939 года. Перепись 1959 г. также показала процесс демографического старения населения Нагорно-Карабахской Автономной Области.

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Intro. The first post-war census was held in the Soviet Union in 1959 - six years after the death of Joseph Stalin and twenty years after the previous all-Union census. Researchers tend to think that the military-political leadership of the USSR conducted the census twenty years after the previous one, not only because of post-war economic difficulties, but also taking into consideration the huge human losses suffered by the country during the Great Patriotic War (Andpjejev, Dapskij, Xap'kova, 1998, 45).

The census was conducted according to the decision "On the All-Union Population Census in 1959" (1959 All-Union Population Census, 2005, XII), made by the Council of Ministers of the USSR on May 5, 1958. The census questionnaire included 15 questions, in particular on gender, age, marital status,

nationality, native language, citizenship, educational level, place of work and occupation, belonging to a certain social group, and so on (1959 All-Union Population Census, 2005, XIX- XXIII).

Like any statistic, in 1959 the census was also not without flaws and omissions. In particular, undercount of children under two years of age, partial “age accumulation”¹, problems of counting special groups (military, conscripts, prisoners) are highlighted in the results of the census (Andpjejev, Dapskij, Xap’kova, 1998, 46-53). Researchers estimate the amount of undercount of the census on the scale of the entire USSR at 0.1% (1959 All-Union Population Census, 2005, xxv). These inaccuracies are within the acceptable limits for statistics and do not affect the reliability of the census results in general. Census data are widely used in demographic, historical, economic, and other studies.

The results of the 1959 census made it possible to reveal the changes that had taken place in the Soviet Union as a result of the Great Patriotic War in the population size, gender-age ratio and distribution. The census data served as a basis for planning the development of the economy of the USSR in the post-war period.

The scientific novelty of the article can be described as the following one: for the first time, the demographic features of Nagorno-Karabakh and its transformations (number of population, distribution, national composition, gender composition, age structure) have been studied according to the results of the all-union census of 1959 in comparison with previous census, organized in 1939. It makes it possible to highlight through statistical data the demographic consequences of a number of military-political processes unfolded in Nagorno-Karabakh in 1940s-1950s. The article is of great importance from the point of view of identifying the course and content of the demographic development of Nagorno-Karabakh.

The Number and Distribution of the Population of Nagorno-Karabakh According to 1959 Census.

The census in 1959, as of the midnight of January 14-15 (local time), was conducted among the physically present population², with the separation of those who live temporarily, and the permanent residents, with the counting of those who are temporarily absent³. The census took eight days and was held on January 15-22 (Itogi Vsesojuznoj pjejpjepsi nasjeljenija 1959 goda. Azjebajdzhanskaja SSP, 1962, 5). Within ten days after the census, from January 23 to February 1, inspection tours were organized, during which the lists of temporary residents and temporarily absent persons were checked. During the inspections, an undercount of the existing population was observed in the entire Soviet

¹ In the professional literature, this is how the concentration of the population at certain ages called (most often ending with 0 or 5 digits), which significantly exceeds the related age groups. It occurs because people in surveys tend to answer the age question roughly rather than accurately, thus distorting the age structure of the population.

² The number of physically present population included those persons who were in a given place at the time of conducting of census, regardless of whether they lived there permanently or temporarily. Those living in a given area, but absent during the conducting of census, were registered as physically present population, those who were located in another place of the same city or village council area. Those who lived outside the territory of the village council or political council of the given area, but who were at work during the census or in such a place where they could not be counted, were also registered (Results of the All-Union Census of 1959. Azerbaijan SSR, 1962, 5- 6). In the article, all data is presented according to the physically present population.

³ The number of temporarily absent persons included persons permanently residing in the given locality, but not being in the given locality at the time of the census, and their absence did not exceed six months. These people were counted as temporary residents at the place of residence. Persons who left their places of permanent residence more than six months before the census day were registered in the census forms at the new place of residence as permanent residents. Students in the army were not registered at their former places of residence, even if their absence lasted less than six months. According to the location, all these persons were listed as permanent residents of this place (Results of the All-Union Census of 1959. Azerbaijan SSR, 1962, 6-7).

Union in the amount of 0.51% (1 million 74 thousand people), which was added to the number of physically present population (Chisljennost' nasjeljenije SSSP po pjepjepisi na 15 janvapja 1959 goda po pjespublikam, kpajam, oblastjam, nacional'nym okpugam, pajonam, gopodam, posjelkam gopodskogo tipa, pajonnym cjentpam i kpupnym sjel'skim nasjeljennym mjestam (Po administrativno-tjerritorial'nom u djeljeniju na 1 janvarja 1960 g.), 1960)

According to 1959 census, the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast (4.4 thousand square kilometers) consisted of five administrative regions: Stepanakert (center: Stepanakert city), Hadrut (center: Hadrut village), Mardakert (center: Mardakert village), Martuni (center: Martuni village), Shushi (center: the city of Shushi). There were two cities in Nagorno-Karabakh: Stepanakert and Shushi, two urban settlements: Madaghis¹ and Karmir Bazar², 78 village councils and 242 rural settlements (Nagopnyj Kapabax za gody sovjetskoj vlasti (Kpatkaja statistichjeskaja sbopnik), 1969, 4).

The population of Nagorno-Karabakh was 130,406, of which the rural population was 103,433 or 79.3% of the total population, and the urban population was 26,973 or 20.7% of the population (Table 1). The population density per square kilometer was 29.6 people, which is 4.7 times less than the same indicator of the previous census (Nagopnyj Kapabax za gody sovjetskoj vlasti (Kpatkaja statistichjeskaja sbopnik), 1969, 38).

In comparison with 1939 census, the entire population of Nagorno-Karabakh decreased by 20,431 or 13.5% in absolute terms. According to the distribution of the population, the reduction of the rural population was particularly noticeable during the period between two censuses (in absolute number it was 32,151 people or 23.8%). This was due to the significant loss of lives of the rural population in the Great Patriotic War, the demographic consequences of the war (disproportion of the gender-age composition, decrease in birth rate, increase in mortality), large-scale emigration of the rural population, labor recruitment by the Azerbaijani authorities, exile organized in 1949, as well as intra-provincial movements to the cities of the NKAO³. In the same period, the urban population of Nagorno-Karabakh increased by 11,090 or 69.8% in absolute terms. Such a picture was caused not only by the natural growth of the urban population, but also by the movement of the population, in particular, movements from rural settlements to cities. The fact that the settlements of Madaghis and Karmir Bazar received the status of an urban settlement was also of some importance, as a result of which the population of these settlements in 1959 was registered as an urban population during the census.

In the period between censuses, the population of Nagorno-Karabakh was distinguished by low growth rates, which is confirmed by the statistical sources of the time. It is noteworthy that in 1939-1959, among the economic regions of Azerbaijan, an average annual negative index of population growth - 0.76%, was only recorded in the NKAO (Mamjedov, 1982, 10). In other regions, despite the Great Patriotic War and its consequences, the positive dynamics of population growth was preserved.

It should also be noted that the pre-war population of Azerbaijan was restored in 1955, that is, 10 years after the end of the war, after which it began to grow. In 1959, according to the results of the census, the population of Azerbaijan exceeded the pre-war level by 15.4% (Mamjedov, 1982, 9). For comparison, we should note that the pre-war population of Nagorno-Karabakh (more than 150 thousand

¹ It received the status of an urban settlement in 1943.

² It received the status of an urban settlement in 1947.

³ For details, see G. Hovhannisyán, Factors determining the demographic picture of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast in the 1940s-1950s, Scientific Artsakh, 2022, N 4 (the article is under review).

people) was restored only in the beginning of 1970s, i.e. more than 25 years after the end of the war (Arts'akhi hanrapetut'yan arkhiv, f. 142, ts'. 4, g. 90, t'. 48).

Concerning the indicators of the natural increase of the population of the NKAO, it should be noted that the statistical data were preserved only for the period of five years after the end of the war, starting from 1951. As it is known, the Great Patriotic War caused significant damage to the health of the population, increasing mortality (Poljakov, ZHipomskaja Apalovjec Djemogpafichjeskoje exo» vojny». Nauchno-pposvjetitel'skij zhupnal Skjepsis). During the war, the general weakening of the human organism contributed to the growth of various diseases. In the post-war period, there was also a noticeable increase in diseases of children (up to 1-year-old) from congenital weakness, premature birth and various diseases of newborns (Poljakov, ZHipomskaja Apalovjec Djemogpafichjeskoje exo» vojny». Nauchno-pposvjetitel'skij zhupnal Skjepsis). The war led to a reduction in life expectancy and an increase in post-war mortality. According to statistical data, such a post-war demographic trend was also characteristic of the NKAO, where the death rate was quite high until the middle of 1950s (Table 2).

During the war years, due to the conscription of the male population and the losses of human life, the birthrate recorded a sharp decrease. As for the demographic phenomenon of “compensated” fertility observed after the wars, according to experts, it had a rather short course after the Great Patriotic War, due to the huge deficit of the reproductive age population and the gender disparity of the reproductive age groups (Olga Zakharova, Andrey Akopyan, Viktor Kharchenko, The evolution of fertility in Russia in the second half of the 20th century. History, modernity and prospects).

The positive dynamics of natural growth indicators in the NKAO began about 10 years after the end of the war, from the middle of 1950s, related to the increase in birth rate on the one hand, and the decrease in mortality on the other hand. According to preserved statistical sources, the pre-war birth rate was exceeded only in 1956. (Table 2).

Analyzing the rate of population growth according to administrative units, it becomes clear that in comparison with 1939, the number of the population was especially reduced in Hadrut region (Table 1). This was due to the high rate of participation of the population of this unit in the Great Patriotic War. In particular, according to researcher Sh. Mkrtychyan, 8,267 people from Hadrut region were conscripted to the army, which was 38% of the region's population (Mkrtych'yan, 1985, 112-113).

Table 1. The population of the administrative units of Nagorno-Karabakh according to census data in 1939 and 1959 (All-Union census of the population of 1939. The national composition of the population of districts, cities and large villages of the Union Republics of the USSR. Azerbaijan SSR. Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast; All-Union population census of 1959. The urban population of the USSR republics (except the RSFSR), their territorial units, urban settlements near urban areas by gender; All-Union Population Census of 1959. Number of the rural population of the USSR republics (except for the RSFSR), residents of rural settlements-regional centers by gender; Population of Nagorno-Karabakh).

Administrative units	1939	1959	Decrease	
			In absolute number	%- in comparison with 1939
Hadrut	27128	16808	-10320	-38
Mardakert	40812	37734	-3078	-7.5
Martuni	32298	24841	-7457	-23.1
Stepanakert	39780	40397	617	1.5
Shushi	10819	10626	-193	-1.8
Total	150837	130406	-20431	-13.5

Martuni and Mardakert were next to Hadrut region in terms of decreasing population numbers in the period between censuses. Some of the population decrease in the mentioned administrative units was due to the movements from regions to the regional center Stepanakert, as a result of which its population, unlike other administrative units of the NKAO, recorded a slight positive increase of 1.5%. The population of Shushi region decreased slightly by 1.8% during the above mentioned period.

In 1959 the difference between the official and permanent population of the NKAO is also noticeable in the results of the census. If the number of the existing population of Nagorno-Karabakh was 130,406 people, then the number of permanent population was 134,075 people, of which 63,442 (47.3%) were male, and 70,633 (52.7%) were female (The population of the USSR according to the census by January 15, 1959, 1960, 12). Moreover, the difference between the existing and permanent population was especially significant among the rural population. Such a difference was due to the outflow of the population of the region to the industrial cities of Azerbaijan, as well as to Armenia in the post-war period. Let us note that the difference between the official and permanent population of Nagorno-Karabakh, compared to the 1920s, decreased significantly, which was due to the fact that the residents of Nagorno-Karabakh who moved to different industrial cities of Azerbaijan “turned” into permanent residents of those cities over time.

National Composition of the Population of Nagorno-Karabakh According to 1959 Census.

The principle of national identity and native language was the basis of the registration of the population's nationality during the census both in 1939 and 1959, that is, the nationality of which the respondent considered himself a representative during the census was recorded. The nationality of the children was recorded according to the answers of their parents (Upovjen' obpazovanija, nacional'nyj sostav, vozpaznaja stpunktupa i pazmjesh'jenije nasjeljenija SSSP po pjespublikam, kpajam i oblastjam: Po dannym vsjesojuznoj pjepjepisi nasjeljenija 1959 goda, 1960, 10).

The vast majority of the population of the NKAO, 84.4% or 110,053 people, were Armenians. The second largest ethnic group was Azerbaijanis: in absolute number, they were 17,995 people or 13.8% of the population. The third largest ethnic group was the Russians, who made up 1,790 people or 1.4% of the entire population, and other ethnic groups (Ukrainians, Greeks, etc.) made up 0.4% of the population or 568 people (Table 2).

**Population of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast
According to the All-Union Census of 1959**
**Առնային Ղարաբաղի Ինքնավար Մարզի բնակչությունն
ըստ 1959 թ. համամիութենական մարդահամարի**

Table 2. National composition of the population of Nagorno-Karabakh according to 1959 census (All-Union population census of 1959. Urban and rural population of the regions of the republics of the USSR (except for the RSFSR) by gender and nationality. Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast)

Nationality	Number								
	Whole population			Urban population			Rural population		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total	130406	61671	68735	26973	12713	14260	103433	48958	54475
Russians	1790	833	957	897	344	553	893	489	404
Ukrainians	238	128	110	141	61	80	97	67	30
Belarusians	32	8	24	18	2	16	14	6	8
Georgians	16	9	7	11	5	6	5	4	1
Azerbaijanis	17995	8870	9125	5631	2907	2724	12364	5963	6401
Armenians	110053	51654	58399	20159	9325	10834	89894	42329	47565
Abkhazians	10	7	3	1	1	0	9	6	3
Nationalities of Dagestan	29	25	4	21	18	3	8	7	1
Including Lezgins	29	25	4	21	18	3	8	7	1
Tatars and Crimean Tatars	36	33	3	13	12	1	23	21	2
Including Tatars	36	33	3	13	12	1	23	21	2
Jews	41	20	21	36	16	20	5	4	1
Greeks	67	30	37	9	2	7	58	28	30
Other nationalities	99	54	45	36	20	16	63	34	29

As for the native language of the population of Nagorno-Karabakh, we see the following picture. The Armenian population of the NKAO was characterized by a high level of native language stability. According to the census, 98.2% of the Armenian population considered Armenian as their native language, and 1.7% of Armenians considered Russian to be their native language (Itogi Vsesojuznoj pjepepisi nasjeljenija 1959 goda. Azjebajdzhanskaja SSP, 1962, 140-141).

If we compare the growth rates of nationalities in the previous census in 1939, we will see that the absolute number of the Armenian population decreased by 22,747 people or 17.1%. The Russian population of the region also decreased significantly: in absolute number it was 1384 people or 43.6%, and the number of other ethnic communities decreased by 242 or 29.9%. In contrast to all the ethnic communities of the region, the Azerbaijani population recorded positive dynamics of growth, with an absolute number of 3942 people or 28% (Table 3).

Compared to the pre-war census, such a decrease of the Armenian population was caused by the big losses it suffered in the Great Patriotic War, the demographic consequences of the war, exile in 949, recruitment of labor carried out by the Azerbaijani authorities, large-scale emigration in the post-war

years, discriminatory national policy of Azerbaijan. If in 1939, according to the results of the census, the Armenian population made up 88.04% of the entire population of the region, then in 1959 the share of the Armenian population decreased, reaching 84.4%. The decrease of the Russian and other ethnic population was a consequence of their irretrievable losses in the Great Patriotic War. The share of the Russian population also decreased during the period between censuses, from 2.1% to 1.4%, and the share of other ethnic communities decreased from 0.54% to 0.44%. In contrast to this image, the share of the Azerbaijani population in the entire population of the region has increased. If in 1939 it was 9.3%, then in 1959 the Azerbaijani population made up 13.8% of the population of the region. The growth of the Azerbaijani population should be conditioned by the resettlement of the latter in the autonomous region in the post-war years, with the best gender-age composition and proportion, with a high rate of natural growth.

As for the ethnic distribution of the population by administrative units, according to the results of the census, Armenians dominated in four of the five regions of the NKAO, and Azerbaijanis dominated only in Shushi region (Table 3).

Table 3. Population of Nagorno-Karabakh administrative regions by main nationalities according to census in 1959 (Population of Nagorno-Karabakh; All-Union Population Census of 1959. Urban and rural population of the regions of the republics of the USSR (except for the RSFSR) by gender and nationality. Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast)

	Whole population		Armenians		Azerbaijanis		Russians		Other	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Hadrut region	16808	100	15676	93.3	1031	6.1	74	0.4	27	0.2
Mardakert region	37734	100	33555	88.9	3415	9.1	611	1.6	153	0.4
Urban settlement (Madaghis)	471	100	418	88.7	30	6.4	14	3	9	1.9
Villages	37262	100	33137	88.9	3385	9.1	597	1.6	143	0.4
Martuni region	24841	100	21695	87.3	2958	12	134	0.5	54	0.2
Urban settlement (Karmir Bazar)	682	100	673	98.7	5	0.7	3	0.5	1	0.1
Villages	24159	100	21022	87.1	2953	12.2	131	0.5	59	0.2
District of Stepanakert	20694	100	17693	85.5	2884	13.9	75	0.4	42	0.2
Stepanakert	19703	100	17640	89.5	1143	5.8	698	3.5	222	1.2
Shushi region	10626	100	3794	35.7	6564	61.8	198	1.9	70	0.6
Including Shushi	6117	100	1428	23.3	4453	72.8	182	3	54	0.9
Villages	4509	100	2366	52.5	2111	46.8	16	0.4	16	0.3
Total	130406	100	110053	84.4	17995	13.8	1790	1.4	568	0.4

Gender and Age Composition of the Population of Nagorno-Karabakh According to 1959 Census

The gender-age composition of the region in the post-war period was largely determined by the demographic consequences of the Great Patriotic War. The consequence of large-scale losses of the male population was the violation of the gender-age composition of the population. This demographic pattern was characteristic of both the entire USSR and the NKAO. According to 1959 census, the male population of Nagorno-Karabakh constitutes 47.3% of the total population of the region or 61,671 people, and the female population was 52.7% or 68,735 people. For comparison, in 1939 according to the census, these indicators were 51% and 49%, respectively (Table 4).

The number of children under 15 years of age (born after the war) according to 1959 census was 47,797 people or 36.7% of the entire population. Meanwhile, in 1939 according to the census data, the same indicator was 68,215 people or 45.05% of the population, which meant that the decrease in the indicator of this age group compared to the previous census was 29.9% (Achievements of the Soviet Nagorno-Karabakh for 40 years in numbers, 1963, 33).

The decrease of the male population in the 35-44 age group (born in 1915-1923) was significant. Representatives of this age group, 18-26, who joined the ranks of the Red Army, suffered the most casualties during the war (Table 5).

The first post-war census also revealed the process of demographic aging of the population of Nagorno-Karabakh. In particular, the age group of 60 and over increased, making up 11.5% of the entire population (15,037 people). For comparison, in 1939 according to data, this age group was 9.7% of the population (14,613 people) (Achievements of the Soviet Nagorno-Karabakh for 40 years in numbers, 1963, 33). A high proportion of the elderly population is characteristic of aging societies. The aging process of the population was especially noticeable in rural areas. If the share of people aged 60 and over in the rural population in 1939 according to census was 10.1%, then in 1959 the share of this age group in the entire rural population was 12.6%. Among the urban population, those indicators were 6.1% and 7.3%, respectively.

In the professional literature, there are several scales for determining the stages and levels of demographic aging, the most famous of which is J.B. Garnier-E. Rosset's scale (Table 4).

Table 4. Demographic aging scale according to J.B. Garnier-E. Rosset (Possjet, 1968, 71)

Stages	Share of the population aged 60 and over (%)	Population ageing rate
1	8 and under	Demographic youth
2	8-10	The first age threshold of ageing
3	10-12	Threshold of ageing
4	12 and over	Demographic ageing
	12-14	The first age threshold of ageing
	14-16	Average
	16-18	High
	18 and over	Very high

According to the scale, demographic aging begins when the proportion of the population aged 60 and over exceeds 12% of the total population. According to the above mentioned scale, the entire population of Nagorno-Karabakh in 1959, according to census data, was on the verge of aging (11.5%), and in the case of the rural population, it was demographically aged (12.6%). The demographic aging of Nagorno-Karabakh was due to the losses in the Great Patriotic War, the low birth rate and the increase in mortality during the war years, as well as the large-scale emigration of young people of reproductive age from the region and their recruitment by the Azerbaijani authorities.

Conclusion

Summarizing the results of this research, we come to the conclusion that the 1959 census showed the consequences of the military and political events of the previous period on the demographic characteristics of the region. The demographic consequences of the Great Patriotic War, exile of the Armenian population in 1949, recruitment of labor force, large-scale emigration - this all caused the decrease of population of the NKAO significantly when we compare the results of the census in 1939 and 1959. In contrast to the rural population, there was a significant increase in the urban population due to both natural and mechanical movement.

The ethnic composition of the region continued to be predominantly Armenian. In the period between censuses, in contrast to the significant decrease in the number of Armenian, Russian and other ethnic communities in the region, the Azerbaijani population increased significantly.

In line with post-war demographic patterns, the female population in the autonomous region significantly outnumbered the male population. Significant transformations took place in the age structure of the population of Nagorno-Karabakh. There was a sharp decrease in the age group up to 15 years old and especially a reduction in the age group 35-44 years old (comparison of censuses in 1939 and 1959). The 1959 census also showed the process of demographic aging of the population of Nagorno-Karabakh.

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