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PEOPLES AND LANGUAGES OF THE CAUCASUS

A SYNOPSIS

by

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COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY



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PREFACE

The student or scholar who in the course of his work has to deal with the peoples of the Caucasus is confronted with an ethnographical labyrinth, in which he is the more likely to lose his way as in nine cases out of ten his field of specialization centers outside the Caucasus. The synopsis presented here is in the first place intended to be a guide for the Turkologist, Iranist, Slavist, or Soviet specialist, for all of whom the Caucasus is, to a greater or lesser degree, a marginal area. In the second place, the authors hope that the work will be of use to Caucasiologists as an *aide-mémoire*. And last not least it is intended for the student of linguistics, anthropology, history or geography who wishes to specialize in the Caucasus; it is primarily with him in view that a bibliographical appendix on the Caucasus is included.

The data refer to the present-day linguistic-ethnic situation in the Caucasus, with the following proviso: peoples who were expelled from the Caucasus during World War II (Chechen, Ingush, Karachay, Balkar) are included, and peoples of European origin, not primarily associated with the Caucasus – Russians and Ukrainians on the one hand, and minor groups like Greeks, Balts, Germans, etc., on the other – are left out of account. The gradual return of the Chechen, Ingush, Karachay and Balkar to their homeland in the Caucasus has been announced in the USSR.

The peoples are numbered consecutively without further grouping. A survey of the genetic interrelationships of the languages spoken in the Caucasus is found on p. 9f. It must be borne in mind that the exact genetic relationships of the Paleocaucasian languages, both as to the three major branches and with regard to some of the internal groupings of the North-Eastern branch, are as yet uncertain. Under each heading (proposed standard English design-

nation) the following information is included: *Name* (Self-designation; English variants, if any; Russian designations; other designations, where relevant); *Number and Location* (with references to related groups outside the Caucasus); *Subdivisions* (linguistic, tribal, religious, etc.); *Language* (literary status; external relationships); brief indications of *Traditional Economy and Religion*. A certain amount of repetition, particularly in the sections on language, is necessary in order to achieve maximal efficiency for the purposes of reference. The Index of ethnic and linguistic names pursues the same goal.

The principles followed in transcription and transliteration, which have been made to conform as much as possible with English usage, are set forth on page 8.

The bulk of the material contained in the Synopsis was prepared in the course of a research-project on the Caucasus carried out at Columbia University for the Human Relations Area Files (cf. HRAF Subcontractor's Monograph *The Caucasus* (1956), pp. 417-502). The responsibility of the individual authors was distributed as follows: *Caucasian*: Dr. Kuipers; *Indo-European*: Dr. Geiger and Dr. Kuipers; *Turkic*: Dr. Halasi-Kun; *Mongolian*: Dr. Menges; *Semitic*: Dr. Geiger. Of course, the authors have all benefited from each other's comments and suggestions. The bibliography was prepared by Dr. Kuipers in consultation with the other authors.

The data on peoples and languages were distributed in mimeographed form to a number of interested scholars and institutions. For critical remarks and additional data, which were utilized in preparing the final draft for publication, the authors are indebted to Professor Gerhard Deeters, Bonn, Professor Carl L. Ebeling, Amsterdam, Dr. Dale I. Purdie, Professor Hans Vogt, Oslo, and others. Thanks are also due to Mrs. Eloise Jelinek for compiling the index, to Miss Jane Gaitenby for reproducing the map, and to Mr. Elbridge Hathaway for assistance in the preparation of the manuscript.

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NOTE ON TRANSCRIPTION AND transliteration

Russian names are given in the transliteration of the Library of Congress. Geographical names pertaining to the territory of the USSR are given in their Russian form, also where the latter is based on some other language. E.g. the name of the river (Georgian) *cxenis-c'q'ali* appears in Russian as Цхенис-Цкала and is transcribed Tskhenis-Tskali. Only in a few cases where the Russian form of Caucasian geographical names could not be ascertained, the latter are quoted directly from the original language.

Ethnic names are quoted in their proposed standard English form, except in the sections on nomenclature, where the following principles are followed: Russian is transliterated as indicated above, but, contrary to Russian usage, ethnic names are capitalized. Turkish names are quoted in the official Turkish orthography. The transcription of Georgian is analogous to that of Russian, with added symbols for glottalic and postvelar consonants (see below). In quoting names from the phonetically complex N Caucasian languages, certain approximations to the above notations rather than phonetic exactness have been aimed at. Self-designations quoted from approximative Russian transcriptions (rather than from the original language) are given when they differ significantly both from the self-designation in the original language and from the standard Russian designation, or when they are the only forms known. They are transcribed as other Russian names and are indicated by (R.):

Comments on symbols used:

ä, ö, ü	as in German
y	(not in contact with vowels) high-central or mid-central vowel
y	(in contact with vowels) semivowel
kh, gh	velar, postvelar, or pharyngeal fricative
q	postvelar stop or affricate
tl	lateral fricative or affricate
(x)'	glottalic consonant
(x)'	palatalized consonant
(x)·	geminate or emphatic consonant
(x̄)	long vowel
(x̃)	nasal vowel
(x̂)	stress

GENETIC-LINGUISTIC SURVEY

Caucasian (Palaeocaucasian, Ibero-Caucasian) languages:

- I. S Caucasian (Kartvelian, Iberian) branch: Georgian, Mingrelo-Laz, Svan;
- II. NW Caucasian (W Caucasian, Abasgo-Kerketian, Pontic) branch: Abkhaz, Ubykh, Circassian;
- III. NE Caucasian (E Caucasian, Checheno-Lezgian, Checheno-Dagestanian, Caspian) branch:
 - (1) Veinakh (N Central Caucasian) group: Chechen-Ingush, Bats;
 - (2) Avaro-Ando-Dido group: (a) Avar; (b) Andi sub-group: Andi proper, Botlikh-Godoberi, Karata, Bagulal, Tindi, Chamalal, Akhvakh; (c) Dido sub-group: Khvarshi, Dido proper, Kapucha-Khunzal-Ginukh; (d) Archi;
 - (3) Lak-Dargwa group; Lak and the Dargwa dialects: Dargwa proper, Kaitak, Kubachi;
 - (4) Samurian group: Lezgian, Agul, Rutul, Tsakhur, Tabasaran, Budukh, Dzhek;
 - (5) Khinalug;
 - (6) Udi.

Indo-European (Indogermanic, Aryan) languages:

- I. Armenian;
- II. Iranian branch:
 - (1) E (or N) Iranian: Ossetian;
 - (2) W Iranian: (a) N group: Talysh, Kurdish; (b) S group: Tat.

Altaic languages:

I. Turkic (Tatar, Muslim) branch:

- (1) Oghuz group: (a) W Oghuz: Azeri, Karapapak; (b) E Oghuz: Turkoman;
- (2) Kipchak group: Kumuk, Noghay, Karachay, Balkar;

II. Mongolian branch, W group: Kalmyk.

Semitic languages:

W Semitic branch, Aramaic group: Aisor.

I. GEORGIANS

NAME:

Self-Designation: Kartveli, pl. Kartvelebi (older: Kartvelni.) The name is applied to all the Kartvelian peoples (see below under "Language"); its derivate "Sakartvelo" denotes traditionally the Georgian state and political territory.

Russian Designation: Grüziny.

Other Designations: (Armenian:) Vratsi; (Turkish:) Gürcü; (Persian:) Gürdzhi; (Abkhaz:) Akÿrtwa.

NUMBER:

1897 1,097,000 (Russian census)
 1926 1,564,333 (Russian census, ethn.)
 1,610,458 (Russian census, ling.)
 1939 2,248,566 (Russian census)

The 1939 figure includes the Mingrelians, Laz, and Svan. The Turkish census of 1945 lists 40,076 speakers of Georgian.

LOCATION:

Western and central part of the territory between the mountains of the Great and Little Caucasus, with the lower Alazani river as E border. Of this area are excepted (1) the territory NW of the lower Rioni and Tskhenis-Tskali (which is inhabited by Mingrelians, Svan, and Abkhaz) and (2) the part of the country SW of the lower Chorokh (which is Laz territory). On the other hand, the Georgians extend beyond the Little Caucasus in the SW, where they live in the basins of the upper Kura and Araks. Politically, the main mass lives in the Georgian SSR, extending into the adjoining districts of N Azerbaidzhan (Kakh rayon) and NE Turkey (districts of Artvin, Ardahan, Ardanuch, Olti). Isolated from the main

body, speakers of Georgian (the Fereidān) constitute the population of 14 villages in the province of Isfahan, Iran.

Distribution (with indication of Georgian ethnic names):

1. *East Georgians*: Kakhetians (K'akheli): easternmost part of Georgia, E of the Kura and Aragvi rivers (a special sub-dialect is spoken in the district of Signakh (Kiziqi) between the Iori and Alazani rivers); Kartlians (Kartleli): their area is that of Georgia minus those of the other tribes, it is subdivided into regions: Meskheti, Dzhavakheti, Tao, Klardzheti, etc.; Ingilo (Ingilo): between the Alazani and the main Caucasian chain; Tush (Tushi, Tushuri): on the upper course of the Andiiskoe Koisu; Khevsur (Khevsuri): on the upper course of the E Aragvi and Argun; Pshav (Pshaveli): S of the Khevsur on the Aragvi and upper Iori; Mokhev and Mtiul (Mokhevi, Mtiuli): on the upper Terek, W Aragvi and Ksani.

2. *West Georgians*: Imeretians (Imereli): between the main Caucasian chain, the Suram range, the Adzharo-Akhaltikh range and the Tskhenis-Tskali river; Racha (Rach'veli): on the upper Rioni; Lechkhum (Lechkhumeli): W of Racha; Gurians (Guruli): S of the lower Rioni, attaining the Black Sea between Poti and Kobuleti; Adzhar (Ach'areli): S of the Gurians, E of Batumi. Speak the same dialect as the Gurians, but are Muslim.

LANGUAGE:

Georgian (Kartuli ena) belongs with Mingrelian, Laz, and Svan, to the S Caucasian (or Kartvelian) language family. It has an old literary tradition going back to the 5th century A.D., and a script of its own. The literary language is based on the Kartlian dialect.

SUBDIVISIONS:

The Georgian dialects fall into two groups; E and W Georgian. E dialects: Kartlian (with sub-dialects Meskh and Dzhavakh), Kakhetian, Ingilo, Tush, Khevsur, Mokhev (the latter three collectively referred to as Pkhov), Pshav, Mtiul, (Fereidān in Iran). W dialects: Imeretian, Racha, Lechkhum, Guri (including Adzhar), Imerkhev (in Turkey).

TRADITIONAL ECONOMY:

Agriculture; cattle-breeding; horticulture; viticulture; arts and crafts.

RELIGION:

Eastern Orthodox; Roman Catholic minority; only the Adzhar and part of the Ingilo are Muslim. There are a number of Georgian-speaking Jewish villages in different parts of the Georgian SSR, totaling 21,471 persons (1926, Russian census), in Russian referred to as Gruzinskie evrei (Georgian Jews).

2. MINGRELIANS

NAME:

Self-Designation: Margali; own name of country: Odishi, Samargalo.

Russian Designations: Megrely, Megrel'tsy, Mingrel'tsy.

Other Designations: (Georgian:) Megreli, the country (old:) Eg(u)risi, (modern:) Samegrelo; (Abkhaz:) Aghrwa; (Svan:) Myzan, the country: Zan.

NUMBER:

1897	239,625	(Russian census)
1926	242,990	(Russian census, ethn.)
	284,834	(Russian census, ling.)

LOCATION:

Territory N of lower Rioni river and W of the Tskhenis-Tskali, extending along the Black Sea Coast from the mouth of the Rioni up to Ochemchiri (rayons Zugdidi and Senaki in W of Georgian SSR). Also in and around the cities of the Abkhaz ASSR.

LANGUAGE:

Mingrelian and the very closely related Laz form the so-called Zan member of the S Caucasian (Kartvelian) language group, which

also includes Georgian and Svan. The language is not written, Georgian being used as the literary language.

SUBDIVISIONS:

Two groups of dialects, which differ very little: West (Samurzakan'-Zugdidi) and East Mingrelian (Senaki).

TRADITIONAL ECONOMY:

Agriculture; horticulture; viticulture; sericulture.

RELIGION:

Eastern Orthodox.

3. LAZ

NAME:

Self-Designation: Lazi.

Russian Designations: Lazy; for the language also: Chanskii iazyk.

Other Designations: (Turkish:) Laz; (Georgian:) Ch'ani, the country: Ch'aneti.

NUMBER:

1926 643 (Russian census, ethn.)

730 (Russian census, ling.)

The Turkish census of 1945 lists 46,987 speakers of Laz, so that the overwhelming majority of them live on Turkish territory.

LOCATION:

Between the Chorokh river and the Black Sea coast up to the area of Pazar (Atina) on Turkish territory; in the Chkhala basin (left tributary of the Chorokh on Russian territory), (Adzhar ASSR, within Georgian SSR).

LANGUAGE:

Laz and the very closely related Mingrelian form the so-called Zan member of the S Caucasian (Kartvelian) language-group, which

includes also Georgian and Svan. The language is not written, Georgian being used as the literary language in the USSR, Turkish in Turkey.

SUBDIVISIONS:

Two dialect-groups: West (Vitse-Arkhava and Atina) and East Laz (Hopa, Chkhala).

TRADITIONAL ECONOMY:

Agriculture; fishing; trade.

RELIGION:

Islam (Sunni).

4. SVAN

NAME:

Self-Designation: Shwan, sing. Mushwän, Mushwni.

English Variants: Svan, Svanetians.

Russian Designations: Svany, Svanety.

Other Designations: (Georgian:) Svani; the country: Svaneti.

NUMBER:

1897 15,756 (Russian census)

1926 13,218 (Russian census, ethn.)

13,142 (Russian census, ling.)

The 1926 numbers are very low and must be due to some misunderstanding. The Bol'shaia Sovetskaia Éntsiklopediia (1st. ed.) Vol. 50 (1944), p. 371, gives the number of the Svan as over 23,000.

LOCATION:

Two valleys S of Mt. El'brus, one of the upper Tskhenis-Tskali and its tributary the Kheledula (Sv. of the Dadiani), the other of the upper Ingur (West: Sv. of the Dadeshkeliani, East: Free Sv.) (Georgian SSR).

LANGUAGE:

The Svan language is a member of the S Caucasian (Kartvelian) language-family, to which belong further Mingrelo-Laz (Zan), and Georgian, the latter languages forming one group as against Svan. The language is not written, Georgian being used as the literary language.

SUBDIVISIONS:

Historically, Svanetia fell into three parts, Svanetia of the Dadiani, Svanetia of the Dadeshkeliani, Free Svanetia. The Svan dialects are divided into four groups: Upper and Lower Bal in the Ingur region, Lashkh and Lentekh in the Tskhenis-Tskali region.

TRADITIONAL ECONOMY:

Agriculture; cattle-raising; hunting; apiculture.

RELIGION:

Eastern-Orthodox.

5. ABKHAZ

NAME:

Self-Designation: Aàpswa.

English Variants: Abkhaz(ians); for the tribes N of the Cauc. ridge: Abazinians.

Russian Designations: Abkhazy, Abkhaztsy; for the tribes N of the Cauc. ridge: Abazintsy, Beshkesek-Abaza.

Other Designations: (Georgian:) Apkhazi; (Svan:) Mibkhaz; (Turkish:) Abaza.

NUMBER:

1897 72,103 (Russian census)

1926 56,957 (Russian census, ethn.)

48,130 (Russian census, ling.)

1939 58,969 (Russian census)

These numbers do not include the Abaza on Russian territory (see

below under "Subdivisions"), whose number was in 1926: 13,825 (ethn.), 13,057 (ling.) (Russian census). The Turkish census of 1945 lists 8,602 speakers of "Abaza" (i.e. Abkhaz).

LOCATION:

Black Sea coast S of the main Cauc. chain between the rivers Psou and Ingur (Abkhaz ASSR, within Georgian SSR). The Bzyb'-Abkhaz live around the river Bzyb', the Abzhui-Abkhaz around the river Kodori, the Samurzakan'-Abkhaz in the SE, bordering on Mingrelia. The Abaza tribes live in 15 villages N of the Cauc. chain at the sources of the rivers Kuban' and Zelenchuk (Cherkes AO, within RSFSR).

LANGUAGE:

Abkhaz belongs to NW Caucasian, together with Circassian and Ubykh (the latter no longer spoken in the Caucasus). Two dialects have been reduced to writing: in the Abkhaz ASSR that of the Abzhui, in the Cherkes AO that of the Tapanta. The speakers of the Abaza dialects are all bilingual and speak also the Kabardian dialect of Circassian. In the Abkhaz ASSR knowledge of Georgian is widespread.

SUBDIVISIONS:

Abkhaz has five major dialects: Bzyb', Abzhui, Samurzakan', Ashkharwa, and Tapanta. The speakers of the latter two dialects are known as Abaza (R. Abazintsy), though linguistically the first four dialects form one group, while Tapanta stands apart.

Further tribal names (Russ. form): Tsebeldintsy, Dzhigety; (Abaza:) Beshilbei, Tam, Barakei.

TRADITIONAL ECONOMY:

Cattle-breeding; agriculture; viticulture; apiculture.

RELIGION:

Islam (Sunni); Eastern Orthodox.

6. CIRCASSIANS

NAME:

Self-Designation: Adyghe.

English Variants: Circassians, Cherkes.

Russian Designations: Cherkesy (see also below under "Subdivisions").

Other Designations: (Abkhaz:) Azkhwa; (Ossete:) Käsgon, collective: Käsäg (refers particularly to the Kabardians); (Georgian:) Cherkezi.

NUMBER:

Kabardians:

1897	98,561	(Russian census)	46,286	(Russian census)
1926	139,925	(Russ. cens. ethn.)	65,270	(Russ. cens. ethn.)
	138,925	(Russ. cens. ling.)	64,195	(Russ. cens. ling.)
1939	164,106	(Russian census)	87,973	(Russian census)

Other Circassians:

The Turkish census of 1945 lists 66,691 speakers of Circassian.

LOCATION:

1. *Upper Circassians:* (Kabardians:) basins of the rivers Malka, Baksan, Cherek, and Upper Terek in the Central Caucasus ("Great Kabarda"), a strip of land E of the Terek ("Little Kabarda"); these constitute the Kabardian ASSR. Also between the upper Kuban' and Zelenchuk rivers, included in the Cherkes AO. Smaller groups around Mozdok and in the E part of the Adygei AO. (Beslenei:) Two auls of the Cherkes AO: Beslenei and Bako-zhile; two auls in the Uspenskii rayon (Krasnodar Krai): Kurgovskoe and Konovskoe; two auls in the Adygei AO: Khodzh' and Uliap.

2. *Lower Circassians:* S of the lower middle course of the Kuban' and in the basins of the Laba and Belaia; these in the Adygei AO (mixture of various tribes). Also SE of Tuapse and in the aul Suvorovo-Cherkesskii on the Taman' peninsula (Shapsug). Smaller groups scattered in the NW Cauc., among others near Armavir. A considerable number of Circassians live in Turkey, Syria, Jordan, Palestine and Iraq.

LANGUAGE:

The Circassian language (Adyghëbze) belongs with Abkhaz and Ubykh (no longer spoken in the Caucasus) to the NW group of Caucasian languages. The two major dialects, Upper and Lower Circassian, both have the status of literary language, under the names "Kabardinskii" or "Kabardinocherkesskii", and "Adygeiskii iazyk" respectively (the latter based on the Temirgoi dialect). A Lower Circassian dialect is spoken by the Armenians in the town of Armavir.

SUBDIVISIONS:

Two main dialect-groups: Upper Circassian (Kabardian and Beslenei) and Lower Circassian (or Kiakh, with sub-dialects Bzhedukh-Temirgoi (the latter also called Chemgui), Shapsug, and Abadzekh). In Russian sources the Circassians in the Adygei AO are referred to as "Adygeitsy", those in the Cherkes AO as "Cherkesy", those in the Kabardian ASSR as "Kabardintsy". The dialects follow old tribal divisions. Other tribal names (Russ. form): Natukhaevtsy, Gatiukai, Zhané(e)vtsy, Egerukaevtsy, Makhosh(ev)tsy, Kiakhi, Khagak (Khegek, Shegek).

TRADITIONAL ECONOMY:

Agriculture; horticulture; cattle-breeding; horse-breeding (esp. Kabardians); apiculture; home industry (Caucasian felt cloaks).

RELIGION:

Islam (Sunni); only the Kabardians around Mozdok are Christians.

7. CHECHEN-INGUSH

NAME:

Self-Designation: (Chechen:) Nakhchuo, pl. Nqkhchiy; (Ingush:) Ghalghai, Lamur ("Mountaineers"); (Kist:) Veppie; (Karabulak:) Arshte.

Russian Designations: Chechen(ts)y, Ingushi, Mizdzhegi.

Other Designations: (Georgian:) Chachani, Kist'i, Kist'uri, for the

Ingush in particular: Ghlighvi; (Circassian:) Sheshen; (Ossete:) Tsatsan; (Avar:) Burt'ichi, Burt'iyaw; (Kumyk:) Michikish, Michigysh.

NUMBER:

<i>Chechen:</i>		<i>Ingush:</i>	<i>Kist:</i>
1897	226,496 (Russian census)	47,409 (Id.)	413 (Id.)
1926	318,522 (Russ. cens. ethn.)	74,097 (Id.)	
	(all groups combined:)	393,713 (Russ. census, ling.)	
1939	407,690 (Russian census)	92,074 (Russian census)	

LOCATION:

Formerly between the middle course of the Terek and the main Cauc. ridge, in the now abolished Chechen-Ingush ASSR, most of which has become part of the krai Grozny. Deported in 1943. Have since received some official recognition by the issuing of a Chechen language newspaper in the Kazakh SSR, where therefore a sizable group of them must be living now. Some representatives of the Kist tribe are left in the territory of the Georgian SSR, on the upper Assa, Argun, and Alazani rivers. It has been announced in the USSR that the Chechen and Ingush will return to their original territory in the Caucasus.

LANGUAGE:

Chechen and Ingush are very closely related languages. Together with Bats they form the Veinakh group of the NE Caucasian language family. Both Chechen and Ingush had the status of literary language.

SUBDIVISIONS:

These were more of a geographical than of a linguistic nature. Chechen tribes: Ichkeri(ntsya), Aukh(overy), etc.; Ingush tribes: Dzherakh(overy), Nazran(overy), etc. A special dialect was spoken by the Karabulak, who had all emigrated to Turkey by 1870. The Georgians knew the Chechen with whom they came in contact as Kist; this name was later extended to the whole group and adopted

by the Russians as a name for the Chechen and Ingush languages (Kistinskie iazyki).

TRADITIONAL ECONOMY:

Cattle-breeding; agriculture.

RELIGION:

Islam (Sunni).

8. BATS

NAME:

Self-Designation: Batsaw, pl. Batsbi.

Russian Designations: Batsbiitsy, Tsova-Tush, Tush (due to incorrect naming by Guldenshtadt).

NUMBER:

1926	7 (Russian census, ethn.)
	2,459 (Russian census, ling.)

LOCATION:

In winter and spring in the village Zemo Alvani on the Kakhetian Alazani (near Telavi), in summer in the mountain meadows on the upper Kakhetian Alazani and Tush Alazani rivers (Akhmet rayon, Georgian SSR).

LANGUAGE:

Bats (Batsbē mot') forms, with Checheno-Ingush, the Veinakh group of the NE Caucasian languages. The language is not written, Georgian being used as the literary language.

TRADITIONAL ECONOMY:

Cattle-breeding.

RELIGION:

Eastern Orthodox.

9. AVAR

Self-Designation: None for the people as a whole. Own designation of language: mahàrul mats' ("mountain language") or Khunz mats' ("language of Khunzakh").

Russian Designations: Avartsy, Tavlintsy (the latter from Kumyk "Taulu" meaning "mountaineers" in general). The southern groups of Avar are also referred to as Dzhartsy.

Other Designations: (Lak:) Yaruchū, (Dargwa:) K'araq'an.

NUMBER:

1926 158,769 (Russian census, ethn.)
158,922 (Russian census, ling.)

In the Bol'shaia Sovetskaiia Éntsiklopediia (2nd. ed.) Vol. 1 (1949), p. 62, the total number of Avar is given as ca. 167,000. The number of persons able to speak Avar is ca. 220,000 (estimate, Chikobava).

LOCATION:

Basins of the lower Andi Koisu, and of the Avar Koisu; some groups isolated from the main body along the W tributaries of the Andi Koisu (rayons Gergebil', Gumbet, Gunib, Kazbek, Kakhib, Tliarata, Untsukul', Khunzakh, Charoda, all in the Dagestan ASSR). Also extending to the S slope of the main Caucasian chain (rayons Belokany and Zakataly, Azerb. SSR).

LANGUAGE:

The Avar language (mahàrul mats', Khunz mats') forms with the Andi and Dido groups of languages one of the six main divisions of NE Caucasian (the others being Veinakh, Lak-Dargwa, Samurian, Khinalug, and Udi). Avar has the status of a literary language in the Dagestan ASSR. The literary language is based on the Khunzakh dialect which was also the basis of the old "bol mats'" ("army language"), the common Avar lingua franca. Knowledge of Avar is spread well outside its own linguistic territory (Andi-Dido area, Tsakhur area, Archi, W part of Lak and Dargwa areas).

SUBDIVISIONS:

There are four major dialects: Khunzakh, Gidatl'-Andalaly-Karakh, Antsukh, and Char.

TRADITIONAL ECONOMY:

Stockbreeding; home industry (Caucasian felt cloaks, leather goods, wooden objects, metal work, tapestry-weaving, embroidery); horticulture.

RELIGION:

Islam (Sunni).

10. ANDI

NAME:

Self-Designation: Qwannaw, pl. Qwannal.

Russian Designations: Andii, Anditsy (this name is also used to include, besides the Andi proper, the other peoples of the Andi group; cf. below under "Language").

Other Designations: (Avar:) Handisew, pl. Handàl, the country: Handi.

NUMBER:

1926 7,840 (Russian census, ethn.)
7,720 (Russian census, ling.)

LOCATION:

N of the Andiiskoe Koisu, at its bend eastward (auls Andi, Ghunkha, Ghaghatl, Rik'uan, Chankho, Zilo, Muni, in rayon Botlikh, and auls Kvankhidatl and Kushet in rayon Vedenó, Dagestan ASSR).

LANGUAGE:

Andi (Qwannab mits-i) forms with Botlikh, Godoberi, Karata, Bagulal, Tindi, Chamalal, and Akhvakh, the so-called Andi subgroup of the Avaro-Ando-Dido group of the NE Caucasian

languages. The language is not written, Avar being used as the literary language.

TRADITIONAL ECONOMY:

Sheep-raising, home industry (Caucasian felt cloaks, tapestries, goldsmithing).

RELIGION:

Islam (Sunni).

11. BOTLIKH

NAME:

Self-Designation: Buykhatli (gen. of Buykhe "the village B."); (R:) Buikhadi.

Russian Designations: Botlikhtsy, Buiukhad.

NUMBER:

1926 3,354 (Russian census, ethn.)
2,789 (Russian census, ling.)

LOCATION:

Just N of the bend of the Andiiskoe Koisu, SW of the Andi area (rayon Botlikh, aul's Botlikh and Miarso, Dagestan ASSR).

LANGUAGE:

Botlikh (Buykhatli mits-i) forms with Andi, Godoberi, Karata, Bagulal, Tindi, Chamalal, and Akhvakh, the Andi subgroup of the Avaro-Ando-Dido group of the NE Caucasian languages. Botlikh and Godoberi are now regarded as dialects of the same language. The language is not written, Avar being used as the literary language.

TRADITIONAL ECONOMY:

Cattle-breeding, home industry, agriculture.

RELIGION:

Islam (Sunni).

12. GODOBERI

NAME:

Self-Designation: Ghibditl-i adami (i.e. "people of the village Ghidu (Godoberi)").

Russian Designation: Godoberi(ntsya).

Other Designations: (Avar:) Ghodoberis-el.

NUMBER:

1926 1,425 (Russian census, ethn.)
1,425 (Russian census, ling.)

LOCATION:

Just NW of the bend of the Andiiskoe Koisu, W of the Botlikh area (rayon Botlikh, aul Godoberi, Dagestan ASSR).

LANGUAGE:

Godoberi (Ghibditl-i mits-i) forms with Andi, Botlikh, Karata, Bagulal, Tindi, Chamalal, and Akhvakh, the Andi subgroup of the Avaro-Ando-Dido group of the NE Caucasian languages. Godoberi and Botlikh are now regarded as dialects of the same language. The language is not written, Avar being used as the literary language.

TRADITIONAL ECONOMY:

Cattle-breeding; home industry; agriculture.

RELIGION:

Islam (Sunni).

13. KARATA

NAME:

Self-Designation: Kirtl-e, pl. Kirtl-ei.

Russian Designations: Karatintsy, Karatai, Kirdi.

Other Designations: (Avar:) K'alalal.

NUMBER:

1926 5,305 (Russian census, ethn.)
5,303 (Russian census, ling.)

LOCATION:

Just S of the bend of the Andiiskoe Koisu, auls Karata, Archo, Anchikh, Tokita, Mashtada, Rachabalda, Chabakoro (N part of rayon Akhvakh, rayons Andalaly and Veden, Dagest. ASSR).

LANGUAGE:

Karata (Kirtl'i mats'i) forms with Andi, Botlikh, Godoberi, Bagulal, Tindi, Chamalal, and Akhvakh, the Andi subgroup of the Avaro-Ando-Dido group of the NE Caucasian languages. The language is not written, Avar being used as the literary language.

SUBDIVISIONS:

Dialects: Karata proper, Anchikh and Tokita.

TRADITIONAL ECONOMY:

Cattle-breeding, home industry, agriculture.

RELIGION:

Islam (Sunni).

14. BAGULAL

NAME:

Self-Designation: Kwantl hekua, or Bagulal.

Russian Designation: Bagulaly; Bagvalaly, Bogulaly.

Other Designations: due to their dual self-designation, referred to both as Bagulal and Kvanada.

NUMBER:

1926 3,054 (Russian census, ethn.)
3,053 (Russian census, ling.)

LOCATION:

S of the bend of the Andiiskoe Koisu, S of the Karata area (rayon Tsumada, auls Khushtada, Tlondoda, Kvanada; rayon Akhvakh, auls Gimerso, Tisi, Tlibisho).

LANGUAGE:

Bagulal (Bagulazul mits-) forms with Andi, Botlikh, Godoberi, Karata, Tindi, Chamalal, and Akhvakh, the Andi subgroup of the Avaro-Andi-Dido group of the NE Caucasian languages. The language is not written, Avar being used as literary language.

SUBDIVISIONS:

Dialects: Bagulal proper and Tlisi.

TRADITIONAL ECONOMY:

Cattle-breeding; agriculture; home industry.

RELIGION:

Islam (Sunni).

15. TINDI

NAME:

Self-Designation: Idaraw hekwa; (R:) Adary.

Russian Designations: Tindii, Tindiitsy, Tindaly, Inderi(ntsya), Idi.

Other Designations: (Dido:) Bogozi, pl. Bogozibi.

NUMBER:

1926 3,812 (Russian census, ethn.)
3,704 (Russian census, ling.)
1952* 5,000 (estimate, Gudava)

LOCATION:

Auls Tindi, Tisi, Echada and Akhnada (rayon Tsumada, Dagestan ASSR). In 1944 part of the population moved to rayon Veden (aul Qedi), Dagestan ASSR.

LANGUAGE:

Tindi (Idara mits') forms with Andi, Botlikh, Godoberi, Karata, Bagulal, Chamalal and Akhvakh the Andi subgroup of the Avaro-Ando-Dido group of the NE Caucasian languages. The language is not written, Avar being used as the literary language.

TRADITIONAL ECONOMY:

Cattle-breeding; agriculture; home industry.

RELIGION:

Islam (Sunni).

16. CHAMALAL

NAME:

Self-Designation: according to separate villages; as opposed to other peoples: Ch'amalaldu, pl. Ch'amalaldube, collective: Ch'amalali.

Russian Designation: Chamalaly.

NUMBER:

1926 3,438 (Russian census, ethn.)
3,438 (Russian census, ling.)

LOCATION:

On the E side of the Andiiskoe Koisu, just below the bend; auls Verkhni Gakvari (with sub-villages), Nizhni Gakvari (with sub-villages), Agvali, Tsumada, Tsumada-Uruk, Richaganik, Gadyri (with sub-villages), Gachitl', Gigatl' (with sub-villages), Kvankhi (Tsumada rayon, Dagestan ASSR).

LANGUAGE:

Chamalal (Ch'amalaldub mits') forms with Andi, Botlikh, Godoberi, Karata, Bagulal, Tindi, and Akhvakh, the Andi subgroup of the Avaro-Ando-Dido group of the NE Caucasian languages. The language is not written, Avar being used as the literary language.

SUBDIVISIONS:

Dialects: 1a. Gakvari (incl. Gakvari, Agvali, Tsumada, Tsumada-Uruk, Richaganik); 1b. Gadyri (incl. Gachitl') and Kvankhi; 2. Gigatl'.

TRADITIONAL ECONOMY:

Cattle-breeding; home industry (Caucasian felt cloaks, goldsmithing); agriculture.

RELIGION:

Islam (Sunni).

17. AKHVAKH

NAME:

Self-Designation: Atluatl-i; (R:) Ashvago.

Russian Designation: Akhvakhtsy.

NUMBER:

1926 3,683 (Russian census, ethn.)
3,683 (Russian census, ling.)

LOCATION:

Between the Avarskoe Koisu and the Andiiskoe Koisu, just at their bend to the E (rayon Akhvakh; auls Izani, Kudiiab-Roso, Tad-Magatl', Lologonitl'; rayon Kakhik: auls Tlenob, Tsekob; rayon Andalaly: aul Ratlub; all in Dagestan ASSR).

LANGUAGE:

Akhvakh (Atluatl-i mits-i) forms with Andi, Botlikh, Godoberi, Karata, Bagulal, Tindi, and Chamalal, the Andi subgroup of the Avaro-Ando-Dido group of the NE Caucasian languages. The language is not written, Avar being used as the literary language.

TRADITIONAL ECONOMY:

Cattle-breeding; agriculture; home industry.

RELIGION:

Islam (Sunni).

18. KHVARSHI

NAME:

Self-Designation: Kedaes hikwa; (R:) Khuani, Khvarshal.

Russian Designations: Khvarshiny, Khvarshintsy.

NUMBER:

1926 1,019 (Russian census, ethn.)

1,018 (Russian census, ling.)

LOCATION:

Formerly on a S tributary of the Andiiskoe Koisu, SW of the Bagulal area (auls Khvarshi, Inkhokari, etc., Dagestan ASSR). In 1944 moved to rayon Veden, Dagestan ASSR.

LANGUAGE:

Khvarshi (Kedaes mits, Inkhies mits, depending on village) forms with Dido, Kapucha, Khunzal, and Ginukh, the Dido subgroup of the Avaro-Ando-Dido group of the NE Caucasian languages. The language is not written, Avar being used as the literary language.

TRADITIONAL ECONOMY:

Agriculture; cattle-breeding.

RELIGION:

Islam (Sunni).

19. DIDO

NAME:

Self-Designation: Ts-ezi, pl. Ts-ezibi.

Russian Designations: Didoi, Didoitsy, Tsezy, Tsuntintsy.

Other Designations: (Georgian:) Dido; (Kakhetian-Georgian:)

Tsunt'a "ragamuffin", a name also used by the Avar and several peoples of the Andi group.

NUMBER:

1926 3,276 (Russian census, ethn.)

3,198 (Russian census, ling.)

LOCATION:

S of the upper Andiiskoe Koisu.

LANGUAGE:

Dido (Ts-ezias mits-) forms with Khvarshi, Kapucha, Khunzal, and Ginukh, the so-called Dido subgroup of the Avaro-Ando-Dido group of the NE Caucasian languages. The language is not written, Avar being used as the literary language.

TRADITIONAL ECONOMY:

Cattle-breeding; agriculture; home industry (goldsmithing).

RELIGION:

Islam (Sunni).

20. KAPUCHA

NAME:

Self-Designation: Kapuchias suko or Bezhtl-as suko, depending on the village.

Russian Designations: Kapuchiny, Bezhitiny.

NUMBER:

1926 1,448 (Russian census, ethn.)

1,448 (Russian census, Ling.)

LOCATION:

Upper basin of the Avarskoe Koisu (rayon Tliarata, auls Bezhty, Khocharkhota, Tliadal, Dagestan ASSR).

LANGUAGE:

Kapucha (Bezhtl-alas mits-) forms with Khvarshi, Dido, Khunzal, and Ginukh, the Dido subgroup of the Avaro-Ando-Dido group of the NE Caucasian languages. Kapucha, Khunzal and Ginukh are now regarded as dialects of the same language. The language is not written, Avar being used as the literary language.

TRADITIONAL ECONOMY:

Cattle-breeding; agriculture; home industry (goldsmithing).

RELIGION:

Islam (Sunni).

21. KHUNZAL

NAME:

Self-Designation: (R:) Khunzami.

Russian Designations: Khunzaly, Gun(d)zaly, Gunzebi, Gunzibtsy, Enzebi, Nakhada.

NUMBER:

1926 106 (Russian census, ethn.)

129 (Russian census, ling.)

LOCATION:

Auls Khunzib and Garbutl (with former Nakhada) (rayon Tliarata, Dagestan ASSR).

LANGUAGE:

Khunzal forms with Khvarshi, Dido, Kapucha, and Ginukh, the Dido subgroup of the Avaro-Ando-Dido group of the NE Caucasian languages. Khunzal, Kapucha and Ginukh are now regarded as dialects of the same language. The language is not written, Avar being used as the literary language.

TRADITIONAL ECONOMY:

Cattle-breeding; agriculture; crafts.

RELIGION:

Islam (Sunni).

22. GINUKH

NAME:

Self-Designation: —

Russian Designation: Ginukhtsy.

NUMBER:

200 (estimate, Bokarev).

LOCATION:

Aul Ginukh, rayon Tliarata (Daghestan ASSR). Majority had moved to rayon Vedeny by 1949 (village Kidero).

LANGUAGE:

Ginukh forms with Khvarshi, Dido, Kapuchi, and Khunzal, the Dido Subgroup of the Avaro-Ando-Dido group of the NE Caucasian languages. Ginukh, Kapucha and Khunzal are now regarded as dialects of the same language. The language is not written, Avar being used as the literary language.

TRADITIONAL ECONOMY:

Cattle-breeding; home industry.

RELIGION:

Islam (Sunni).

23. ARCHI

NAME:

Self-Designation: Arishishuw, Arshishtuw; (R:) Arshashdub.

Russian Designation: Archintsy.

Other Designations: (Lak:) Roch.

NUMBER:

1926 863 (Russian census, ethn.)

859 (Russian census, ling.)

LOCATION:

Aul Ruch-Archi on the Khatar river, rayon Charoda (Dagestan ASSR).

LANGUAGE:

Archi (Arshatten ch'at) belongs to the Avaro-Ando-Dido group of the NE Causasian languages; its exact position in this group is uncertain. The language is not written, Avar being used as the literary language.

TRADITIONAL ECONOMY:

Cattle-breeding; home industry (cloth and tapestry weaving).

RELIGION:

Islam (Sunni).

24. LAK

NAME:

Self-Designation: Lak, Lak·uchū.

Russian Designations: Laki, Laktsy, Kazikumukhtsy.

Other Designations: (Avar:) Tumaw, pl. Tumul; (Lezgian:) Yakholshu.

NUMBER:

1926 40,380 (Russian census, ethn.)

40,336 (Russian census, ling.)

1955 well over 55,000 (estimate, Zhirkov).

LOCATION:

Basin of the upper Tleuserakh, Khatar, and Kazikumukhskoe Koisu (rayons Lak and Kula, separate villages in rayons Tsudakhar, Akusha, Rutul, Kurakh, Charoda, and Dakhadaev). Since 1944 also in the foothills of the Andi ridge (Novo-Lak rayon, Dagestan ASSR):

LANGUAGE:

Lak (lak·u maz) forms with the Dargwa group of languages the Lak-Dargwa subdivision of the NE Caucasian languages, which include, also Veinakh, Avaro-Ando-Dido, Samurian, Khinalug, and Udi. Lak has the status of a literary language in the Dagestan ASSR; the written language is based on the Kumukh dialect.

TRADITIONAL ECONOMY:

Cattle-breeding; production of leather goods and pottery; metal-work (weapons); agriculture.

RELIGION:

Islam (Sunni).

25. DARGWA

NAME:

Self-Designation: No general one (the term "Dargwa" refers originally to a type of political-administrative unit); according to villages: Ts'udq·ran, pl. Ts'udq·ur 'person from Tsudakhar', Khurq·an, pl. Khuruq· 'person from Khiurkila', etc.; (R:) Dargante.

Russian Designations: Darginy, Dargintsy; language also Khiurkilinskii iazyk.

Other Designations: (German:) for the language: Hürkanisch, Hürkilinisch.

NUMBER:

1897 130,209 (Russian census)

1926 108,963 (Russian census, ethn.)

107,645 (Russian census, ling.)

The 1897 figure probably includes Kubachi and Kaitak.

LOCATION:

In the lower mountains between the rivers Kazikumukhskoe Koisu and Ulla-chai (rayons Sergokala, Akusha, Dakhadaev, Shuragat, Tsudakhar, most of Levashi; separate villages in rayons Karabudakhkent (Gubden, Gurbuki), Buinak (Kadar, Karamakhi, Chan-

kurby), Gunib (Miamusi), Agul (Amukh, Chirakh), Dagestan ASSR).

LANGUAGE:

Dargwa forms with the closely related Kubachi and Kaitak the so-called Dargwa subgroup of the Lak-Dargwa group of the NE Caucasian languages. It has the status of a literary language in the Dagestan ASSR; the written language is based on the Akusha dialect (Aq·usha midz).

SUBDIVISIONS

Dialects: Akusha-(or Akkhusha-)Urakha and Tsudakhar, both with many sub-dialects. Kaitak and Kubachi are now regarded as additional members of the Dargwa dialect-group.

TRADITIONAL ECONOMY:

Agriculture, home industry (pottery, leather work, tapestry-weaving, weapon- and tool-making).

RELIGION:

Islam (Sunni).

26. KAITAK

NAME:

Self-Designation: Khaidaqlan, plur. Khidaaq.

Russian Designation: Khaidaki, Kaitagi, Kaitaki, Karakaitaki.

NUMBER:

1926 14,430 (Russian census, ethn.)

14,469 (Russian census, ling.)

LOCATION:

Basin of Ulla-Chai, between the Dargwa and the Tabasaran areas (rayon Kaitak, S part of rayon Dakhadaev, Dagestan ASSR).

LANGUAGE:

Kaitak forms with the closely related Dargwa and Kubachi the so-called Dargwa subgroup of the Lak-Dargwa group of the NE Caucasian languages. It is now regarded as a Dargwa dialect, Aqusha Dargwa being used as the literary language.

TRADITIONAL ECONOMY:

Cattle-breeding; agriculture; home industry.

RELIGION:

Islam (Sunni).

27. KUBACHI

NAME:

Self-Designation: Ughbug; (R:) Ogbuk.

Russian Designation: Kubachintsy.

NUMBER:

1926 2,322 (Russian census, ethn.)

2,470 (Russian census, ling.)

LOCATION:

Aul Kubachi (rayon Dakhadaev, Dagestan ASSR).

LANGUAGE:

Kubachi (Ughbughan hub) forms with the closely related Dargwa and Kaitak the Dargwa subgroup of the Lak-Dargwa group of the NE Caucasian languages. It is now regarded as a Dargwa dialect, Aqusha Dargwa being used as the literary language.

TRADITIONAL ECONOMY:

Cattle-breeding; goldsmithing; incrustation work; weapon-making.

RELIGION:

Islam (Sunni).

28. LEZGIANS

NAME:

Self-Designation: Lezgi, pl. Lezgiar.

English Variants: Lezg(h)i, Lezg(h)ians.

Russian Designations: Lezginy, Kiurintsy, for the language: Kiürinskii iazyk. (The name Lezginy has often been used to refer to the Dagestan mountaineers in general.)

Other Designations: (Georgian:) Lek'i (in a wider sense referring to the Dagestan mountaineers in general); (German:) for the language: Kiürinisch.

NUMBER:

1897 159,213 (Russian census)

1926 134,529 (Russian census, ethn.)

164,763 (Russian census, ling.)

LOCATION:

Basins of the Giulgeri-chai, Middle and Lower Samur and Shakh-Nabad rivers, i.e. the whole SE part of Dagestan and the adjoining part of N Azerbaidzhan. (Dagestan ASSR; Azerbaidzhan SSR).

LANGUAGE:

Lezgian (Lezgi ch'al) forms with Agul, Rutul, Tsakhur, Tabasaran, Budukh, and Dzhek, the Samurian subdivision of the NE Caucasian languages, which include also Veinakh, Avaro-Ando-Dido, Lak-Dargwa, Khinalug and Udi. It has the status of a literary language in the Dagestan ASSR; the written language is based on the Kiuri dialect.

SUBDIVISIONS:

Three basic dialects: Kiuri, Akhty, Kuba.

TRADITIONAL ECONOMY:

Cattle-breeding; agriculture; horticulture; home industry (tapestry-weaving, smith's craft).

RELIGION:

Islam (Sunni).

29. AGUL

NAME:

Self-Designation: Aghul, Aghulshuy.

Russian Designation: Aguly.

NUMBER:

1926 7,653 (Russian census, ethn.)

7,653 (Russian census, ling.)

LOCATION:

Basin of the upper Kurakh-chai and Giulgeri-chai (Magudere), with affluents (rayons Agul and Kurakh, Dagestan ASSR).

LANGUAGE:

Agul (Aghul ch'al, Aghularin ch'al) forms with Lezgian, Rutul, Tsakhur, Tabasaran, Budukh, and Dzhek, the Samurian subdivision of the NE Caucasian language group. The language is not written; Russian (formerly Lezgian) being used as the literary language.

SUBDIVISIONS:

Two dialects: Agul proper and Koshan.

TRADITIONAL ECONOMY:

Cattle-breeding; home industry (production of cloth, tapestries, felt cloaks).

RELIGION:

Islam (Sunni).

30. RUTUL

NAME:

Self-Designation: no general one; the inhabitants of the aul Rutul (Mykhâd) call themselves Mykhâshura.

Russian Designation: Rutuly, Rutul'tsy.

NUMBER:

1926 10,495 (Russian census, ethn.)

10,356 (Russian census, ling.)

LOCATION:

Area of confluence of Samur and Kara-Samur (18 villages) (Rutul rayon; vill. Khnov in Akhty rayon (Dagestan ASSR); vill. Shin and Kainar in Nukha rayon, Azerbaidzhan SSR).

LANGUAGE:

Rutul (Mykhànidy ch'äl) forms with Lezghian, Agul, Tsakhur, Tabasaran, Budukh, and Dzhek, the Samurian subdivision of the NE Caucasian language-group. The language is not written, Russian (formerly Lezgian) being used as the literary language.

TRADITIONAL ECONOMY:

Cattle-breeding; home industry (production of cloth, tapestries, felt cloaks).

RELIGION:

Islam (Sunni).

31. TSAKHUR

NAME:

Self-Designation: No general one; inhabitants of aul Tsakhur (Ts'akhur) call themselves Ts'akhghali, pl. Ts'akhby.

Russian Designation: Tsakhury.

NUMBER:

1926 19,085 (Russian census, ethn.)

10,951 (Russian census, ling.)

LOCATION:

Samur basin W of its confluence with the Kara-Samur (W part of Rutul rayon, Dagestan ASSR); also on the S slopes of the Caucasus in the area of Elisu (Zakataly, Kakh and Belokany rayons, Azerbaidzhan SSR).

LANGUAGE:

Tshakhur (Ts'akhbisha miz) forms with Lezghian, Agul, Rutul, Tabasaran, Budukh, and Dzhek, the Samurian subdivision of the NE Caucasian language-group. The language is not written, Russian (formerly Avar) being used as the literary language in the Daghestan ASSR, Azeri in the Azerbaidzhan SSR.

TRADITIONAL ECONOMY:

Cattle-breeding; home industry (crafts, production of cloth, tapestries, felt cloaks).

RELIGION:

Islam (Sunni).

32. TABASARAN

NAME:

Self-Designation: Tabasaran zhvi, Tabarasan zhvi, Ghumghum zhvi.

Russian Designation: Tabasarantsy.

NUMBER:

1926 31,983 (Russian census, ethn.)

29,726 (Russian census, ling.)

LOCATION:

Basin of Upper Rubas-chai and Upper Chirakh-chai (rayons Tabasaran and Khiv, Dagestan ASSR).

LANGUAGE:

Tabasaran (Tabasaran ch'al) forms with Lezghian, Agul, Rutul, Tsakhur, Budukh, and Dzhek, the Samurian subdivision of the NE Caucasian language-group. It has the status of a literary language in the Daghestan ASSR; the written language is based on the southern dialect.

SUBDIVISIONS:

The language has two main dialects: North (Khanag) and South Tabasaran.

TRADITIONAL ECONOMY:

Agriculture; horticulture; home industry (weapon- and tool-making, silversmith's and coppersmith's work, tapestry-weaving).

RELIGION:

Islam (Sunni).

33. BUDUKH

NAME:

Self-Designation: —

Russian Designation: Budukhi, Budugi.

NUMBER:

1926 1 (Russian census, ethn.)

1,995 (Russian census, ling.)

LOCATION:

Mt. Shakhdag area, in the upper basin of the Kara-chai (Konakhkend rayon, Azerb. SSR).

LANGUAGE:

Budukh forms, with Lezgian, Agul, Rutul, Tsakhur, Tabasaran, and Dzhek, the Samurian subdivision of the NE Caucasian language-group. The language is not written, Azeri being used as the literary language.

TRADITIONAL ECONOMY:

Cattle-breeding; horticulture:

RELIGION:

Islam (Sunni).

34. DZHEK

NAME:

Self-Designation: —

Russian Designations: According to villages: Dzheki, Kryzy, Khaputtsy, (Gaputlintsy, Khaputlintsy).

NUMBER:

1926 Dzhek Kryz Khaput

590 5 12 (Russian census, ethn.)

All three groups together: 4,348 (Russ. census, ling.)

LOCATION:

Mt. Shakhdag area, in the basin of the upper right arm of the Kudialchai (Konakhkend rayon, Azerbaidzhan SSR). Also daughter-settlements near the Caspian coast in the Khachmas area (Azerbaidzhan SSR).

LANGUAGE:

The Dzhek language forms, with Lezgian, Agul, Rutul, Tsakhur, Tabasaran, and Budukh, the Samurian subdivision of the NE Caucasian languages. The language is not written, Azeri being used as the literary language.

SUBDIVISIONS:

According to villages: Dzhek, Kryz, Khaput.

TRADITIONAL ECONOMY:

Cattle-breeding; agriculture; horticulture.

RELIGION:

Islam (Sunni)

35. KHINALUG

NAME:

Self-Designation: Kättitturdur.

Russian Designation: Khinalugi.

NUMBER:

1926 105 (Russian census, ethn.)
1,540 (Russian census, ling.)

LOCATION:

Shakhdag area, aul Khinalug on the upper right arm of the Kudial-chai (rayon Konakhkend, Azerbaidzhan SSR).

LANGUAGE:

Khinalug (Kättid mits) is a member of the NE Caucasian language-group, to which there belong further the Veinakh, Avaro-Ando-Dido, Lak-Dargwa, and Samurian groups, and the Udi language. Khinalug is not written, Azeri being used as the literary language.

TRADITIONAL ECONOMY:

Cattle-breeding.

RELIGION:

Islam (Sunni).

36. UDI

NAME:

Self-Designation: Udi, Uti.
Russian Designation: Udiny.

NUMBER:

1897 7,100 (Russian census)
1926 2,455 (Russian census, ethn.)
2,762 (Russian census, ling.)

LOCATION:

Villages Vartashen and Nidzh (Azerbaidzhan SSR), Oktemberi (Georgian SSR).

LANGUAGE:

Udi (Udi muz) is a member of the NE Caucasian language-group,

to which there belong further the Veinakh, Avaro-Ando-Dido, Lak-Dargwa, and Samurian groups, and the Khinalug language. Though Udi was written before the revolution, it does not have the status of a literary language, this function being fulfilled by Azeri.

TRADITIONAL ECONOMY:

Agriculture; cattle-breeding.

RELIGION:

Eastern Orthodox, Armenian-Gregorian.

37. ARMENIANS

NAME:

Self-Designation: Hai, pl. Haik.

Russian Designation: Armiane.

Other Designations: (Georgian:) Somekhi; (Turkish:) Ermeni.

NUMBERS:

1897 1,173,096 (Russian census)
1926 1,567,568 (Russian census, ethn.)
1,475,250 (Russian census, ling.)
1939 2,151,884 (Russian census)

Distribution: Main concentration in USSR (over 40 per cent of the Armenians in the USSR live outside the Armenian political units of the latter); Turkey: 61,000 (1950; Turkish census); Syria (incl. Lebanon): 118,537 (1943: official estimate); Iran (number unknown); other countries of Near East (number unknown); People's Democracies: 80,000 (1949; estimate Bol'shaia Sovetskaia Éntsiklopediia); France: 70,000 (1952, estimate "Les langues du monde"); USA: 175,000 (1952, same source). Total number of Armenians 3,400,000 (estimate, same source).

LOCATION:

S Transcaucasia, in the area of the upper Kura, Lake Sevan, the

middle Araks and on the E slopes of the Karabakh Mts. (Armenian SSR; High Karabakh AO); scattered groups throughout the Caucasus and in S Russia, mainly in the cities. Outside USSR: Poland (Galicia); Turkey (mainly Istanbul); Lebanon; Iran (mainly Teheran and Isfahan (Dzhulfa)); other countries of Near East; France; USA.

LANGUAGE:

Armenian (Hai lezu) constitutes a separate branch of the Indo-European language family. The language has an old literary tradition going back to the 5th century A.D., and a script of its own. This literary language is based on the dialect of Ararat; there is now also a literary tradition for the Western dialect-group.

SUBDIVISIONS:

The Armenian dialects are subdivided into an Eastern (Ararat, Karabakh, etc.) and a Western (Erzurum, Cilicia, Hemshin, Istanbul, etc.) group, to which Adjarian adds a third branch including the dialects of Maragha, Khoy, and Artvin.

TRADITIONAL ECONOMY:

Agriculture; viticulture; in the mountains: cattle-breeding; commerce and art crafts.

RELIGION:

Armenian-Gregorian; there are a Roman Catholic (Uniate) and a Protestant minority. The Khemshin (Hemshin, Hemshili) on the Black Sea coast near the Turkish border (629 in 1926, Russian census) are Muslim.

38. OSSETES

NAME:

Self-Designation: no general one; according to tribes: Ir (collective), Iron (sing.), Irättä (pl.); Dygur, Digor (coll.), Dyguron, Digoron (sing.); Tuallag (sing.), Tuallägtä (pl.).

English Variants: Ossetes; for the language: Ossetian, Ossetic.

Russian Designations: Osety, Osetiny.

Other Designations: (Georgian:) Osi; (German:) Ossen, Osseten.

NUMBER:

1897 171,716 (Russian census)
1926 272,272 (Russian census, ethn.)
267,019 (Russian census, ling.)
1939 354,500 (Russian census)

LOCATION:

In the central Caucasus and in the adjacent plains on both sides of the main chain, in the N along the upper Terek and its affluents on the left (Gizel'don, Ardon, Uruk) (North-Ossetian ASSR), in the S in the immediately adjoining part of the Georgian SSR (South-Ossetian AO), smaller groups also farther to the S, extending beyond the Kura river.

LANGUAGE:

Ossetian (Iron ävzag) belongs, with Pashtō of Afghanistan and with certain languages of the Pamirs (e.g. Yagnābī, sole survivor of Soghdian), to the (North-)Eastern (in older terminology, Northern) subdivision of the Iranian branch of the Indo-European language-family, to which branch belong also Persian, etc., and, in the Caucasus, Tat, Talysh, and Kurdish. Ossetian has the status of a literary language; the written language is based on the Tagaur dialect.

SUBDIVISIONS:

The Ossetian dialects, which follow tribal divisions, are subdivided into a Western (Digor) and an Eastern (Iron) branch (Tagaur, Kurtat, and Allagir). The dialect of the S Ossetes (Tual) is a sub-dialect of Tagaur.

TRADITIONAL ECONOMY:

Cattle-breeding; agriculture.

RELIGION:

Eastern Orthodox, except the Digor, who are Muslim (Sunni).

39. TALYSH

NAME:

Self-Designation: (R:) Tolyshon.

English Variants: Talysh, Talish.

Russian Designations: Talyshi, Talyshintsy.

NUMBER:

1897 35,291 (Russian census)

1926 77,323 (Russian census, ethn.)

80,629 (Russian census, ling.)

1931 89,398 (Azerb. upravl. nar.-khoz. ucheta.)

In Iran: 50,000 (estimate, B. V. Miller)

LOCATION:

Along Caspian coast S of the River Viliash-chai (rayons Lenkoran', Zuvand, Astara, and part of Massala, Azerbaidzhan SSR), extending into Persian territory up to Köpri-chal.

LANGUAGE:

Talysh (Tolysha zyvon), like Kurdish, is a member of the NW subdivision of the Iranian branch of the Indo-European language-family, to which branch also belong Persian, etc., and, in the Caucasus, Ossetian and Kurdish. The Talysh in the USSR are all bilingual and speak also Azeri, which is used as the literary language.

TRADITIONAL ECONOMY:

Agriculture; horticulture; stock-raising; home industry.

RELIGION:

Islam (Sunni; Shi'i minority).

40. TAT

NAME:

Self-Designation: Tât.

English Variants: Tat; for the Jewish Tat: Mountain Jews, Judeo-Tats.

Russian Designations: Taty; for the Jewish Tat: Gorskie evrei.

Other Designations: (Turkish, for the Jewish Tat:) Dagħ Chufuti; (German, for the Jewish Tat:) Bergjuden.

NUMBER:

1897 95,056 (Russian census)

1926 28,705 (Muslim Tat) (Russian census, ethn.)

21,471 (Jewish Tat) (Russian census, ethn.)

86,088 (Russian census, ling.)

LOCATION:

On both slopes of the Eastern extension of the main Caucasian chain and on the Apsheron peninsula, in the coastal zone of the Caspian Sea between Apsheron and Kuba, SE of Kuba and NW of Shemakha (Azerbaidzhan SSR; Dagestan ASSR). The Jewish Tat are concentrated in the Area of Kuba, Derbent, and Buinaksk; other settlements in the Groznyi and Nal'chik area and on the Kuban'.

LANGUAGE:

Tat (zuhun Tâtî) is a member of the SW subdivision of the Iranian branch of the Indo-European language-family, to which branch also belong Persian, etc., and, in the Caucasus, Ossetian, Talysh and Kurdish.

SUBDIVISIONS:

Two main dialects, that of the Muslim and that of the Jewish Tat, the former divided into a number of sub-dialects.

TRADITIONAL ECONOMY:

Agriculture; horticulture; home crafts (tapestry-weaving, metal-work).

RELIGION:

Part Muslim (Sunni), part Jewish.

41. KURDS

NAME:

Self-Designation: Kurd.

Russian Designation: Kurdy.

NUMBER:

	<i>Kurd</i>	<i>Yezid</i> (See under "Religion")
1897	99,949 (Russian census)	
1926	54,661 (Russian census, ethn.)	14,726 (Russ. census)
	34,162 (Russian census, ling.)	14,523 (Russ. census)
1939	45,866 (Russian census)	

Distribution: Iran 1,500,000 to 2,000,000 (1950 estimate, Menges); Turkey 1,841,000 (1950, Turkish census); Iraq 800,000 (1947 estimate, Hourani); Syria 100,000 (1947 estimate, Hourani); 100,000 to 200,000 (estimate, Royal Inst. of Intern. Affairs); Afghanistan, Pakistan (numbers unknown); total 5,000,000 (estimate, Les langues du monde).

LOCATION:

Southern Transcaucasia, in scattered groups, especially in the Armenian SSR and the SW part of the Azerbaidzhan SSR. There are also a small number of Kurds in the Turkmen SSR. (Scattered in Iran, especially the N and W frontier region; SE Turkey, NE Iraq).

LANGUAGE:

Kurdish (Kurmandzhi) is a member of the NW subdivision of the Iranian branch of the Indo-European language family, to which branch belong also Persian, etc., and, in the Caucasus, Ossetian, Tat, and Talysh.

SUBDIVISIONS:

There are two main groups of dialects, a northern (Kurmandzhi) and a southern (Kurdi).

TRADITIONAL ECONOMY:

Partly nomadic pastoralism, partly agriculture.

RELIGION:

Islam (Sunni, with a Shii minority); Yezidi (concentrated near Leninakan and near Echmiadzin).

42. AZERI TURKS

NAME:

Self-Designation: Türkler, Azerbayjanlılar; also tribal names (Shah-sevenler, etc.).

English Variants: Turks, Azeri Tatars, Turks of Azerbaijan, Tatars of Azerbaijan, Azerbaijan Turks, Azerbaijanians.

Russian Designations: Tiurki, Azerbaidzhantsy, Azerbaidzhanskie Tiurki, Azerbaidzhanskie Tatary.

Turkish Designations: Türkler, Azerî Türkleri, Azerbaycan Türkleri; also tribal names (Şahsevenler, etc.).

NUMBER:

USSR:	1897	1,506,540 (Russian census)
	1926	1,706,605 (Russian census, ethn.)
		1,751,965 (Russian census, ling.)
	1939	2,274,805 (Russian census)
Persia:	mid-thirties:	2,500,000 (estimate; Németh)
	1950	3,000,000 (estimate; Kazemzadeh)
Iraq:	1950	over 100,000 (estimate; Halasi-Kun)
Distribution:	USSR:	ca. 45 per cent.
	Persia:	ca. 52 per cent.
	Iraq:	ca. 3 per cent.

LOCATION:

Geographical: Transcaucasia, Northern Caucasus along the Caspian Sea (northward as far as Derbent), northwestern Persia, southern Kurdistan (Iraq).

Political-Administrative: USSR: Azerbaidzhan SSR, Georgian SSR, Dagestan ASSR. Persia: Rezaieh, Tabriz, Kazvin, Kerman-shah provinces. Iraq: Mosul, Arbil, Kirkuk, Sulaimaniya liwas.

LANGUAGE:

Azeri Turkic; belongs to the Western Oghuz Turkic group and differs very little from Turkish and the Kashkay-Hamse languages; literary language since the 14th century; lingua franca in Transcaucasia, Dagestan ASSR, and northern Persia.

SUBDIVISIONS:

Tribal: Settled Azeris; Nomadic Azeris (Iliyat). Dialectal: Northern (USSR); Southern (Persia).

TRADITIONAL ECONOMY:

Agriculture; cattle-breeding; commerce; industry.

RELIGION:

Islam (Shii, Sunni).

43. TURKOMANS

NAME:

Self-Designation: Türkmenler.

English Variants: Turkmens, Turkmans, Turkomans of Stavropol', Trukhmens.

Russian Designations: Trukhmeny, Turkmeny.

Turkish Designation: Türkmenler.

NUMBER:

Northern Caucasus:	1926	8,000	(estimate. Russ. census)
USSR (with Nor-	1897	281,351	(Russian census)
thern Caucasus):	1926	763,940	(Russian census, ethn.)
		745,859	(Russian census, ling.)
	1939	811,769	(Russian census)

Afghanistan: 1939 200,000 (estimate; Jarring)
 Persia: 1955 over 500,000 (estimate; Halasi-Kun)
 Main concentration in Central Asia; only a small group in the Caucasus.

LOCATION:

Geographical: Northern Caucasus: Stavropol' upland (southward from Manych Canal between the Kuma and Yegorlyk rivers); in SW Central Asia.

Political-Administrative: Northern Caucasus: Stavropol' Krai (northern rayons), Rostov Oblast (southeastern rayons); Central Asia: Turkmen SSR, Kara-Kalpak ASSR, Afghanistan, Persia.

LANGUAGE:

Turkoman; constitutes Eastern Oghuz Turkic; most nearly related Turkic language group: Western Oghuz Turkic (Turkish, Azeri, Kashkay-Hamse); several dialects agreeing with tribal subdivisions; literary language based on the Yomut dialect; literary language since the 18th century.

SUBDIVISIONS:

Tribal: Trukhmen (Northern Caucasus); Teke, Yomut, Ersari, Sarik (Turkmen SSR); Chaudur (Kara-Kalpak ASSR); Salir (Afghanistan); Göklen (Persia).

TRADITIONAL ECONOMY:

Cattle-breeding; agriculture.

RELIGION:

Islam (Sunni).

44. KARAPAPAK

NAME:

Self-Designation: —

Russian Designation: Karapapakhi

Turkish Designation: Karapapaklar

NUMBER:

USSR: 1926 6,316 (Russian census, ethn.)
 6,311 (Russian census, ling.)

Persia: mid-twenties 15,000 (estimate; Mirza Bala)

Distribution: USSR ca. 30 per cent.

Persia, ca. 70 per cent.

LOCATION:

Geographical: Transcaucasia: the area between the Kura and Arpachai rivers. Persia: the area around Sulduz on Lake Urmia.

Political-Administrative: USSR: Akhalkalaki Uezd of the Georgian SSR, Leninakan Uezd of the Armenian SSR. Persia: Province of Rezaieh.

LANGUAGE:

Karapapak; belongs with Kipchak Turkic substrata to the Western Oghuz Turkic group, and differs very little from Azeri Turkic, Turkish, and Kashkay-Hamse (in the Georgian SSR it is often confused with Azeri Turkic (Azeri of Borchalino and Azeri of Akhalkalaki), whereas in Turkey it has been absorbed into Turkish and is no longer spoken).

SUBDIVISIONS:

Geographical: Karapapak of Akhalkalaki and Leninakan (USSR); Karapapak of Sulduz (Persia).

TRADITIONAL ECONOMY:

Cattle-breeding and some agriculture.

RELIGION:

Islam (Shii, Sunni).

45. KUMUK

NAME:

Self-Designation: Kumuklar.

English Variants: Kumyks.

Russian Designation: Kumyki.

Turkish Designation: Kumuklar.

NUMBER:

1926 94,549 (Russian census, ethn.)
 94,909 (Russian census, ling.)

LOCATION:

Geographical: The northeastern slopes of the Greater Caucasus along the Aksai, Sulak, Shura, and Gubden rivers, and along the Caspian coast from Adzhi-Su to Derbent.

Political-Administrative: Dagestan ASSR (Makhachkala, Bui-naksk, Izberbash and Derbent okrugs), Groznyi Oblast (southern parts of the former Kizliar Okrug).

LANGUAGE:

Kumuk; belongs to the Kipchak Turkic group, together with North Crimean Turkic, Karachay, Balkar, Noghay, Kazan Turkic, Kazak, etc.); literary language since the 19th century; lingua franca in Dagestan ASSR northward from Derbent.

TRADITIONAL ECONOMY:

Agriculture; cattle-breeding; fishing.

RELIGION:

Islam (Sunni).

46. NOGHAY

NAME:

Self-Designation: Noghaylar

Russian Designation: Nogaitsy.

Turkish Designation: Noğaylar.

NUMBER:

USSR:

Groznyi Oblast 25,000 (1950 estimate, Jyrkänkallio)
 Astrakhan Oblast (rayons along the Kuma) (unknown)
 Cherkes Autonomous Oblast 15,000 (1939 estimate, Shabad)
 Astrakhan Oblast (rayons along the Volga) (unknown)
 Crimean SSR (before 1945) (unknown)

Bulgaria: Dobruja 30,000 (1950 estimate, Jyrkänkallio).

Distribution: USSR: Groznyi Oblast, Astrakhan Oblast (rayons along the Kuma and Volga rivers), Cherkes AO; Crimean SSR (before 1945); Bulgaria: Dobruja.

LOCATION:

Geographical: USSR: Northern Caucasus: between the Kuma and Terek rivers and northwards from the Kuma River; on the Zelenchuk River between the upper Kuban' and Urup rivers. Crimean ASSR (before 1945): Northern Crimea, Perekop. Bulgaria: Dobruja, Deli Orman area.

Political-Administrative: USSR: Groznyi Oblast (former Kizliar and Achikulak okrugs), Astrakhan Oblast (rayons along the Kuma and Volga rivers), Cherkes AO (Abazino-Nogai rayon), Crimean ASSR (before 1945). Bulgaria: Shumen (Kolarovgrad) district.

LANGUAGE:

Noghay; belongs to the Kipchak Turkic language group, together with North Crimean Turkic, Karachay, Balkar, Kumuk, Kazan Turkic, Kazak, etc.; literary language (since the Soviet period) based on the White Noghay, Black Noghay, and Central Noghay dialects; the other Noghay groups have given up the Noghay language.

SUBDIVISIONS:

Dialectal: Black Noghay, Central Noghay (Groznyi Oblast, southern rayons of the Astrakhan Oblast); the Noghays of Crimea and those of Dobruja (Bulgaria) have given up their language in favor of

South and North Crimean Turkic respectively, whereas the Noghays around Astrakhan today speak Kazan Turkic.

TRADITIONAL ECONOMY:

Cattle-breeding; agriculture (Bulgaria).

RELIGION:

Islam (Sunni).

47. KARACHAY

NAME:

Self-Designation: Karachayla.

Russian Designation: Karachaitsy, Karachaevtsy.

Turkish Designation: Karaçaylar.

NUMBER:

1897 27,233 (Russian census)
 1926 55,123 (Russian census, ethn.)
 55,349 (Russian census, ling.)
 1939 75,737 (Russian census)

Distribution: Deported from the Caucasus in 1943. Present location unknown.

LOCATION:

Geographical: Before 1943, on the northern slopes of the Greater Caucasus along the headwaters of the Kuban', Teberda, Zelenchuk, Laba, and Podkumok rivers.

Political-Administrative: Before 1943: Karachai AO.

It has been announced in the USSR that the Karachay will return to their original territory in the Caucasus.

LANGUAGE:

Karachay; belongs to the Kipchak Turkic language group (which includes Crimean Turkic, Kumuk, Noghay, Kazan Turkic, Kazak, etc.), and is almost identical with Balkar; as a literary language, a

common Karachay-Balkar language was used which was created in the Soviet period.

TRADITIONAL ECONOMY:

Cattle-breeding; agriculture; handicrafts.

RELIGION:

Islam (Sunni).

48. BALKAR

NAME:

Self-Designation: Malkarla.

Russian Designation: Balkary.

Turkish Designations: Malkarlar, Balkarlar.

NUMBER:

1897 34,232 (Russian census)

1926 33,307 (Russian census, ethn.)

33,276 (Russian census, ling.)

1939 42,666 (Russian census)

Distribution: Deported from the Caucasus in 1943, present location unknown.

LOCATION:

Geographical: Before 1943, on the northern slopes of the Greater Caucasus along the upper course of the Baksan, Chegem, and Cherek rivers.

Political-Administrative: Before 1943: Kabardino-Balkar Autonomous SSR (Balkar rayon).

It has been announced in the USSR that the Balkar will return to their original territory in the Caucasus.

LANGUAGE:

Balkar; belongs to the Kipchak Turkic language group, along with Crimean Turkic, Kumuk, Noghay, Kazan Turkic, Kazak, etc. and is almost identical with Karachay; as a literary language, a com-

mon Karachay-Balkar language was used, which was created in the Soviet period.

TRADITIONAL ECONOMY:

Cattle-breeding and some agriculture.

RELIGION:

Islam (Sunni).

49. KALMYK

NAME:

Self-Designation: Khal'maq, Oirot, Öiröt ("the Confederate"), Dörwön Öiröt ("The Four Oirot").

English Variants: Kalmuck, Kalmyk, Kalmack (also with initial C).

Russian Designation: Kalmyki, for the language: Kalmytskii iazyk.

Other Designations: (various Turkic languages:) Qalmaq, Qalmyq.

NUMBER:

1897 190,480 (Russian census)

1926 129,321 (Russian census, ethn.)

130,997 (Russian census, ling.)

1939 134,327 (Russian census)

Distribution: Deported from the North Caucasus Region (1943), present location of this group unknown. Additional groups: the Sart-Kalmyk in the Kirgiz SSR (2,773, Russian census, ethn., 1926); in the Mongolian People's Republic ca 60,000 (estimate, Benzing); in China (number unknown); also emigrant groups elsewhere (USA ca. 3,000).

LOCATION:

The largest group lived until 1943 in the Lower Volga area in the now abrogated Kalmyk ASSR. The Sart-Kalmyk live near Lake Issyk-kul' in the Tien Shan Mts. (Kirgiz SSR). Outside the USSR there are scattered groups of Kalmyk in a giant semicircle all around the E Mongolian area (Dzungaria, NW Tibet, Ch'ing Hai province, Ala-shan area, China).

LANGUAGE:

Kalmyk (Oiroṭ) constitutes the W group of the Mongolian family of Altaic. It has a literary tradition going back to the 16th century.

SUBDIVISIONS:

Dialects: Dörwöt, Torghūt (Torgout), and Buzāwa. Tribes: Torghūt, Khoshūt, Dörwöt (Dörböt, Dürbāt, divided by the Russian Administration into the Great and Little Dörwöt), Khöit (Khōt), Tsoros, Dzün-ghar ("left-wing [army]", "eastern"). The Torghūt have always been considered the leading tribe.

TRADITIONAL ECONOMY:

Nomadic pastoralism; sedentary stock-raising; (on the Volga:) fishing.

RELIGION:

Lamaist Buddhism; (Sart-Kalmyk:) Islam (Sunni).

50. AISOR

NAME:

Self-Designation: Sūraʾī.

English Variants: Chald(a)eans, Syrochald(a)eans, Assyrians.

Russian Designations: Aisory, Assiriitsy, Assuriitsy.

Other Designations: (Georgian:) Kaldeveli.

NUMBER:

1897 5,353 (Russian census)

1926 9,808 (Russian census, ethn.)

15,476 (Russian census, ling.)

1939 20,200 (Russian census)

LOCATION:

Concentrated near Erevan', also scattered in other regions of Transcaucasia, and in all big cities of the USSR. Outside USSR: Iraq (esp. in Tur Abdin) and NW Iran.

LANGUAGE:

Aisor is a New-Syrian dialect, belonging to the Aramaic subdivision of the Western branch of the Semitic language-family. Aisor has the status of a literary language in the USSR.

TRADITIONAL ECONOMY:

Agriculture; cattle-breeding; crafts.

RELIGION:

Nestorian and Jacobite Christian.

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This list contains 1) the most important bibliographical sources on the Caucasus, 2) journals and serials devoted to the Caucasus (it must be emphasized that there are many journals of a more general nature which contain material on the Caucasus; these cannot be summed up here), and 3) encyclopedias of particular importance for Caucasian studies.

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