How «Great Armenia» was created in the Caucasus: 10 little-known facts

- 1. In 1722-1723, Russia began its first expansion in the East. At the same time, the Russians focused on Eastern Christians. Thus the idea was developed to create Armenian kingdom. It would offer a staging ground for the Russian advance to Asia.
- 2. In 1724, the Russian Emperor Peter I proposed a plan for the mass resettlement of Armenians from Asia Minor to the South Caucasus for «strengthening Christianity in the territory and displacing Muslims to the extent possible».
- 3. Karabakh was originally chosen for the creation of the Armenian staging ground of Russia. In 1784, Prince Potemkin planned to overthrow the Muslim Khan there and «put a ruler of Armenians in his place».
- 4. As a result of the Russo-Persian War of 1826-1828, Russia captured the Erivan and Nakhchivan Khanates. Immediately after, the mass resettlement of Armenians in the South Caucasus began.
- 5. Between 1828 and 1830, about 140,000 Armenians moved from Iran and Turkey. They settled in Karabakh, Nakhichevan and Erivan.
- 6. The Russian authorities created the most favourable conditions for Armenian settlers. They were given the best lands forcing out the turks; migrants were completely exempt from taxes; poor settlers were given huge assistance at the time in the amount of 25 roubles.

The Russian authorities supported the Armenians in most conflicts with the indigenous Muslim population.

- 7. After the Russo-Turkish War of 1877-79, about 200,000 Armenians were resettled from Asia Minor to the South Caucasus.
- 8. The Armenian riots in Turkey (1893-1894) had led to another influx of immigrants into the Caucasus.
- 9. Over the period 1896 and 1908 alone, more than 300,000 Armenians settled in the South Caucasus.
- 10. In 1911, more than a million of the 1,300,000 Armenians in the South Caucasus were not indigenous.

The publication <u>Who brought masses of Armenians to the Southern Caucaus? (documentary evidence)</u> contains more detailed information as well as scans of documents confirming the above-mentioned facts.