end of the 18th century onwards when power shifted from the clan (habila) of Al Masila to the clan of Al Masila (both names show their Hadramawti origin, cf. G. Martin, *Migrations from the Hadramawt to East Africa*, in *Centre of Arabic Documentation, Research Bulletin*, Ibadan 1973). Continuous succession struggles in the first half of the 19th century were only ended by Sulhán Sálin (1842-55), whose son Sulhán ʿAbd Alláh III (1855-1890) put his island under French protection. Neither was Mayotte spared from dynastic rivalries within the Shíráz clan who ruled at Chingoni from the 16th century. In addition, the situation was complicated by the constant attempts of the sultans of Anjouan to bring Mayotte under their control. The last Shíráz sultan ceded his island in 1823 to the Malagasy nobleman of the Hova tribe Ramanetaka who already owned Mohéli. In 1831 or 1836 Ramanetaka was defeated by the Sakalava Dja-ntsoli (=Andrian-Tsouli), and the island became nominally a possession of the sultan of Anjouan. The same Dja-ntsoli, without the authorisation of the sultan of Anjouan, in 1841 presented the island to France. The smallest island Mohéli apparently was always dependent on Anjouan, until in 1850 the above-mentioned Ramanetaka (d. 1841) after having become a Muslim, appointed himself sultan of the island. One of his descendants signed the treaty of protection with France in 1866.

(ii) There seems to have been a more or less peaceful influx of Malagasy people to the islands throughout the centuries, but around the turn of the 19th century the nearly annual invasions of the Betsimisaraka and Sakalava threatened the political and cultural integrity of the islands. The main reason for these invasions, which caused heavy losses among the population and the destruction of whole settlements, was the search for slaves, although some groups had already settled on Mohéli. In 1813 or 1816 Ramanetaka himself led the invasions of Sakalava (under Dja-ntsoli) and Betsimisaraka (under Ramanetaka) to the islands. They finally settled down on Mayotte and Mohéli.

(iii) The first contact with a European power was a short visit of the Portuguese on Grande Comore about 1505 which, however, left no permanent traces on the islands. In the first half of the 19th century when the British and the French disputed control of the Indian Ocean, the Comoro Is. also became involved. In taking possession of Mayotte in 1841, France tried to counterbalance the growing British influence on the other three islands (in 1833 the British had reinstalled Sultan ʿAbd Alláh II on Anjouan by force). Only after the British slowly withdrew from the Malagasy region after 1880 could France bring the other islands under its protection in 1886 (a process intensively studied by D. Dubins, *Political history of the Comoro Islands 1755-1886*, unpublished. Ph. D. Thesis, Boston 1972; systematical analysis of archival material; G. Rotter (ed. and tr.), *Musimische Inseln vor Ostafrika. Eine arabische Komorenchronik des 19. Jahrhunderts*, Berlin 1975 (the chronicle in question was written in the middle of the 19th century). (G. Rotter)

**KUMUK (variant: Kumik)** a people of the eastern Caucasus. The Kumuk belong to the Kipčak Turkic ethnic group, along with the Noghay, Karaçay and Balkar. They live north of the main chain of the Great Caucasus, on the northern, north-eastern and eastern slopes of the Daghstánián Caucasus between the foothills and the Caspian Sea, from Derbend to Adzhi-Su (near the lower Terek River). Although confined to a narrow strip of land in the south, they inhabit a wider area near the Terek in the north. The Kumuk are bordered by the Noghay in the north, the Avars [*q.v.*] and Darghins [*q.v.*] in the west, and Tabasaran and Azers [*q.v.*] in the south. The major rivers in Kumuk territory are the Terek, Sulak, Shura, Ulu-Cä, Gamzi, Manas, Aksai and Gudhen. The great majority of Kumuk are Sunni Muslims of the Hanafi school, although some Kumuk of Derbend and Makhāčkala are “Twelver” Shi’is. The 1926 Soviet census lists 94,549 ethnic Kumuk, of which some 10,000 lived outside Daghstán, and 94,909 Kumuk-speaking people. The 1939 Soviet census lists 134,967 ethnic Kumuk and 132,303 Kumuk-speakers. (Due to the adoption of Russian as a primary language by Kumuk-speakers in the north, and Azeri by those in the south, the relative number of Kumuk-speaking people has declined, despite increasing numbers of