

REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

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A B S T R A C T

of the dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

**THE POSITION AND ROLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF
AZERBAIJAN IN INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION POLICY**

Speciality: 5904.01 – Political Institutions and Systems

Field of Science: Political Science

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BAKU – 2024

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GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE WORK

Relevance of the topic and degree of elaboration. The scientific study of international migration is of significant relevance in the modern era, as understanding the causes and consequences of migration enables governments to develop more targeted and effective policies. Migration encompasses a wide range of interrelated factors, including economic, social, political, and environmental aspects. The primary drivers of international migration flows are rooted in these dimensions. Economically, people migrate in search of better job opportunities, higher living standards, and access to education. Social factors include family reunification and the pursuit of safer living environments. Political drivers are linked to conflicts, persecution, and violations of human rights. Environmental factors, such as natural disasters, climate change, and resource scarcity, also compel individuals to seek more favorable living conditions.

Migrants play a crucial role in shaping demographic trends, particularly in countries where populations are aging, and birth rates are declining. They contribute to workforce expansion, strengthen social welfare systems, and alleviate the economic burden of aging populations. Furthermore, migrants' remittances to their home countries significantly reduce poverty and foster economic growth. The transfer of knowledge and technology by migrants stimulates development in both sending and receiving countries. Additionally, migration addresses labor market gaps, enhancing economic productivity, competitiveness, and innovation.

However, the negative consequences of international migration affect many areas. These include brain drain, the rise of irregular migration, social integration challenges, and increased labor market competition. Intercultural tensions, heightened crime rates, and threats to national security are also among the primary adverse outcomes.

As an example, the migration crisis in Europe, which intensified notably with the refugee influx in 2015, has been the subject of serious criticism due to the biased approach adopted by

Western European countries. Instead of adhering to international humanitarian standards in assisting migrants, these countries opted to close borders, expose migrants to inhumane conditions, and shift much of the responsibility onto Eastern European states. Political leaders in Western Europe, rather than emphasizing the social and economic benefits of migration, portrayed migrants as threats, prioritizing their own domestic political agendas. This approach not only exacerbated discrimination against migrants and fueled xenophobia within societies but also raised serious questions about the solidarity and humanitarian values of the European Union.

In this context, managing international migration holds significant importance for Azerbaijan, which is an integral part of a rapidly evolving global landscape. The position and role of the Republic of Azerbaijan in international migration policy are relevant for several reasons. Azerbaijan occupies a strategic location at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, making it a vital transit country for migrants traveling between these regions. Its proximity to conflict zones, such as the Middle East, also influences migration flows in the region.

Studying migration trends in Azerbaijan is crucial for the government to address demographic changes, labor market dynamics, and social integration challenges. Analyzing the causes and consequences of migration in Azerbaijan contributes to a broader understanding of migration dynamics in the region. Azerbaijan serves as both a transit and destination country for migrants, particularly those seeking employment or asylum from neighboring states. Consequently, Azerbaijan's migration policy plays a pivotal role in managing migration flows, ensuring border security, and protecting the rights of migrants within its territory.

It should not be overlooked that migration contributes to Azerbaijan's economy through remittances, labor market participation, and the transfer of skills. The economic impacts of migration enable the state to develop strategies that harness these benefits while mitigating potential negative consequences, such as brain drain or the exploitation of migrant workers.

The management of international migration is crucial for safeguarding national security and addressing transnational threats such as human trafficking, smuggling, and terrorism. For Azerbaijan, which has endured years of Armenian aggression and the conflict surrounding the Karabakh issue, migration policy is aimed at strengthening border controls, combating irregular migration, and addressing security challenges effectively. This objective involves fostering cooperation with neighboring countries and international partners.

President Ilham Aliyev, as the leader of the Republic of Azerbaijan, plays a significant role in shaping the country's stance and policies on international migration. Under his leadership, Azerbaijan has positioned itself as an active participant in regional and international dialogues on migration, emphasizing cooperation, humanitarian assistance, and respect for migrants' rights. President Aliyev's vision underscores the importance of managing migration flows in a secure, orderly, and humane manner, balancing national security concerns with the protection of migrants' rights and well-being. His administration has implemented measures to strengthen border security, combat human trafficking and smuggling, and provide support for refugees and asylum seekers. Furthermore, President Aliyev has fostered partnerships with neighboring states, international organizations, and donor agencies to address broader migration challenges and promote regional stability.

It is also worth noting that following Azerbaijan's victory in the Patriotic War, some of the former refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) have begun returning to their ancestral lands within the framework of the "Great Return" program in Karabakh and Eastern Zangezur. This marks a significant step in alleviating the effects of forced migration and restoring the rightful inhabitants to their homeland.

Regarding the extent of research on the topic, works addressing various aspects and challenges of migration in Azerbaijan have notably increased, particularly during the post-independence era. For instance, E. M. Nasibov's book "The Foundations of

Migration: Migration Studies, Migration Processes, World Migration Centers" examines the fundamental principles of migration processes from a scientific and theoretical perspective. It provides an in-depth exploration of the conceptual essence of migration and elaborates on the theoretical underpinnings of migration studies. Additionally, the structure of migration processes and their underlying causes are presented as central themes of inquiry. The book also evaluates the geopolitical dimensions of migration and the emergence of global migration centers within an academic framework¹.

The study "Global Migration Crisis: International Relations and Western Policy at the Threshold of a New Historical Turn," prepared by experts at the Center for Strategic Studies under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, offers a comprehensive analysis of the humanitarian migration crisis currently affecting millions worldwide. This research delves into the causes behind the crisis, with particular emphasis on its political and geopolitical foundations. Furthermore, the study underscores that the migration crisis poses a significant challenge to the contemporary international system².

In another study titled "Social Aspects of Internal Migration and Urbanization in Azerbaijan," developed by the Social Research Center based on a sociological survey (authors E. Garibova and V. Rustamova), the socio-economic and demographic dimensions of migration processes in Azerbaijan are explored³. N. Mammadov's works focus on the migration crisis and the migration policies of

¹ Nəşibov E. Miqrasiyanın əsasları. Miqrasiologiya. Miqrasiya prosesləri. Dünya miqrasiya mərkəzləri. I Kitab. - Bakı: Elm və təhsil, 2014. -240 s.

² Qlobal miqrasiya böhranı: beynəlxalq münasibətlər və Qərb siyasəti yeni tarixi dönüş ərəfəsində. /Azərbaycan Respublikasının Prezidenti yanında Strateji Araşdırmalar Mərkəzinin nəşri/ - Bakı: Costco Company, 2018. - 308 s.

³ Qəribova, E., Rüstəmov V. Azərbaycanda daxili miqrasiya və urbanizasiyanın sosial aspektləri. /Sosial Tədqiqatlar Mərkəzinin analitik hesabatı// "Azərbaycan barometri" jurnalı. № 2(6). – 66 s.

leading European countries⁴, while E. Mehdiyev and H. Rajabli's research highlights the demographic impacts of migration⁵.

A. Aliyev's articles on migration primarily address human rights, population, and migration issues within the framework of modern international law, along with a detailed analysis of the migration legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan⁶.

The "Explanatory Dictionary of Terms on Migration and Asylum Issues" was prepared by A. A. Shirinov⁷.

Additionally, it should be noted that the IOM's Representative Office in the Republic of Azerbaijan published a manual titled "European Legislation on Asylum, Border, and Immigration Issues" in 2014. The copyright for the text of this manual belongs to the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights and the Council of Europe. The second edition of the manual incorporates amendments to European Union legislation on asylum issues, published in the summer of 2013. The manual aims to provide a general understanding of relevant European standards concerning asylum, border, and immigration issues⁸.

Furthermore, several dissertations on migration have been written in Azerbaijan during the years of independence. For example, F. Abdullayev's doctoral dissertation examines the geopolitical

⁴ Məmmədov, N. Bu gün miqrasiya böhranı Avropanın aparıcı ölkələrinin siyasətinin nəticəsidir /08-09-2015/ - [http:// www.yeniazerbaycan.com/SonXeber_e10124_az.html](http://www.yeniazerbaycan.com/SonXeber_e10124_az.html).

⁵ Mehraliyev, E. Azərbaycanca əhalinin miqrasiyası və demoqrafik proses. // "İqtisadiyyat və həyat" jurnalı, -1991. №5; Rəcəbli, H. Müstəqillik dövründə respublikada demoqrafik vəziyyət. // "Odlar yurdu" Universitetinin elmi əsərləri, - 2006. № 17. - 310 s.

⁶ Əliyev, A. Azərbaycan Respublikasının miqrasiya qanunvericiliyi. // "Strateji təhlil" jurnalı, - 2014. №4. - s.83-95.

⁷ Şirinov, Ə.A. Miqrasiya və sığınacaq məsələləri üzrə terminlərin izahlı lüğəti. – Bakı, 2008. -161 s.

⁸ Sığınacaq, Sərhəd və İmmiqrasiya Məsələlərinə dair Avropa Qanunvericiliyi üzrə Vəsait. / Fundamental Hüquqlar üzrə Avropa İttifaqı Agentliyi, 2014; Avropa Şurası/Avropa İnsan Hüquqları Məhkəməsi, -2014 - https://www.echr.coe.int/Documents/Handbook_asylum_AZE.pdf.

dimensions of international relations and migration processes⁹, M. Sərdarov's dissertation explores the political aspects of migration processes in modern Azerbaijan¹⁰, and A. F. Aslanova's dissertation focuses on the economic and demographic aspects of migration¹¹.

The above-mentioned sources provide clarity on many issues. Each of these sources is of significant importance and plays a crucial role in the development of literature in the Azerbaijani language. However, they share a common limitation: none of these sources examines the migration policy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in parallel with international migration policy within the same context. Specifically, the impacts of international migration processes on Azerbaijan, particularly in the post-2020 period, have not been sufficiently studied. In other words, while reviewing the aforementioned literature, it becomes apparent that migration issues have primarily been analyzed from various perspectives—legal, geopolitical, socio-economic, and demographic. Yet, certain gaps are evident. For instance, there has been insufficient detailed analysis of the intersection between the problem of hyper-urbanization and migration in Azerbaijan. The impact of internal migration on urban resources and how this process affects and is affected by international migration warrants deeper exploration. Moreover, earlier studies have predominantly focused on the humanitarian and legal aspects of international migration but have not conducted comprehensive research on how international migration flows shape internal migration and urbanization processes. Similarly, the alignment of Azerbaijan's migration policy with international standards and its influence on the dynamics of internal migration

⁹ Abdullayev, F. *Beynəlxalq münasibətlər və miqrasiya prosesləri: geosiyasi aspektlər*. Siyasi elmlər üzrə elmlər doktoru elmi dərəcəsi almaq üçün təqdim edilmiş dissertasiya. -Bakı, -2016. -273 s.

¹⁰ Sərdarov, M. *Müasir dövrdə Azərbaycanda miqrasiya prosesləri: siyasi aspekt*. Siyasi elmlər üzrə fəlsəfə doktoru elmi dərəcəsi almaq üçün təqdim edilmiş dissertasiya. -Bakı, -2006.

¹¹ Aslanova, A.F. *Azərbaycanda miqrasiya proseslərinin iqtisadi-demoqrafik aspektləri*. İqtisad üzrə fəlsəfə doktoru elmi dərəcəsi almaq üçün təqdim edilmiş dissertasiya. - Bakı, -2017. -148 s.

within the country has not been extensively addressed in the literature. These gaps can be addressed in the current research by providing new scientific approaches aimed at deepening the understanding of the interrelationship between international and internal migration. This will contribute to a more comprehensive examination of these interconnected processes.

Depending on the shifting geopolitical conditions in the West and the CIS region, there exists a substantial body of literature analyzing the new realities emerging in the international relations system, including migration and its characteristics. Among Western scholars, the works of Z. Bauman, C. Fauks, E. G. Ravenstein, R. V. Cox, F. Bernat, T. Nail, D. Fernandes, E. Ketz, O. Stark, R. Koopmans, J. Lauby, G. Lösch, D. Massey, E. Morawska, K. Newland, M. Todaro, L. Marusko, M. Piore, N. Thomas, M. Weiner, and others have provided in-depth analyses of topics such as international migration management mechanisms, processes, and organizations; theories of international migration; internal security and migration; the global migration crisis; irregular migration and migration reforms in the United States; the geopolitics of migrant mobility; labor migrants and industrial society; the history of immigration; the social and economic origins of immigration; international cooperation and the global refugee crisis; multiculturalism and migration; the crisis of assimilation and multiculturalism; immigration and crime, among other subjects¹².

¹² Bauman, Z. *Globalization: The Human Consequences*. -New York: Columbia University Press, -1998. -196 p.; Bernat, F. *Immigration and Crime*. /28 August 2019/

- <https://oxfordre.com/criminology/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780190264079.001.0001/acrefore-9780190264079-e-93>; Cox, Robert W. *Social Forces, States and World Orders: Beyond International Relations Theory*. // *Millennium: Journal of International Studies*, 10 (2): -1981. p.126–55; Deepa, Fernandes. *Targeted. Homeland Security and the Business of Immigration*. -New York: Seven Stories press, -2007. -pp. 203-206 ; Faux, Jeff. *How US Foreign Policy Helped Create the Immigration Crisis*. /18 October, 2017/ - <https://www.thenation.com/article/how-us-foreign-policy-helped-create-the-immigration-crisis/>; Jansen, Y. *Secularism, Assimilation and the Crisis of Multiculturalism*. Amsterdam University Press, -

Russian scholars, including E. P. Bazhanov, V. P. Belenky, B. Wassenberg, C. K. Bondyreva, D. V. Kolesov, I. Wallerstein, I. B. Ivakhnyuk, L. Karachurina, O. Kulbachevskaya, G. K. Nikolskaya, V. D. Samoilov, A. A. Filippenko, T. N. Yudina, and others, have explored themes such as global security and "soft power"; migration as an indicator of conflicts; forced migration: integration and return; the migration boomerang; migration processes in Europe; and the migration policies of the United States and Germany, among other topics¹³.

Turkish scholars such as Z. Aksoy, E. Akyuz, U. Alkan, E. Develi, F. Gullupınar, U. Kılınc, M. Kichik, and others have addressed various topics related to migration in the 21st century. Their works explore themes such as the relationship between the welfare state and migration in Europe, exemplified through welfare chauvinism; international migration and intercultural interaction; the

2013. -345 p.; Katz, E. and Stark, O. Labor Migration and Risk Aversion in Less Developed Countries. //Journal of Labor Economics, -1986. vol. 4. issue 1. pp. 134-49; Koopmans, R. (2013). Multiculturalism and immigration: A contested field in cross-national comparison. Annual Review of Sociology, 39. pp.147-169; Lauby, J. and Stark, O. Individual Migration as a Family Strategy: Young Women in the Philippines. // MPRA Paper from University Library of Munich, Germany.-<https://EconPapers.repec.org/RePEc:pra:mprapa:89566>; Loescher, G. Beyond. Charity: International Cooperation and the Global Refugee Crisis. -New York: Oxford University Press, -1993 and others.

¹³ Бажанов, Е. П. Актуальные проблемы международных отношений: в 3-х томах. -М.: Научная книга, -2001-2002; Беленкий, В.Р. Потенциальные реэмигранты России. // Социологические исследования, -1991. №4; Бондырева, С.К., Колесов, Д.В. Миграция: сущность и явление [учеб.-метод. пособие] /М-во образования и науки Рос. Федерации, Рос. акад. образования, Моск. психол.-соц. ин-т. - 2-е изд., стер. - Москва: Издательство Московского психолого-социального института; -Воронеж: МОДЭК, -2007. -294с.; Валлерстайн, И. Анализ мировых систем и ситуация в современном мире /пер. с англ. -СПб., 2001; Ваттенберг, Б. Новая демография: как депопуляция определяет будущее. - Москва: Демоскоп, -2003. -206с.; Витковская, Г.С. Вынужденная миграция: проблемы и перспективы. -М.: Гендальф, -1993. - 171с. Восток/Запад: региональные подсистемы международных отношений и проблемы безопасности /Под ред. А. Д. Воскресенского. М: РОССПЭН, -2002 и др.

right to education for children in light of the core principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child; the role of public administration in resolving international migration and refugee issues; migration and security challenges; foreign immigration policies; migration in international relations, focusing on facts, actors, and policies; and critical approaches to security, freedom, and Syrian refugees in Turkey. These studies provide valuable insights and evaluations relevant to the subject matter¹⁴.

In recent years, reports published by international organizations engaged in migration-related activities have not only provided statistical insights but also outlined the key trends in this field. For instance, the annual reports prepared by the United Nations

¹⁴ Aksoy, Z. (2002). Uluslararası Göç ve Kültürlerarası İletişim. // Uluslararası Sosyal Araştırmalar Dergisi, 5(20), 292-303; Akyüz, E. (2001). Çocuk Hakları Sözleşmesinin Temel İlkeleri Işığında Çocuğun Eğitim Hakkı.- https://dhgm.meb.gov.tr/yayimlar/dergiler/Milli_Egitim_Dergisi/151/akyuz.htm, (04.10.2016); Alkan, U. (2015). Avrupa'da Refah Devleti ve Göç İlişkisi: Refah Şovenizmi Örneği. Ankara Üniversitesi SBF Dergisi, 70 (3), 751-768; Develi, E.S. 21. Yüzyılda göç olgusu: uluslararası göç teorilerinin ekonomi politiği. Süleyman Demirel Üniversitesi İktisadi ve İdari Bilimler Fakültesi Dergisi Y.2017, C.22, Göç Özel Sayısı, s.1343-1353.- <https://dergipark.org.tr/en/download/article-file/1014078>; Güllüpinar, F. Göç olgusunun ekonomi-politiği ve uluslararası göç kuramları üzerine bir değerlendirme. Yalova Sosyal Bilimler Dergisi, Sayı: 4 /Nisan 2012 - Eylül 2012. - <https://dergipark.org.tr/en/download/article-file/800901>; Kılınç, U. İnsan hakları ve mülteci hukuku ışığında göç ve yerel yönetimler. /Editörler İpek Şen, Gül Tuçaltan, -Ankara. -2019. -86s.; Küçük, M.N. Göç-Güvenlik Bağlantısını Yeniden Düşünmek: Eleştirel Güvenlik Yaklaşımları, Özgürleşme ve Türkiye'deki Suriyeli Mülteciler. Uluslararası İlişkiler / International Relations. Vol. 18, No. 69 (2021), pp. 3-28. https://www.jstor.org/stable/27007617?seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents; On birinci kalkınma planı (2019-2023). Dış göç politikası. Özel ihtisas komisyonu raporu, Ankara, 2018 - <https://www.sbb.gov.tr/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/DisGocPolitikası%2011%20OzelIhtisasKomisyonuRaporu.pdf> ; Uluslararası göç ve mülteci sorununun çözümünde kamu yönetiminin rolü. 28-30 Eylül 2017, Elazığ, /Editör Prof. Dr. Ahmet Yatkin, 11. Kamu yönetimi sempozyumu. - http://kaysem11.firat.edu.tr/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/KAYSEM11_son.pdf; Uluslararası İlişkilerde Göç: Olgular, Aktörler ve Politikalar. /Derleyenler N. Aslı Şirin Öner Suna Gülfer İhlamur-Öner, İstanbul: Der Yayınları, -2018. 342 s.

High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) present the work carried out to protect and improve the lives of millions of refugees, returnees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), stateless individuals, and others of concern. The 2022 report highlights that the number of forcibly displaced persons increased by 21% in that year, reaching approximately 108.4 million by the end of the year. This figure includes refugees (both under and outside the UNHCR mandate), asylum seekers, IDPs, and other individuals requiring international assistance. As a result, more than 1 in every 74 people worldwide remained forcibly displaced, with almost 90% of them residing in low- and middle-income countries. Compared to the end of 2021, this marks an increase of 19 million people—a figure larger than the populations of Ecuador, the Netherlands, or Somalia. According to UNHCR statistics on forced displacement, this represents the largest year-on-year increase ever recorded. More than half of this growth was due to a record number of refugees, asylum seekers, and other individuals forced to flee and in need of international protection in 2022. Forced displacement continued to rise in the first five months of 2023, with UNHCR estimating that the global figure exceeded 110 million by May 2023 at the time of reporting¹⁵. Undoubtedly, the devastating impacts of the Russia-Ukraine war and events in the Gaza Strip will further influence these figures.

The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs report, "International Migration - 2019," provides an in-depth analysis of various aspects of migration, including migration levels and trends by regions and countries, refugees and asylum seekers, global migration trends (1950–2020), the impact of international migration on population age groups, international migration policies, and states' policies and programs concerning immigration, emigration, and returns. It also covers topics such as migrant rights and integration policies, migration and development initiatives, the legal and normative frameworks for international migration,

¹⁵ Global trends. Forced Displacement in 2022. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. – <https://www.unhcr.org/global-trends-report-2022>

refugees, migrant workers, smuggling and trafficking, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and global compacts on migration and refugees, accompanied by extensive statistical data¹⁶.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) report, "Global Migration Indicators - 2018," examines key migration trends of 2018, including labor migration, student mobility, remittances, forced displacement, relocation and resettlement, missing migrants, human trafficking, modern slavery, migrant smuggling, forced and voluntary returns, migration of children and women, migration and the environment, migration governance, and other related topics¹⁷.

The IOM report, "A Short Analytical Overview of the COVID-19 Pandemic," explores the pandemic's rapidly evolving impact on migration and migrants worldwide, including its effects on forcibly displaced populations. It addresses practices related to placing migrants in temporary holding centers, global migration governance, irregular status, protection and smuggling, the socioeconomic consequences of migration, migrants and global food supply chains, the effects of migration on children and youth, human trafficking, international remittances, efforts to combat xenophobia and racism, environmental migration and population displacement, social protection for migrants, international student migration, the impact of migration on tourism, and consular and other assistance provided to migrants and travelers in distress. Each of these topics is thoroughly analyzed¹⁸.

¹⁶ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2019). International Migration 2019: Report (ST/ESA/SER.A/438). - New York, -2019. -71p. - https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/publications/migrationreport/docs/InternationalMigration2019_Report.pdf.

¹⁷ Global Migration Indicators 2018. /Publisher: Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC) International Organization for Migration. Berlin, Germany. - 63p. https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/global_migration_indicators_2018.pdf

¹⁸ Краткие аналитические обзоры COVID-19. Последние исследования, сведения и анализ в области влияния COVID-19 на миграцию и мигрантов в быстро меняющихся условиях. /Отдел миграционных исследований Международная организация по миграции. -155 с.

The IOM report "Migration in the World in 2020" primarily provides information on recent migration processes, challenges, and issues while also reviewing recent developments in global migration governance¹⁹.

In the "World Migration Report - 2022," prepared by the IOM, topics such as migration and migrants, migration and transnational connections, understanding migrant journeys from the perspective of migrants themselves, media coverage of migrants and migration, migration, violent extremism, and social isolation, among others, are addressed²⁰.

Thus, as evident from the literature and sources on the subject, the position and role of Azerbaijan in international migration policy have not been specifically studied as a distinct research object.

Object and Subject of the Research. The object of this research is the position of the Republic of Azerbaijan in international migration policy. The subject of the research involves analyzing the legal and normative framework established to align Azerbaijan's migration policy with international migration policy, assessing the significance of this policy in the context of national security, and examining the country's role and actions within dynamic international migration processes.

Purpose and Objectives of the Research. The purpose of the research is to study the position and role of the Republic of Azerbaijan in international migration policy and to analyze the measures undertaken by the state in this regard. To achieve this purpose, the research has the following objectives:

- Summarize conceptual and theoretical-methodological approaches to the concept of migration;

¹⁹ Доклад о миграции в мире 2020. / Международная организация по миграции. Geneva, Switzerland, ISBN 978-92-9068-880-8 (PDF) -212 с. - https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/final-wmr_2020-ru.pdf

²⁰ World Migration Report 2022. / McAuliffe, M. and A. Triandafyllidou (eds.), 2021. World Migration Report 2022. International Organization for Migration (IOM), Geneva, Switzerland. – 524p. -<https://publications.iom.int/books/world-migration-report-2022>

- Elucidate the essence and characteristics of international migration policy;
- Analyze the actors of international migration policy and their interactions;
- Explore the link between global conflict zones and the refugee problem;
- Examine the impact of ecological problems on international migration processes;
- Investigate the effects of regional migration processes on the South Caucasus region;
- Analyze the factors influencing the formation of migration policy in the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- Evaluate the legal and normative framework of Azerbaijan's migration policy;
- Study the Republic of Azerbaijan's migration policy in the context of national security within the framework of international migration;
- Analyze the impacts of international migration processes on Azerbaijan.

Research Methods. The study employs the statistical analysis method. In addition, general and specific research methods have been applied, including approaches such as generalization of theoretical findings, modeling and formalization of social processes, observation, analysis, synthesis, induction, deduction, and others. The literature review method is also utilized in the research. The theoretical foundation of the study is built upon theoretical sources on migration and international migration processes, as well as empirical reports provided by international organizations.

The main Clauses for Defense. Based on the research findings, the following propositions are presented for defense:

- In recent years, the primary causes of migration processes globally are the increasing number of conflict zones and the intensification of ecological problems;
- The 44-day Patriotic War led to an intensification of migration processes in the South Caucasus;

– The Russia-Ukraine war has significantly contributed to the increase in migration flows to South Caucasus countries, including the Republic of Azerbaijan;

– The "Great Return" program, which aims to facilitate the return to the Karabakh and Eastern Zangezur regions, represents a major regional migration phenomenon as a repatriation event;

– Educational migration from Azerbaijan to foreign countries has risen significantly in recent years, with the Republic of Turkey being the primary destination;

– Azerbaijan faces a domestic migration issue in the form of hyper-urbanization, with Baku being the most affected city. This problem may be exacerbated by international migration, as the influx of both foreign migrants and internally displaced populations increases pressure on urban resources.

Scientific Novelty of the Research. The research offers the following key scientific innovations:

– For the first time, Azerbaijan's migration policy within the framework of international migration processes after 2020 has been analyzed;

– Unlike previous studies, the "Great Return" program has been evaluated as a regional migration process;

– The issue of hyper-urbanization in Azerbaijan has been identified for the first time as a distinct migration-related problem;

– The research reveals the impact of Baku's hyper-urbanization issue on the country's urban resources and social infrastructure, analyzed within the context of interaction and integration with international migration.

Theoretical and Practical Significance of the Research.

The theoretical significance of the research lies in its application of a new scientific-methodological perspective to the problem and the relevance of the sources used. The findings presented in the dissertation can be widely utilized in the study of international relations, global migration, and geopolitical issues in Azerbaijan. The research materials can also contribute to the implementation of scientific-methodological work in relevant fields and the

development and teaching of curricula at higher education institutions.

The data obtained from the study can serve as a valuable resource for preparing analytical reviews in the state's domestic and foreign policies and for informing citizens about migration issues. Furthermore, the results of the research can be applied in teaching courses such as international relations, geopolitics, migration, political geography, philosophy, and political science at the country's higher education institutions, as well as in preparing methodological materials and conducting scientific research.

Approval and Application of the Research. The research was conducted at the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The main propositions and findings of the dissertation were presented by the author at scientific seminars, as well as international and national conferences. The primary content of the dissertation has been reflected in 10 scientific articles authored by the researcher, including 2 published internationally.

Structure and Total Volume of the Research with Breakdown of Sections. The dissertation consists of an introduction, nine paragraphs organized into three chapters, a conclusion, and a list of references. Excluding the references, the total volume of the dissertation amounts to 247,996 characters. The breakdown of the structural sections of the research is as follows:

- Title page – 385 characters;
- Table of contents – 2,271 characters;
- Introduction – 20,769 characters;
- Main content of the dissertation – 215,399 characters (Chapter One – 65,023 characters; Chapter Two – 82,246 characters; Chapter Three – 68,130 characters);
- Conclusion and recommendations – 9,333 characters.

MAIN CONTENTS OF THE STUDY

In the "**Introduction**" section, the relevance of the dissertation topic is substantiated. The object and subject of the research, as well as its purpose and objectives, are defined. Furthermore, the scientific novelty, theoretical and practical significance of the research are outlined, key propositions for defense are presented, and the structure and volume of the dissertation are briefly described.

Chapter One, titled "**Systematic Analysis of the Concept, Formation, and Development of International Migration Policy,**" investigates the foundations, formation processes, and stages of development of international migration policy. The first sub-chapter, "**Conceptual and Theoretical-Methodological Approaches to the Concept of Migration,**" explores conceptual and theoretical-methodological approaches to the notion of migration. It begins by emphasizing the historical role of migration in shaping various socio-political formations. Migration is portrayed not merely as the physical movement of populations but as a significant driver of cultural and social interactions. From the establishment of cultural connections in primitive times to the development of economic and political relationships in the modern era, migration is highlighted as a pivotal factor in societal progress.

The sub-chapter also delves into the etymology and definitions of the term "migration." Derived from the Latin word meaning "to move," the concept encompasses the process of individuals relocating from one place to another for diverse reasons. Among the definitions of migration, particular emphasis is placed on the roles of social interactions, economic needs, and geographical transformations. The analysis also underscores the profound impact of migration on the formation of ethnic compositions.

Types of migration, such as internal and international migration, permanent and temporary migration, as well as forced and voluntary migration, are explained in detail. Additionally, the role of forced migration throughout history in the formation of states and its influence on political events, such as the Westphalian system, is

analyzed. Differences between individual and mass migration are also addressed, noting that mass migration is often characterized by an ethnic dimension.

Various migration theories, such as Ravenstein's Laws of Migration, the Neoclassical Economic Theory, the New Economics of Migration Theory, the Dual Labor Market Theory, and the World Systems Theory, are presented in the sub-chapter. Each theory offers a unique perspective on migration: the Neoclassical Economic Theory states that individuals make decisions to migrate in order to maximize income; the New Economics of Migration emphasizes family decisions, highlighting risk mitigation and labor market failures; the Dual Labor Market Theory links migration to the labor demands of industrial societies; and the World Systems Theory associates international migration with the economic structures emerging from the periphery of the global capitalist system.

The second sub-chapter is titled "**The Essence and Characteristics of International Migration Policy.**" This sub-chapter examines the essence and characteristics of international migration policy. International migration policy involves managing migration processes in accordance with principles and norms adopted by the world's nations. While the formulation and implementation of migration policies at the national level are essential, an international migration policy is necessary to regulate inter-state migration flows, balancing national interests with international relations. Internal migration factors, such as political instability, economic hardships, and resource scarcity, combined with external factors, such as the pursuit of better economic opportunities and political stability, highlight the complexity of migration at an international level. International migration policy requires dynamic and flexible approaches; its features are heterogeneous, dynamic, and interconnected, shaped by the diverse historical and economic contexts of different countries. Global factors such as armed conflicts, economic crises, and natural disasters trigger large-scale population movements, necessitating international action.

Within the framework of the essence and characteristics of international migration policy, the migration policies of European countries, particularly France and Germany, stand out with both positive and negative aspects. While France places significant emphasis on integration in its migration policy, it is often criticized for undermining cultural diversity. For instance, the assimilation-oriented policies of the French government hinder migrants' efforts to preserve their national identities and can lead to social tensions. At the same time, France demands that migrants adapt to society but falls short in fully ensuring their social and economic rights. On the other hand, Germany adopts a more pragmatic approach in its migration policy, aimed at addressing its demand for labor. However, this approach faced significant criticism during the migration crisis of 2015, particularly for the unequal distribution of resources and challenges in integrating migrants into society. Although the principle of protecting human rights is central to Germany's migration policy, instances of social isolation and discrimination against migrants call into question the effectiveness of this approach.

The final sub-chapter of Chapter One, titled "**Analysis of the Actors of International Migration Policy and Their Interactions,**" examines the key actors in international migration policy—namely, states and international organizations—and analyzes their activities and interactions. In the modern world, states and specialized international organizations play a critical role in the formation and implementation of international migration policy. While states independently regulate their migration policies based on national interests, they integrate into the international migration framework by adhering to globally accepted conventions and treaties.

After the Second World War, the need for effective global management of migration processes increased, leading to the establishment of several international organizations. Entities such as the United Nations, NATO, the European Union, and other regional organizations have played a vital role in ensuring global security and regulating migration flows. Organizations like the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations High

Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) were founded to assist populations affected by forced migration due to wars, natural disasters, and economic crises.

Institutions such as the IOM and UNHCR not only provide legal and humanitarian support to refugees and forcibly displaced persons but also contribute to the establishment of international standards for managing migration processes. The IOM's functions are categorized into areas such as migration and development, assistance to migrants, regulation of migration, and forced migration, reflecting the complexity of migration processes. At the same time, the UNHCR implements specialized programs to ensure the protection of refugees and displaced persons and supports collaborative initiatives aimed at addressing migration challenges worldwide.

The European Union and other regional organizations also play an active role in developing policies to regulate migration flows and protect the rights of migrants. For instance, the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) provides advisory and methodological support to governments and organizations in Europe in formulating migration policies. The ICMPD, which collaborates with the State Migration Service of the Republic of Azerbaijan, supports the country in migration management through specific projects and programs.

Overall, international organizations provide platforms for dialogue and cooperation to regulate migration policies at global and regional levels. States contribute to the development of relations between international organizations and non-governmental organizations, facilitating the dissemination of best practices aimed at protecting migrants' rights and ensuring human rights. This sub-chapter demonstrates that the relationships among actors in international migration policy are built on interdependence, emphasizing the necessity of multilateral approaches to managing migration.

In the second chapter of the dissertation, titled "**Analysis of Current Problems in the Field of International Migration**," the

effects of global conflicts and refugee issues on migration processes, as well as the characteristics of migration processes in the South Caucasus region, are examined. The first sub-chapter, titled "**The Impact of Global Conflict Zones, Refugee Issues, and Environmental Problems on International Migration Processes**," highlights that international migration management increasingly requires complex and comprehensive policies to address migration pressures stemming from globalization, climate change, and conflicts. These policies must take into account the multifaceted reasons behind migration and the diverse impacts on countries. However, existing management mechanisms face several challenges that hinder the effective governance of migration processes.

Key issues in international migration management include inconsistencies in legal regulations and resource shortages. While international agreements on migration exist, coordination between countries remains difficult. Some countries prioritize strict immigration policies, while others focus on protecting migrants' rights. These disparities complicate the establishment of a unified global approach.

To improve migration management, it is essential to develop more harmonized legal frameworks among countries and strengthen global cooperation. Organizations like the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration can play a leading role in this regard. Addressing resource shortages through donor support and the provision of efficient services is also critical. Additionally, implementing programs that protect the rights of environmental migrants displaced due to environmental degradation and support their social integration can contribute to more sustainable societies.

The second sub-chapter of this chapter, titled "**Regional Migration Processes and the South Caucasus**," explores the impact of ecological issues and geopolitical turbulence on migration dynamics in the South Caucasus region. The author notes that environmental threats, such as potential accidents at the Metsamor Nuclear Power Plant, pose significant risks to the region. Radiation exposure, water pollution, and soil degradation caused by such an

incident could lead to both internal and cross-border migration. The outdated technology and potential radiation leakage from Metsamor not only endanger Armenia but also pose serious humanitarian and ecological risks to neighboring Azerbaijan and Georgia. These threats could force people to leave their homes, increasing cases of forced migration within the region.

Drought and climate change further exacerbate living conditions, particularly in countries that heavily rely on agriculture. Decreasing water resources and declining agricultural productivity result in resource shortages and reduced incomes, intensifying migration tendencies. Additionally, industrial pollution of rivers by Armenia and soil degradation in the South Caucasus contribute to the acceleration of forced migration among the population.

From a geopolitical perspective, the South Caucasus region's location at the crossroads of Europe, Asia, and the Middle East makes it a critical migration route. Migrants from Afghanistan, Iran, and Syria use the region as both a transit passage and a destination for refuge. Simultaneously, Turkey, facing a significant influx of refugees from Syria, plays a vital role in managing migration processes in the region. This inflow places pressure on Turkey's resources and infrastructure, though the country has implemented various policies to integrate Syrian refugees into society.

In recent years, the Russia-Ukraine conflict has resulted in a notable migration of Russian migrants to Armenia, with many integrating into Armenia's IT sector. Historical, cultural, and religious ties between Russia and Armenia make Armenia an attractive destination for Russians. Additionally, other political and economic factors play a significant role in this migration trend. This influx is reshaping the region's demographic and economic landscape, putting pressure on Armenia's real estate market and local economies.

Simultaneously, language plays a crucial role in labor migration from the South Caucasus to Russia and Turkey. The familiarity of the region's population with the Russian and Turkish languages facilitates their integration into these countries' labor markets, strengthening migration flows. This increases the socio-

economic opportunities for people from the South Caucasus and supports their successful integration into the labor markets of Russia and Turkey.

Educational migration also influences migration processes in the South Caucasus. The flow of Azerbaijani students to Turkish universities reflects the cultural and historical ties between the two nations. The number of students pursuing higher education in Turkey is increasing, showcasing the impact of educational opportunities on regional migration. According to statistics, approximately 41,000 Azerbaijani students are currently studying abroad, indicating a growing demand for international education.

The third sub-chapter, titled "**Analysis of the Factors Influencing the Formation of Migration Policy in the Republic of Azerbaijan**," highlights that the country's rich oil and gas resources have strengthened economic development and increased the attraction of foreign labor. This growth has underscored the need to improve labor migration policies and protect the rights of migrant workers. Azerbaijan's demographic profile, characterized by a predominantly young and middle-aged population, increases demand for labor and necessitates the regulation of both internal and international migration flows. Internal migration from rural areas to cities puts pressure on urban infrastructure, requiring adjustments to migration policies. The labor market's demands call for the recruitment of foreign workers, particularly in the construction and industrial sectors. Migration policy facilitates the attraction of skilled specialists to meet professional workforce needs, serving as a critical factor for local economic development.

International cooperation plays a key role in Azerbaijan's migration policy. The country collaborates closely with organizations such as the United Nations and the International Organization for Migration to protect migrant rights and regulate migration flows. Since its early years of independence, Azerbaijan has taken steps in line with international legal norms to address issues related to refugees and internally displaced persons and has sought to implement international standards in migration processes. The

establishment of the State Migration Service has ensured the effective implementation of migration policy and played a significant role in combating illegal migration.

In recent years, reforms in the tourism sector have not only increased migration flows to the country but also created favorable conditions for the development of tourism. The development of tourism infrastructure, the establishment of the State Tourism Agency, and the creation of regional tourism facilities have boosted the number of foreign visitors to Azerbaijan, positively impacting the country's economic development. Thus, the formation of migration policy in the Republic of Azerbaijan is based on a complex interplay of factors, functioning as a vital mechanism to safeguard the nation's interests and security.

In the third chapter, titled "**Migration in the Republic of Azerbaijan as a Component of International Migration Processes**," the interrelation of Azerbaijan's migration policy with international migration processes and its analysis within the framework of national security are examined. The first sub-chapter, titled "**Alignment of the Legal and Regulatory Framework of the Republic of Azerbaijan's Migration Policy with International Migration Policy**," outlines the evolution of Azerbaijan's legal and regulatory framework for migration. It notes that since the early years of independence, migration legislation in the country has developed progressively. The legal foundation of Azerbaijan's migration policy begins with the Constitution. Adopted in 1995, the Constitution established fundamental principles related to migration, including the rights of foreigners, citizenship rights, and political asylum. These principles form the basis of the legal framework for migration policy and serve as a foundation for its further development.

In regulating migration processes, Azerbaijan has strengthened its cooperation with international organizations such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Labour Organization (ILO), and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). During this period, several key laws were

adopted to establish the foundation of migration legislation. For instance, the laws "On State Fingerprint Registration in the Republic of Azerbaijan" and "On Citizenship of the Republic of Azerbaijan" reinforced the legal and regulatory basis of migration processes. In 2004, the Cabinet of Ministers of Azerbaijan approved the "State Migration Management Policy Concept," which included measures to improve migration legislation and strengthen state oversight. The establishment of the State Migration Service in 2007 centralized migration processes and assigned critical responsibilities, such as the registration of migrants and the simplification of legal residence procedures. These reforms introduced the "one-stop-shop" principle, making migration management more efficient. The adoption of the Migration Code in 2013 marked a new phase in Azerbaijan's migration policy. The Code comprehensively outlined key concepts related to migration, the legal regulation of migration processes, and the rights and responsibilities of participants. It represented the first systematic step in the CIS region toward regulating migration legislation.

The formation of Azerbaijan's legal and regulatory framework for migration policy has enabled the country to take significant steps toward ensuring national security, socio-political stability, and the protection of human rights. This framework has been developed into a modern system capable of managing migration flows and responding swiftly to emerging challenges in a globalized world.

The second sub-chapter, titled "**Migration Policy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the Context of National Security**," examines migration policy within Azerbaijan's national security strategy. After regaining independence, it became evident that migration processes, both in global and regional contexts, could have significant implications for national security. The increased focus on this issue is attributed to the changes in the country's economic and social structures caused by migration flows, influenced by global economic dynamics, labor market demands, and geographical factors.

The author suggests that Azerbaijan's migration policy can be more effectively explained through the World Systems Theory, which comprehensively addresses the economic and social foundations of migration processes driven by globalization. According to this theory, migration flows in economically dependent developing countries increase with the expansion of the capitalist market. The demand in Azerbaijan's labor market and economic challenges leading to the migration of part of its population to foreign countries align with the principles of the World Systems Theory in the Azerbaijani context.

One of the factors influencing migration policy in the context of national security is Azerbaijan's strategic geographical location. The impact of regional conflicts makes migration a strategic issue for national security. In recent years, international cooperation has been a notable aspect of Azerbaijan's migration policy. Within this framework, Azerbaijan has established strong connections with organizations such as the United Nations, the International Organization for Migration, and the European Union in the field of migration management. This cooperation aims to align Azerbaijan's migration policy with international standards and strengthen national security. In the realm of external migration, combating irregular migration, human trafficking, and terrorism is regarded as a core component of national security. Through the joint efforts of the State Migration Service and other law enforcement agencies, measures to detect irregular migrants and monitor their movements within the country have been strengthened. The Unified Migration Information System has been utilized to track the movements of migrants within Azerbaijan and enhance security measures.

The third sub-chapter, titled "**The Activities of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Dynamic International Migration Processes**," highlights that Azerbaijan's migration policy has been shaped by global migration trends, tailored to align with the country's national security and socio-economic interests. During the COVID-19 pandemic, a significant decrease in international migration flows was observed, which had a noticeable impact on Azerbaijan. The State

Migration Service (SMS) implemented proactive measures to manage migration flows and protect the social rights of migrants during this period. The pandemic also accelerated the digitalization and simplification of procedures such as migrant registration and the issuance of temporary and permanent residence permits.

The sub-chapter also emphasizes Azerbaijan's "Great Return" policy in recent years, a repatriation initiative supporting the return of internally displaced persons (IDPs) to Karabakh and other liberated territories. This policy includes creating a safe environment for returnees, developing infrastructure, and facilitating socio-economic adaptation processes.

Geopolitical factors play a significant role in Azerbaijan's migration policy. The Russia-Ukraine conflict and sanctions imposed by the European Union on Russia have affected migration dynamics in the region, increasing Azerbaijan's role as both a transit and a destination country in migration processes. Azerbaijan continues to position itself as a guarantor of regional security, promoting the voluntary return of migrants and their resettlement in their native lands.

In the "**Conclusion**" section, the author underscores that Azerbaijan's migration policy is designed to enhance international cooperation, promote multiculturalism, and establish the country as an attractive destination for foreigners by fostering an environment free from xenophobia. A modern legal and regulatory framework ensures the management of migration processes and national security. The Great Return program in Karabakh regulates internal migration and strengthens socio-economic development. Additionally, new initiatives are being taken to develop regional educational centers, address urbanization challenges, and promote skilled labor migration. Furthermore, peace prospects with Armenia could open new opportunities in the field of migration. The "Conclusion" section also provides relevant recommendations based on the research findings.

The main content of the dissertation has been published in the following works by the author:

1. Migration Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan: Protection of the Rights of Foreigners and Stateless Persons // “Migration Policy and Human Rights in the Republic of Azerbaijan.” – Baku: 2014. – pp. 62–63.
2. History of Migration Processes in the Republic of Azerbaijan // Baku World Youth Forum of Young Scientists. – Baku: 2014. – pp. 58–59.
3. Migration Processes and Population Movement in Azerbaijan // Public Administration. – Baku: 2014. – № 3/47. – pp. 235–242.
4. Migration Legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan // Strategic Analysis. – Baku: 2014. – № 4/11. – pp. 83–94.
5. Heydar Aliyev and the Migration Policy of the Republic of Azerbaijan // “Heydar Aliyev: Founder of the National State Policy of Azerbaijan.” – Baku: 2014. – pp. 84–91.
6. Migration Policy of the Republic of Azerbaijan: International and Bilateral Cooperation // Public Administration. – Baku: 2015. – № 3/51. – pp. 271–280.
7. Migration Policy of the Republic of Azerbaijan: International and Bilateral Cooperation // Works of Young Scientists. – Baku: 2015. – № 11. – pp. 295–301.
8. Modern Migration Theories: A Historical Perspective // Works of Young Scientists. – Baku: 2015. – № 12. – pp. 166–171.
9. International Migration Policy and Azerbaijan // Proceedings of Young Scientists. – Baku: 2016. – № 14. – pp. 203–211.
10. International Migration Policy: Essence and Content // Hileya. – Kyiv: 2016. – № 114/11. – pp. 288–292.
11. Migration Policy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the Context of National Security // Strategic Analysis. – Baku: 2016. – № 1-2/15-16. – pp. 205–217.

12. Azerbaijan's Role in International Migration Policy // "Current Issues of Azerbaijan Studies," VIII International Scientific Conference. – Baku State University. – Baku: 2017. – pp. 161–163.

13. Migration Policy in a Globalizing World: Essence and Content // "Migration Policy in Azerbaijan." – Baku: 2017. – pp. 33–37.

14. Migration Policy and Multiculturalism // Scientific Conference of Doctoral Candidates and Dissertators. – Baku: 2021. – pp. 115–123.

15. Migration Processes in Azerbaijan During the Pandemic // VI International Congress on European Social Sciences. – Kyiv: 2021. – pp. 35–43.

The defense of the dissertation will be held on 26 December 2024 at 11 at the meeting of the Dissertation Council - FD 2.30 of Supreme Attestation Commission under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan operating at the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

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The dissertation is accessible at the Scientific Library of State Administration Academy under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Electronic versions of the dissertation and abstract are available on the official website of Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan

(www.dia.edu.az/en/).

The abstract was sent to the required addresses on 26 November

Signed for print: 23.11.2024
Paper format: A5
Volume: 42108
Number of hard copies: 25