REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

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ABSTRACT

of the dissertation submitted for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE FUNCTIONING OF POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS UNDER GLOBAL CHALLENGES (THE CASE OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN)

Specialty: 5904.01 – "Political institutions and systems"

Field of Science: Political Science

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BAKU – 2025

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GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DISSERTATION

Relevance of the topic and the degree of its development. Climate change, ecological and economic crises, pandemics, international migration, conflicts and terrorism, technological innovations, as well as the multifaceted and profound effects of geopolitical global challenges, entail the flexible, transparent, and adaptive functioning of the state, political parties, and other political institutions. Under these conditions, the relationship between the state and civil society is transforming, while global challenges such as terrorism and cybersecurity require new approaches from states to safeguard national security. The resilience and effective functioning of political institutions in the face of modern global challenges are utterly vital for the well-being of society and the stability of the state.

The Republic of Azerbaijan is among the countries exposed to the impact of global challenges. These challenges demand new approaches in both domestic and foreign policy, which in turn necessitate achieving the flexibility and innovative capacity of political institutions to implement effective solutions. In this regard, under the conditions of contemporary globalization, the systematic exploration of the functioning mechanisms of political institutions holds particular importance for improving existing strategies and learning from international experience.

The relevance of the research topic can be systematized as follows:

– Global challenges such as ecological crises, uncontrolled technological proliferation, economic instability, pandemics, and security threats influence the governance models of states, test the resilience of political institutions, and necessitate the development of adaptation mechanisms, including digital security and models of international cooperation.

– Taking into account that the state, as a political institution, is exposed to global challenges, these challenges affect its both internal and external policy priorities, its core functions, and the trajectory of structural reforms. In such circumstances, the legitimacy and effectiveness of the state directly depend on its capacity for adaptation.

– Individual political institutions — states, political parties, parliaments, and electoral bodies — are compelled to update their organizational models, communication strategies, and mechanisms of representation in order to respond to the new social and technological conditions shaped by global challenges. In this regard, their models of adaptation to global challenges are of particular interest.

– By being highly dynamic, the reaction of political institutions to global challenges, along with the application of modern governance methods in the post-war period in the Republic of Azerbaijan, ensures more efficient management of public resources and enhanced transparency. Within the framework of the sustainable development priorities defined by President Ilham Aliyev in line with global trends, the continuous renewal of the governance system secures political stability and facilitates the state's adaptation to present-day challenges, while the strategies for the revival of Karabakh and the Great Return are being successfully implemented.

– Azerbaijan's energy security, the successful implementation of its "green energy" strategies and other sectoral development initiatives, as well as its broad international cooperation, necessitate more flexible and solid performance from political institutions, thereby reinforcing their functionality.

All of this confirms the relevance of the dissertation topic presented and necessitates its comprehensive investigation.

In relation to the degree of development of the dissertation, it is noteworthy to mention the multi-volume collections "Our Independence is Eternal" and "Development is Our Goal", which comprise the speeches, statements, and interviews of National Leader Heydar Aliyev and President Ilham Aliyev. In these seminal works, valuable ideas and conceptual provisions are presented concerning the formation and consolidation of political institutions in Azerbaijan, their modernization in line with global tendencies in times of globalization, and their harmonization with national values[1].

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[1] Əliyev, H.Ə. Müstəqilliyimiz əbədidir. / H.Ə. Əliyev, – Bakı: Azərnəşr, – 46 cilddə, 1997-2016; Əliyev, İ.H. İnkişaf məqsədimizdir. / İ.H. Əliyev, – Bakı: Azərnəşr, – 139 cilddə, 2009-2025.

The publication of the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan titled "Heydar Aliyev is the Founder of the Modern Azerbaijani Parliament" provides a detailed analysis of the reforms carried out under the leadership of National Leader Heydar Aliyev and his significant contributions to the establishment of the Azerbaijani parliament. The book thoroughly presents the political legacy of the Great Leader Heydar Aliyev and his strategic steps towards the development of the parliament[2].

Various aspects of the research problem have been addressed in the works of Azerbaijani scholars and researchers such as U.K. Alakbarov, H.B. Mammadov, E.Kh. Nasirov, I.M. Huseynova, T.B. Allahyarova, N.I. Alakbarova, S.I. Mammadova, E.B. Hajaliyev, E.M. Nasibov, R.A. Mehdiyev, Sh.B. Ibadov, D.K. Valiyev, K.T. Aloyeva, N.N. Mammadli, and others.

In the works of Academician U.K. Alakbarov, concepts such as sustainable development, human development, and ecological civilization are extensively analyzed, and these approaches are of great significance in understanding the functional responsibilities and strategic orientations of political institutions. As the author emphasizes, sustainable development is linked not only to the economic and ecological spheres but also directly to the flexibility of political governance systems, their accountability, and socially oriented decision-making mechanisms. In this context, political institutions play a key organizational role in the formulation and implementation of environmentally and human-centered policies[3].

In her article, I.M. Huseynova examines global and national challenges in the name of "green" and sustainable development, emphasizing the impact of international organizations – including UN bodies – as well as the global Green movement and Green parties in

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[2] Heydər Əliyev müasir Azərbaycan parlamentinin banisidir / məsul red. O. Əsədov. – Bakı: Azərbaycan Respublikasının Milli Məclisinin nəşri, – 2008. – 496 s.

[3] Ələkbərov, U.K. Davamlı insan inkişafı və ekoloji sivilizasiyanın əsasları. Ali məktəblər üçün dərslik. / U.K. Ələkbərov, – Bakı: Təhsil, – 2013. – 222 s.; Ələkbərov, U.K. İnsan inkişafının əsasları. Ali məktəblər üçün dərslik. / U.K. Ələkbərov, – Bakı: Aspoliqraf, – 2016. – 279 s.; Ələkbərov, U.K. Davamlı inkişaf və ekoloji sivilizasiyasının idarə edilməsinin əsasları. Ali məktəblər üçün dərslik. / U.K. Ələkbərov, – Bakı: Təhsil, – 2017. – 175 s.

many countries on policy-making. She also highlights Azerbaijan's active participation in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals[4]. Sh. Ibadov, by examining the impact of globalization on political processes, analyzes the balance between global integration and national sovereignty[5].

From the perspective of studying political institutions, Hikmet Babaoglu's book of "The Political Aspects of Heydar Aliyev's Political Legacy" is of particular interest. In this work, the invaluable role of National Leader Heydar Aliyev in the establishment of an independent state in Azerbaijan is revealed, along with the processes of the formation and functioning of the country's political system and institutions under the conditions of globalization[6]. E.M. Nasibov's three-volume work of "The Philosophy of State and Politics" can also be noted. This study deepens the philosophical foundations of the concepts of state and politics, thereby allowing for a better understanding of the essence and functions of political institutions. In her research entitled "Political Parties in Azerbaijan: From Election to Election", T.B. Allahyarova examines the emergence and dynamics of political parties in Azerbaijan, their participation in electoral processes, and their impact on the country's political system. In K.T. Aloyeva's study on the role of elections in the development of political pluralism, the role of elections in advancing political pluralism in Azerbaijan is analyzed, and the effects of electoral processes on the formation and development of democratic institutions are investigated[7]. V.G. Rahimzade explores the dynamics of the

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[4] Hüseynova, İ.M. Yaşıl və davamlı inkişaf naminə qlobal və milli çağırışlar // Azərbaycan. – 2024, 25 iyun.

[5] İbadov, Ş.B. Qloballaşma və onun müasir siyasi proseslərə təsiri: siyasi e. üzrə fəls. d-ru e. dər. al. üçün təq. ol. dis-nın avtoreferatı / Ş.B. İbadov. – Bakı, 2024. – 30 s.

[6] Babaoğlu, H. Heydər Əliyev siyasi irsinin politoloji aspektləri / H. Babaoğlu. – Bakı: MSA, – 2013. – 456 s.

[7] Nəsibov, E.M. Dövlət və Siyasət fəlsəfəsi: [3 cilddə] / E.M. Nəsibov. – Bakı: Elm və təhsil, – c. 1. – 2015. – 108 səh.; Allahyarova, T.B. Azərbaycanda siyasi partiyalar: seçkidən seçkiyə – Bakı: CBS-PP MMC, 2010. – 146 s.; Aloyeva, K.T. Azərbaycan Respublikasında siyasi pluralizmin inkişafında seçkilərin rolu / K.T. Aloyeva; siyasi e. üzrə fəls. d-ru elmi dərəcəsi almaq üçün təqdim olunmuş dissertasiyanın avtoreferatı. – Bakı, 2018. – 21 s.

development of mass media in contemporary Azerbaijani society and examines their influence on public opinion[8].

In the works of E.B. Hacaliyev and N.N. Mammadli, which are of particular interest to the research problem, the role of political institutions in the establishment of democracy and civil society, as well as in the political modernization of society, is examined. These studies also investigate the improvement of the political system in Azerbaijan[9].

The successes and outcomes of hosting COP29, which represents a major event for the state and other political institutions in Azerbaijan, have been thoroughly highlighted in the articles of T. Allahyarova, J. Feyziyev, M. Yagubzade, K. Mustafa, and others[10]. In these works, Azerbaijan's COP model is substantively presented as an exemplary case.

The articles of E.Kh. Nasirov and T. Rzayev are devoted to Azerbaijan's successful energy security policy under the leadership of President Ilham Aliyev, focusing on the country's role and prospects in ensuring Europe's energy security in this field[11].

From a methodological perspective, N.I. Alakbarova's textbooks "History and Methodology of Political Science" and

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[8] Rəhimzadə, V.G. Müasir Azərbaycan cəmiyyətində kütləvi informasiya vasitələrinin inkişaf xüsusiyyətləri: siyasi elmlər d-ru e. dər. al. üçün təq. ol. dis-nın avtoreferatı / V.G. Rəhimzadə. – Bakı, 2018. – 46 s.

[9] Hacalıyev, E.B. Siyasi demokratiyanın formalaşması prosesində cəmiyyətin siyasi modernləşməsi: siyasi e. d-ru elmi dərəcəsi almaq üçün təqdim edilmiş dissertasiyanın avtoreferatı: 5904.01 / E.B. Hacalıyev. – Bakı, 2021. – 42 s.; Məmmədli, N.N. Müasir şəraitdə vətəndaş cəmiyyətinin formalaşmasında siyasi institutların yeri və rolu: siyasi elmlər üzrə fəlsəfə doktoru elmi dərəcəsi almaq üçün təqdim olunmuş dissertasiyanın avtoreferatı: 5904.01 / N.N. Məmmədli. – Bakı, 2024. – 22 s.

[10] Allahyarova, T. COP29 Azərbaycan: iqlim dəyişikliyi, iqlim miqrantları və insan hüquqları sahəsində qlobal tendensiyalar, perspektivlər // Sosial tədqiqatlar, 2024, N1, s. 30-55; Feyziyev, C. Azərbaycan COP29 Konfransını qlobal ortaq yanaşma platformasına çevirə bildi // Xalq qəzeti, 2024, 18 noyabr, s. 7; Yaqubzadə, M. Azərbaycanın uğurlu COP modeli dünyaya örnəkdir // Xalq qəzeti, 2025, 10 yanvar, s. 1; və b.

[11] Nəsirov, E.X. Azərbaycan Respublikasının Avropanın enerji təhlükəsizliyində yeri və rolu // Geostrategiya, 2011, N4, s.36-39; Rzayev, T. Azərbaycan Avropanın enerji təhlükəsizliyinin əsas təminatçılarındandır // "Azərbaycan" qəzeti, 10 fevral 202.

"Contemporary Problems of Political Science" are of particular significance, as they are devoted to an extensive analysis of the main methodological approaches of political science, as well as its pressing contemporary issues and challenges. Likewise, S.I. Mammadova's article "Methodological Approaches in Political Research: An Analysis of the Main Provisions" addresses methodological problems that are of special interest[12].

Among Turkish researchers, I. Arpacı's study analyzes the changing role and strategic adaptation of political parties and leadership in the context of global transformation. M.M. Balkan examines the impact of economic and political institutions on income inequality in times of global trends, while F. Bilir investigates the institutional mechanisms of candidate selection in political parties from both normative and practical perspectives. D. Erdoğan emphasizes, within a theoretical framework, the influence of political parties on representative democracy. K. Kılıçdaroğlu and D. Arslantaş, in turn, explore the dynamics of institutional development of political parties in South Korea, as well as the relationship between party systems and stability and sustainability[13].

Among Russian scholars, L.V. Smorgunov, A.N. Bordovskikh, L.G. Berlyavskii, O.B. Ivanov, B.I. Makarenko, V.I. Chekharina, and others have examined the research problem from various perspectives. L.V. Smorgunov's textbook of "Comparative Political Science" is devoted to the functional comparative analysis of political institutions,

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[12] Ələkbərova, N.İ. Siyasi elmin tarixi və metodologiyası. Dərslik. / N.İ. Ələkbərova. – Bakı: Azərbaycan Nəşriyyatı, – 2005. – 240 səh.; Məmmədova, S.İ. Siyasi tədqiqatlarda metodoloji yanaşmalar: əsas müddəaların təhlili // Dövlət İdarəçiliyi: nəzəriyyə və təcrübə. –2023, 1(81), – s. 131-144.

[13] Arpacı, I. Küresel Dönüşümler ekseninde Siyasi Partiler ve Liderlik // Fırat Üniversitesi Sosyal Bilimler Dergisi. – Elazığ: Fırat Üniversitesi, – 2018, 28(1), – s.133-142.; Balkan, M.M. 2000'li yıllarda dünyada gelir eşitsizliğine ekonomik ve siyasal kurumların etkisi / M.M. Balkan. – Mersin: Mersin Üniversitesi Sosyal Bilimler Enstitüsü, – 2021. – 162 s.; Bilir, F. Siyasi Partilerde Parlamento Adaylarının Belirlenmesi / F. Bilir. – Ankara: Yetkin Yayınları, – 2007. – 386 s.; Erdoğan, D. Siyasi Partilerin Temsili Demokrasi Üzerindeki Etkileri // İstanbul Aydın Üniversitesi Hukuk Fakültesi Dergisi, – İstanbul: Aydın Üniversitesi, – 2016, 2(2), – s. 59-74; Kılıçdaroğlu, K. ve Arslantaş, D. Güney Kore'de Siyasi Partiler ve Kurumsallaşma // Mülkiye Dergisi, – 2021, 45(3), – s. 617-639.

focusing on their formation and adaptation features within different political regimes. In O.G. Leonova's article of "Global Political Challenges of Modernity", scenarios of political system development are presented depending on how states respond to global political challenges. T.G. Ponomaryeva's book of "Political Institutions and Their Evolution" analyzes how political institutions change over time and the implications of these processes for society. E.S. Ustinovich, in turn, provides a comparative analysis of the structures and mechanisms of operation of political institutions in foreign countries[14]. These works can be regarded as important resources for studying the development of political institutions across diverse cultural, ideological, and practical contexts.

The English-language literature related to the research topic also arouses significant scholarly interest. In this regard, F. Ferrara's article devoted to the study of the development and evolution of political institutions stands out. F. Ferreira, by investigating the issue of inequality during the COVID-19 period, presents the severe consequences of the pandemic supported by empirical data. V.A. Schmidt's article of "Discursive Institutionalism: The Explanatory Power of Ideas and Discourse" serves as a source for explaining the influence of ideas and discourses on the functioning of political institutions. In addition, D. Derbyshire's work of "Political Systems of the World" offers valuable insights into the functioning of political institutions within specific political systems. M. Gallagher and P. Mitchell have studied electoral systems, while L. Gail examined the advantages and disadvantages of proportional electoral systems. D. North's book of "Institutions, Institutional Change, and Economic Performance" explains the impact of political institutions on economic

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[14] Сморгунов Л.В. Сравнительная политология. : учебник для академического бакалавриата / Л.В. Сморгунов. — 2-е изд., испр. и доп. — М. : Издательство Юрайт, 2018. — 417 с.; Леонова О.Г. Глобальные политические вызовы современности : статья / О.Г. Леонова. — Век глобализации. — 2019. — № 3(31). — С. 61–72. — DOI: https://doi.org/10.30884/vglob/2019.03.05; Пономарева, Т.Г. Политические институты и их эволюция. Санкт-Петербург: Институт электронного обучения СПбУТУиЭ, 2011. 240 с.; Устинович, Е.С. Политические институты зарубежных стран. Москва: Кнорус, 2020. 330 с.; və b.

development and long-term performance[15]. Collectively, these works provide a broader and deeper analysis of the functioning of political institutions in the context of global challenges.

As can be seen, in the existing scholarly literature on the problem, the functioning of political institutions in the modern world, including in the Republic of Azerbaijan, has predominantly been analyzed within the framework of individual aspects. However, these institutions and their functional transformation have not been examined comprehensively and systematically in the context of global challenges. From this perspective, the research presented here can be regarded as a step toward filling this gap.

Object and subject of the research. The object of the research is the activity of political institutions under conditions of global challenges and the changes occurring in their functioning in response to these challenges. The subject of the research is the functional characteristics of these political institutions and the mechanisms of their adaptation to global challenges.

Purpose and objectives of the research. The purpose of the research is to examine, in the example of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the transformation of the functioning of political institutions and their adaptation mechanisms under the conditions of global challenges, as well as to assess the effectiveness of these institutions and their resilience in confronting global problems. To achieve this purpose, the following research objectives are set:

– To analyze the concept of political institutions and the theoretical approaches to their characteristics;

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[15] Ferrara, F. The Development of Political Institutions: Power, Legitimacy, Democracy. – Michigan Press, – 2022. DOI: https://doi.org/10.3998/mpub.12013333; Ferreira, F.H.G. Inequality in the Time of COVID-19: [https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/2021/06/inequality-and-covid-19-ferreira.htm].; Schmidt, V.A. Discursive Institutionalism: The Explanatory Power of Ideas and Discourse // – Boston: Annual Review of Political Science, – 2008, 11, – p. 303-326.; Derbyshire, D. Political systems of the world / D. Derbyshire. - Oxford: Helicon, - 1996. - 712 p.; North, D. Institutions, institutional change, and economic performance / D. North. – New York: Cambridge University Press, – 1990. – 164 p.; və b.

– To consider political institutionalism as the conceptual basis for the functioning of political institutions;

– To provide a classification of global challenges and to determine their overall impact on political institutions;

– To examine the impact of ecological, humanitarian, geopolitical, as well as economic and technological challenges on the state and political institutions;

– To study the history of the formation of political institutions in Azerbaijan;

– To highlight the role of National Leader Heydar Aliyev in the formation of the political institutions of independent Azerbaijan under the conditions of globalization;

– To analyze the transformation of political institutions in Azerbaijan under the leadership of President Ilham Aliyev in the context of global challenges;

– To analyze the current issues of the development of political institutions in Azerbaijan from a scientific and practical perspective in the post-war period.

Research methods. Various methods have been applied in the research: through comparative political analysis and comparative-historical methods, the events and reforms that took place in different periods of the Republic of Azerbaijan were examined and their impact on modern political institutions was assessed; the literature review method was also employed to analyze the existing scholarly works devoted to the issues of global challenges and political institutions, thereby forming the theoretical basis of the study. The research further applied content analysis to investigate the principles of the functioning of political institutions and the substance of reforms. Finally, qualitative analysis was used to obtain in-depth insights into the effects of political processes and reforms.

Main theses submitted for defense. As a result of the research, the following theses are submitted for defense:

– Although contemporary global challenges may lead to short-term political crises, in the long-term perspective they open the way for transformations in the structures and functions of political

institutions, thereby strengthening their resilience, adaptability, and capacities for transparent governance.

– An effective response to global challenges depends not only on the structural flexibility of political institutions, but also on their ability to establish a balance between technological determinism and democratic accountability, while coordinating multilateral cooperation and decision-making mechanisms.

– Political institutions, including political parties, that fail to adapt to ecological, medical, technological, digital, political, and other global challenges lose public trust, weaken political stability, and, along with undermining their legitimacy, face the necessity of developing strategies that respond to changing public demands.

– The wide-ranging reforms carried out in all spheres by National Leader Heydar Aliyev during the years 1993–2003, along with the important steps taken to strengthen international relations, had a significant impact on transforming the political institutions of the Republic of Azerbaijan into a stable, structured governance system that was simultaneously reinforced in parallel with economic development.

– The large-scale reforms carried out under the leadership of President Ilham Aliyev, together with novelties in innovative and digital governance, as well as the restoration of state administrative structures and the introduction of new modern forms in the territories liberated from occupation after the Patriotic War of 2020, transformed the political institutions of the Republic of Azerbaijan into a more effective, transparent system responsive to citizens' needs, thereby contributing to the strengthening of political and economic stability and the consolidation of the country's strategic position.

– The adoption of the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On Media" stemmed from the necessity to strengthen preventive legal mechanisms against the rapid spread of disinformation in the global information environment and the threats posed by information manipulation to national security and public stability.

Scientific novelty of the research. The scientific novelties obtained at the level of the dissertation can be presented as follows:

– A systematic and comprehensive analysis of the adaptation and functional transformation of political institutions in the example of the Republic of Azerbaijan is presented, characterized by a pragmatic approach aimed at achieving tangible results in their activities.

– The policy of independent state-building pursued by National Leader Heydar Aliyev and the successful development of the Azerbaijani state under the leadership of President Ilham Aliyev in the modern stage are substantiated and demonstrated, taking into account global challenges.

– For the first time, the impact of global ecological, political, and humanitarian challenges on the transformation of the political institutions of the Republic of Azerbaijan is analyzed in the context of COP29. Within this framework, Azerbaijan's experience of international cooperation and the influence of governance models from foreign countries on the adaptive capacity and strategic development of national political institutions are examined.

– In the Republic of Azerbaijan, the responses and adaptation mechanisms of the state and political parties to global challenges are comprehensively analyzed, while the extent to which the international adaptation strategies of national political institutions have been successful in both historical and contemporary contexts is examined.

– The political and economic reforms carried out during the leadership periods of National Leader Heydar Aliyev and President Ilham Aliyev are comparatively analyzed, demonstrating how they contributed to the development and stability of the political institutions of the Republic of Azerbaijan in response to global challenges.

– The systematic transformation of the adaptation of the political institutions of the Republic of Azerbaijan to global challenges in the post-war period – following the Great Victory in the 44-day Patriotic War, which further strengthened the country's position internationally and marked its active participation in the formation of a new world order – is presented on the basis of factual material.

Theoretical and practical significance of the research. The theoretical significance of the research lies in the fact that its results provide a conceptual basis for the development of governance models

of political institutions at both the national and international levels, offering theoretical foundations for further scholarly inquiry in this field and creating a platform for new research directions. From a practical perspective, the materials and findings of the dissertation can be useful for relevant state bodies and public institutions, as well as for teaching related subjects in higher education institutions, for the preparation of textbooks, the organization of scientific conferences, and the development of other educational and research materials..

Approbation and application of the research. The dissertation was discussed at the Department of "Political Science and Political Management" of the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan and was recommended for defense. The results of the research have been reflected in nine scholarly publications and conference theses authored by the researcher, including one article published in an internationally indexed journal.

Name of the institution where the dissertation was carried out: The Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The structure of the dissertation with the volume of each section indicated, as well as the total volume in characters. The research consists of an introduction, three chapters and ten subsections, as well as a conclusion and a list of references. The volume is as follows: Introduction – 24,316 characters; Chapter I – 52,385 characters; Chapter II – 103,491 characters; Chapter III – 74,035 characters; Conclusion – 9,779 characters. The total volume amounts to 264,006 characters.

THE MAIN CONTENT OF THE DISSERTATION

In the "**Introduction**" section of the research, the relevance of the dissertation topic is substantiated, the object, subject, purpose, and objectives of the research are defined, the theses submitted for defense, the scientific novelty of the study, and its theoretical and practical significance are identified, and information is provided on the structure and volume of the work.

The first chapter of the dissertation, consisting of two subsections, is entitled "**The Theoretical and Conceptual Foundations of the Functioning of Political Institutions**". In the first subsection, titled "**Main Theoretical Approaches to the Problem of Political Institutions**", it is emphasized that political institutions, as the fundamental pillars of the governance mechanisms of states, are the structures that guide the political, social, and economic development of society. They perform functions such as maintaining stability in society, promoting democratic principles, and fostering inclusive communities, including through the legislative, executive, and judicial branches. Existing in various forms, these institutions shape the quality and legitimacy of governance systems, enhance social welfare by ensuring the rule of law, and support civic participation.

At the same time, the functionality and influence of political institutions reflect both local and global governance dynamics. The study of political institutions provides essential approaches for fostering inclusiveness, accountability, and equality, which support the development of democracy.

During the research, it becomes evident that control over behavior is a key aspect of political institutions, shaping interactions, decision-making processes, and policy outcomes. Efforts to enhance transparency, accountability, and inclusiveness within political institutions are essential for advancing democratic governance and ensuring the effective representation of diverse interests and perspectives[16].

In conclusion to the subsection, it is emphasized that political institutions, as the pillars of each state's governance mechanism, are the fundamental structures guiding the political, economic, and social development of society. Their functionality is not limited to the activities of the legislative and executive branches, but is also connected with maintaining social stability, promoting democratic principles, and fostering inclusive communities.

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[16] Ferrara, F. The Development of Political Institutions: Power, Legitimacy, Democracy / F. Ferrara. – Michigan: University of Michigan Press, – 2022. doi: https://doi.org/10.3998/mpub.12013333

In the second subsection, entitled "**Political Institutionalism as the Methodological Basis for the Functioning of Political Institutions**", it is noted that political institutionalism is a methodological approach that analyzes the structures, functions, and interactions of political institutions within a broader governance context. It focuses on how political institutions shape political processes and influence behavior and outcomes. Political institutionalism integrates various theoretical approaches – rational choice, historical, sociological, and discursive institutionalism – to explore the role of institutions, their interaction with actors, and their changes over time. This approach also enables the study of institutional mechanisms that ensure democratic governance, accountability, and representation.

Rational choice institutionalism focuses on incentive structures through which individuals act in accordance with their interests, while historical institutionalism emphasizes the influence of past decisions and legacies on institutional formation. Sociological institutionalism highlights the role of informal norms and cultural frameworks, and discursive institutionalism stresses the importance of ideas and discourses in shaping institutions. Taken together, these approaches allow for a better understanding of the stability and change of institutions, as well as their impact on political and social outcomes.

In other words, political institutionalism serves as a methodological basis for comparative analysis across different political systems and contexts. By examining institutionalization, identifying patterns of development, assessing effectiveness, and analyzing contextual factors, this approach enriches our understanding of the role of political institutions in shaping governance dynamics[17]. Another perspective, sociological institutionalism, emphasizes the role of informal norms and cultural practices in political behavior and the formation of institutions. In addition, constructivist approaches, by focusing on how values and identities shape institutional dynamics, reveal the socially constructed nature of institutions.

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[17] Morgan, G. (ed.) et al. The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Institutional Analysis // Oxford Academic. – 2010; online edn. – 2 May 2010. doi: https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199233762.001.0001

The second chapter of the dissertation, entitled "**Analysis of the Transformation of Political Institutions under Global Challenges**", consists of four subsections. The first subsection, "**Classification of Global Challenges and Their Overall Impact on Political Institutions**", analyzes in detail how political institutions adapt to global challenges both at the national level and within the international relations system in the contemporary era. The author explains the concept of global challenges as multidimensional problems that transcend borders, have cross-border effects, and require collective action. Drawing on reports of international organizations such as the UN and the IMF, as well as Ulrich Beck's theory of the "global risk society," the author classifies global challenges into five main categories: ecological, humanitarian, geopolitical, economic, and technological[18]. Each of these challenges affects the structural and functional dynamics of political institutions, their decision-making mechanisms, and their legitimacy. The author emphasizes that global challenges are not merely technical, but also normative and political in nature, and that managing them requires not only national but also international cooperation.

In the continuation of the subsection, the author explains how various political institutions – state institutions, political parties, presidential institutions, international organizations, and electoral systems – have responded to global challenges and undergone transformations. For example, the integration of technological innovations into electoral institutions, the shifts in political parties driven by populist tendencies, and the strengthening of presidential systems are presented as illustrative cases. The author also highlights the role of political institutions in combating corruption and, using the example of Thailand, demonstrates how these institutions can be strengthened through institutional reforms. All of this shows that the successful adaptation of political institutions to global challenges

[18] Beck, U. Global Generations in World Risk Society // Fronteras: Transitoriedad y Dinámicas Interculturales / Boundaries: Transience and Intercultural Dynamics / Frontières: Transitoire et Dynamiques Interculturelles. – No. 82/83. – Septiembre 2008. – pp. 203–216.

depends not only on internal flexibility but also on their ability to engage in multilateral cooperation and participatory governance.

The second subsection of the chapter, entitled "**The Impact of Ecological, Humanitarian, and Geopolitical Challenges on the State and Other Political Institutions**", analyzes in a multifaceted way the profound effects that the ecological, humanitarian, and geopolitical challenges of the 21st century have had on political institutions. In the first part of the text, the causes of ecological problems – such as climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, and unsustainable resource exploitation – and their impacts on political institutions are examined in detail. The author notes that parliaments are compelled to take a more active role in ecological legislation, while executive bodies are required to establish new structures for the implementation and management of environmental policy. It is also emphasized that local self-governing bodies, such as municipalities, have become key actors in waste management and ecological sustainability initiatives.

Subsequently, the impact of humanitarian challenges – such as wars, natural disasters, poverty, pandemics, and migration flows – on political institutions is examined. The author demonstrates that these challenges lead to the formation of new regulations in the legislative agendas of parliaments, while executive bodies expand their activities with emergency powers in areas such as healthcare, internal affairs, and migration. At the same time, against the backdrop of global geopolitical transformations, the disruption of the international order, the rising power of China and Russia, the declining hegemony of the United States, and the formation of a multipolar system compel political institutions to reconsider strategic planning. In this process, both executive and legislative bodies are required to adopt more flexible and coordinated decisions in the fields of defense, energy security, and technology. In this context, U.S.–China and U.S.–Russia confrontations have become major sources of risk to global stability. The eastward expansion of NATO and the U.S.-led allied platforms around China (AUKUS, QUAD) create a new format of geopolitical

confrontation[19]. Conflicts are not limited to a regional character; they are also used as instruments for the redistribution of international spheres of influence.

Thus, the author generalizes that ecological, humanitarian, and geopolitical challenges fundamentally transform the structure, functions, and legitimacy of contemporary political institutions.

The third subsection of the chapter, entitled "**The Impact of Economic and Technological Challenges on Political Institutions**", examines the influence of global challenges generated by the world economy and technological developments on political institutions in the contemporary era. The author notes that economic factors such as global inflation, instability in energy prices, and protectionist trade policies compel not only markets but also state institutions of economic governance to change. Central banks are now required to make decisions that take into account not only monetary policy, but also social welfare and political stability. At the same time, against the background of energy and trade crises, executive authorities and parliaments are forced to develop more flexible and interventionist economic and legal policies. Using the example of Trump's tariffs, the institutional disruptions created by these processes in the global trade system are illustrated with concrete evidence.

On the other hand, the author emphasizes that technological challenges also profoundly reshape the structure and functions of political institutions. Rapid developments in artificial intelligence, big data, gene editing, and cybersecurity necessitate the creation of new legal and ethical frameworks by legislative and executive bodies. In particular, digital security issues have already become a priority area in terms of both the resilience of democratic institutions and national security. The author further points out the international legal gaps in technology regulation, the transboundary nature of information flows, and the problems of digital sovereignty faced by states, arguing that governments must adopt adaptive approaches based on democratic oversight to address these challenges. As a result, the author

[19] Bisley, N. The Quad, AUKUS and Australian Security Minilateralism: China's Rise and New Approaches to Security Cooperation // Journal of Contemporary China. – 2024. – s. 1–13. https://doi.org/10.1080/10670564.2024.2365241

demonstrates that global economic and technological challenges fundamentally transform governance and the logic of functioning of political institutions.

The final, fourth subsection of the chapter, entitled "**The Impact of Global Challenges on the Republic of Azerbaijan**", emphasizes that Azerbaijan is taking strategic steps to adapt to global ecological and humanitarian challenges. In the ecological sphere, problems such as climate change, fluctuations in the Caspian Sea level, and the decline of biodiversity exert serious impacts on the country's energy sector and agriculture. Azerbaijan's active participation in international initiatives for the development of renewable energy sources and the restoration of ecological balance – most notably its successful hosting of COP29 – makes valuable contributions to global efforts. The protection of biodiversity and the development of ecotourism are also highlighted as key directions of the country's ecological strategies.

In this subsection, the author argues that in order to further strengthen Azerbaijan's political institutions in their successful adaptation to global challenges, it would be beneficial to draw upon the transparent and participatory governance model of Scandinavian countries, as well as Singapore's technology-based approaches. Increasing the financial independence of municipalities, reinforcing ombudsman institutions that ensure transparency in public services, and implementing digital governance are proposed as the main approaches for effective reforms in this field. These reforms would allow Azerbaijan's political institutions to adapt more flexibly to global problems and further enhance the country's international reputation.

The third chapter of the dissertation, entitled "**Contemporary Features of the Development of Political Institutions in the Republic of Azerbaijan**", also consists of four subsections, similar to the second chapter. The first subsection, "**The Role of Heydar Aliyev in the Formation of the Political Institutions of Independent Azerbaijan**", emphasizes that political institutions in independent Azerbaijan began to take shape systematically only after the return of National Leader Heydar Aliyev to the country's leadership. Under his

leadership, the text of the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan was drafted and adopted in 1995. By enshrining popular sovereignty, democratic principles, and the principle of separation of powers, the Constitution provided the legal foundation for the country's political system and established the legal framework for the creation of political parties. Thus, this period is regarded as an important stage in Azerbaijan's democratic development.

The author also notes that the presidency of National Leader Heydar Aliyev (1993–2003) was marked by the strengthening of Azerbaijan's political institutions – legislative and executive bodies as well as the judicial system. Under his leadership, political stability was ensured, constitutional reforms were implemented, and the country's integration into democratic processes was reinforced. Heydar Aliyev's strategic steps played a crucial role in enhancing the functionality of the presidency and parliament, improving the electoral system, and ensuring integration into the global economy through the development of the oil and gas sector. The political reforms carried out under his leadership secured Azerbaijan's adaptation to the challenges of globalization. In the economic sphere, the signing of the "The Contract of the Century," the development of the oil and gas sector, and the laying of the foundations of economic independence strengthened the country's position in international economic relations and consolidated its geopolitical standing[20]. In addition, the adoption of the Electoral Code promoted transparent electoral processes and contributed to Azerbaijan's recognition at the international level as a democratic state. The strategic policy successfully implemented by Heydar Aliyev created the conditions for the formation of a strong Azerbaijan, raised the country's international prestige, and paved the way for major achievements.

As a logical continuation of this paragraph, the second subsection of the chapter is entitled "**The Transformation of Political Institutions in Azerbaijan under the Leadership of Ilham Aliyev: In the Context of Global Challenges**". This subsection emphasizes that during President Ilham Aliyev's leadership, political institutions

[20] "Əsrin müqaviləsi" – Azərbaycan Respublikasının rəsmi internet portalı: [Elektron resurs]. – URL: https://azerbaijan.az/related-information/132

in Azerbaijan have been undergoing a stage of modernization and development, striving to adapt their mechanisms of functioning to new realities while relying on the principles of sovereignty and national identity. The large-scale reforms implemented under the leadership of the Head of State, including constitutional amendments, the improvement of electoral processes, and steps toward harmonizing legislation with international standards, have enhanced the functionality of the political system. Amendments adopted through referendums – such as the refinement of the presidential institution and the establishment of the post of Vice-President – have contributed to institutional stability, while also ensuring greater efficiency and responsiveness in governance.

In the economic sphere, the development of the non-oil sector, the increase of investments, the diversification of the economy, and integration into the world economy have been among the main priorities. Within the framework of the "Strategic Roadmap on the National Economy and the Main Sectors of the Economy," the achievements in agriculture, tourism, industry, and information technologies have strengthened economic sustainability[21]. At the same time, reforms were carried out in the fields of education and healthcare with the aim of improving the quality of social services, and emphasis was placed on the development of human capital.

In response to global challenges, the strengthening of national security strategies and the assurance of ecological sustainability have remained in focus. Policies aimed at military modernization, the protection of border security, and the development of renewable energy sources have contributed to Azerbaijan's internal stability and the consolidation of its international standing. These reforms, carried out under the leadership of President Ilham Aliyev, have further reinforced Azerbaijan's position as a reliable and competitive state in the global arena. The consolidation of the Azerbaijani state and other political institutions through adaptation to global challenges found its

[21] "Milli iqtisadiyyat və iqtisadiyyatın əsas sektorları üzrə strateji yol xəritələrinin təsdiq edilməsi haqqında" Azərbaycan Respublikası Prezidentinin Fərmanı: [Elektron resurs] // Azərbaycan Respublikası Prezidentinin rəsmi internet səhifəsi. – 6 dekabr 2016. – URL: https://president.az/az/articles/view/21953

expression in the Great Victory achieved in the Second Karabakh War under the leadership of the country's President and Victorious Supreme Commander-in-Chief, Ilham Aliyev.

The third subsection of the chapter, entitled "**Scientific and Practical Approaches to the Current Issues of the Development of Political Institutions in the Republic of Azerbaijan in the Post-War Period**", analyzes the period following the 44-day Patriotic War. Under the leadership of the country's President and Victorious Supreme Commander-in-Chief, Ilham Aliyev, Azerbaijan fully restored its territorial integrity and sovereignty through the Patriotic War of 2020 and the one-day local anti-terror measures conducted in September 2023. As a result of the Patriotic War, Azerbaijan liberated its occupied lands and, with the signing of the trilateral statement on November 10, 2020, settled the conflict through diplomatic means. These great achievements demonstrated the power of the Azerbaijani state, its military superiority, and its diplomatic strength. Thus, a new stage of national development for Victorious Azerbaijan began, which is reflected in the "Azerbaijan 2030: National Priorities"[22].

As a result of all this, it becomes clear that the revival of Karabakh is one of the main strategic goals set by President Ilham Aliyev. The large-scale infrastructure and social projects carried out in the liberated territories have necessitated enhancing the functionality of state governance institutions for the regions; this, in turn, has strengthened state–society relations and stimulated the regional development of political institutions[23].

Within this framework, the "Great Return" state program not only ensures the phased resettlement of the population to the liberated

[22] Azərbaycan 2030: sosial-iqtisadi inkişafa dair Milli Prioritetlər"in təsdiq edilməsi haqqında Azərbaycan Respublikası Prezidentinin Sərəncamı: [Elektron resurs]. – 2 fevral 2021-ci il. URL: https://anl.az/down/serencamlar/2021/50473.pdf

[23] Bərpa-quruculuq işlərinin həcmi və sürəti haqqında: "təxminən üç il yarım içində Qarabağın dirçəlişi yolunda bir çox dövlətlərin 10 il ərzində görə bilmədiyi işləri reallaşdırıb": [Elektron resurs]. – 1 sentyabr 2021-ci il. URL: https://sia.az/az/news/politics/890129.html

territories, but also aims at restoring local governance structures and fostering the integration of citizens with state institutions[24].

By implementing the priorities of "green growth" and sustainable development, declaring 2024 as the "Year of Solidarity for a Green World", and serving as a model for other countries in the implementation of climate policy, Azerbaijan successfully hosted the UN global event – COP29[25].

In the post-war period, Azerbaijan launched broad reforms. New laws regulating the activities of the media and political parties were adopted by the Milli Majlis, strengthening the principles of transparency and accountability. The laws "On Media" and "On Political Parties" contributed to increasing the efficiency of political institutions and reinforcing political pluralism[26][27]. In addition, the amendments to the Law "On Freedom of Religious Belief" have served to ensure religious tolerance and public stability[28].

In Victorious Azerbaijan, which has fully restored its sovereignty, the 2024 extraordinary presidential elections – held in an atmosphere of transparency and political pluralism – ensured the continuity of public and political stability through the confident re-election of our wise and victorious leader, Ilham Aliyev. The participation of various parties in the elections secured the development of political pluralism. At the same time, the simplification of procedures concerning civil society institutions stimulated the advancement of this sphere.

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[24] "Azərbaycan Respublikasının işğaldan azad edilmiş ərazilərinə Böyük Qayıdışa dair I Dövlət Proqramı"nın təsdiq edilməsi haqqında Prezident Sərəncamı: [Elektron resurs]. – 16 noyabr 2022-ci il. URL: https://president.az/az/articles/view/57883

[25] Azərbaycan Respublikasında 2024-cü ilin "Yaşıl dünya naminə həmrəylik ili" elan edilməsi haqqında Azərbaycan Respublikası Prezidentinin Sərəncamı: [Elektron resurs]. – 26 dekabr 2023. URL: https://president.az/az/articles/view/62737

[26] Azərbaycan Respublikasının "Media haqqında" Qanunu: [Elektron resurs] // Azərbaycan Prezidentinin rəsmi internet səhifəsi. – 8 fevral 2022. – URL: https://president.az/az/articles/view/55399

[27] Azərbaycan Respublikasının "Siyasi partiyalar haqqında" Qanunu: [Elektron resurs] // e-qanun.az. – 16 dekabr 2022. – URL: https://e-qanun.az/framework/53163

[28] Azərbaycan Respublikasının "Dini etiqad azadlığı haqqında" Qanununda dəyişiklik edilməsi barədə Qanunu: [Elektron resurs] // e-qanun.az. – 4 may 2021. – URL: https://e-qanun.az/framework/47663

In the post-war period, the reforms implemented enhanced the functionality of major political institutions, including the judiciary and the Central Election Commission. The amendments to the Law "On Courts and Judges" ensured greater transparency in the judicial system and improved the efficiency of legal governance[29]. All these reforms have strengthened Azerbaijan's political stability, further enhanced its international reputation, and created a foundation for long-term peace and development.

In the final subsection of the third chapter, entitled "**Analysis of the Possible Impacts of Global Challenges on the Transformation of Political Institutions in the Republic of Azerbaijan**", the author argues that, in response to COVID-19 – one of the modern global challenges – the Azerbaijani state, under the leadership of President Ilham Aliyev, implemented a flexible and pragmatic policy that served as an example to other countries. The COVID-19 pandemic caused significant changes in the functioning of political institutions, particularly electoral institutions. To ensure the safe conduct of elections during the pandemic, alternatives such as online and postal voting were introduced; while these measures increased voter participation on the one hand, they also raised concerns related to cybersecurity and the confidentiality of voting on the other. Since no elections were held in Azerbaijan during the pandemic period, the effects of these changes remained limited domestically. In contrast, in various countries worldwide, electronic voting methods were applied, while in some cases elections were postponed, which disrupted their regularity.

Overall, global challenges necessitate the introduction of innovations in the electoral process and the implementation of reforms in this area. The pandemic also increased the need for digitalization in the functioning of executive authorities and municipal institutions. In Azerbaijan, the Operational Headquarters was established to manage the state of emergency, and digital solutions were applied in education

[29] Azərbaycan Respublikasının "Məhkəmələr və hakimlər haqqında" Qanununda dəyişiklik edilməsi barədə Azərbaycan Respublikasının Qanunu: [Elektron resurs] / e-qanun.az. – 29 mart 2024. URL: https://e-qanun.az/framework/56901

and public services. The digitalization of municipal services is expected to gain even greater importance in the future.

Global challenges have reshaped the activity strategies of political parties, requiring them to apply more dynamic and flexible approaches. In Europe, political actors such as the Green Party have put forward significant initiatives to combat climate change. In Azerbaijan, political parties, by responding to global challenges and aligning with the country's strategic priorities, seek to structure their activities within the context of new realities, introducing certain changes to their ideological platforms and focusing on national priorities. In the future, social and ecological issues are likely to occupy a more prominent place on the agendas of political parties.

The author also emphasizes that global digital security threats have transformed the working principles of political security institutions by prioritizing cyber defense measures. Azerbaijan's National Cybersecurity Strategy for 2023–2027 is highlighted as one of the key steps taken in this direction[30]. In general, adaptation to global challenges plays an important role in enhancing the flexibility and resilience of political institutions and in strengthening citizens' trust.

In the "**Conclusion**" section of the research, the author comes to the view that, taking into account the adaptation of political institutions to global challenges within the framework of large-scale reforms carried out under the leadership of National Leader Heydar Aliyev and President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, the adaptation of the Republic of Azerbaijan's political institutions to these challenges serves to strengthen the country's sovereignty, ensure sustainable development, and further enhance its power and international reputation.

In the post-war period, the adaptation of Azerbaijan's political institutions – based on a systematic approach and in line with national

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[30] Azərbaycan Respublikasının informasiya təhlükəsizliyi və kibertəhlükəsizliyə dair 2023–2027-ci illər üçün Strategiyası: [Elektron resurs] // Azərbaycan Respublikası Prezidentinin rəsmi internet səhifəsi. – 28 avqust 2023. – URL: https://static.president.az/upload/Files/2023/08/29/80f2ffe2545b66274d2eed810cc704d4_5019787.pdf

interests – to the rapid reconstruction of Karabakh will contribute to the successful realization of the new development priorities set by the President of the country.

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

1. Qlobal dəyişikliklər şəraitində siyasi partiyalar və liderlik // Azərbaycan Respublikası Təhsil Nazirliyi. Doktorantların və Gənc Tədqiqatçıların XXIV Respublika Elmi Konfransının materialları, Azərbaycan Texniki Universiteti. – 2021, 23–24 noyabr. – s. 205–208.
2. What affects Trust in Political Institutions Most in Eastern Europe, Turkey and Azerbaijan? // Latin American International Conference on Social Sciences and Humanities - III, Proceeding Book, Universidad Autonoma de Guadalajara. – 2022, 4–6 oktyabr. – s. 101–106. ISBN: 978-625-8246-25-4. URL: https://www.iksadamerica.org/_files/ugd/4ec152_fb77ea9abef14138957715b26d8f1c9d.pdf
3. Siyasi institutların hesabatlılıq yoluyla demokratiya və inkişafda rolu // Azərbaycan Respublikası Elm və Təhsil Nazirliyi. Azərbaycan Respublikasının Təhsil İnstitutu. Doktorantların və Gənc Tədqiqatçıların XXV Respublika Elmi Konfransının (NASCO XXV) materialları (Humanitar elmlər), Bakı Ali Neft Məktəbi. – 2022, 23–24 noyabr. – II cild. – s. 114–118. URL: https://arti.edu.az/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/NASCO-XXV-Humanitar-elml%C9%99r-2-ci-cild.pdf
4. The role of political institutions in innovation activities during globalization // Південноукраїнський національний педагогічний університет імені К. Д. Ушинського, Науковий журнал «Politicus». – 2022. – № 4. – s. 56–61. ISSN 2414-9616. URL: http://politicus.od.ua/index.php/2022-ukr?id=58
5. Siyasi institutların dövlətin siyasi tədbirlərinin keyfiyyətində rolu // Bakı Avrasiya Universiteti, Sivilizasiya. Elmi-nəzəri jurnal. – 2022. – XI cild. – № 3 (52). – s. 73–77. UOT 32. URL: https://civilization-journal.com/wp-content/uploads/images/SIVILIZASIYA-2022-3-SAS-1.pdf

6. Qloballaşma çağında siyasi qurumların sosial və iqtisadi səviyyələrdə təsir gücü // Odlar Yurdu Universitetinin Elmi və Pedaqoji xəbərləri. – 2022. – № 61. – s. 160–166. ISSN 1682-9123. UOT № 321.022. URL: https://oyu.edu.az/uploads/journals/oyu.edu.az_1709707118.pdf
7. Modern dəyişikliklər fonunda siyasi institutların insan inkişafına təsiri // Geostrategiya. – 2022. – № 5 (71). – s. 42–45. ISSN: 2664-4975. UOT 321:001.11. URL: https://geostrategiya.az/pdf/2022/0571.pdf
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9. Müstəqilliyin bərpasından sonra Azərbaycanda demokratikləşmə və siyasi partiyalar // Bakı Avrasiya Universiteti, Sivilizasiya. Elmi-nəzəri jurnal. – 2023. – XII cild. – № 1 (53). – s. 44–49. URL: https://civilization-journal.com/wp-content/uploads/images/pdf/Sivilizasiya%202023-1.pdf
10.

The defense of the dissertation will be held on "20" October 2025, at 13:30 at the meeting of the FD 2.30 Dissertation Council of the 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 for consultation at the library of the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The electronic versions of the dissertation and the abstract have been posted on the official website of the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The abstract was dispatched to the relevant addresses on "19" September 2025.

Signed for print: 12.09.2025
Paper format: A5
Volume: 40,694
Print run: 25 copies