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ABSTRACT

of the dissertation for the degree of Ph.D. Doctor

**CONTROLLED CHAOS IN MODERN INTERNATIONAL
POLITICAL PROCESSES: POLITICAL ANALYSIS**

Speciality: 5908.01 – “Political Theory”

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GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE STUDY

Topicality and degree of research of the topic. In the modern era, managed chaos is implemented through color revolutions, information warfare, hybrid conflicts, and social manipulations and is used as a tool to undermine the political and economic stability of nation-states. International power centers, by applying the theory of managed chaos, create chaotic situations in various countries to serve their interests and seek to establish a new political order upon them. This strategy has expanded its influence particularly through color revolutions, economic sanctions, disinformation campaigns, and non-governmental organizations. The primary goal of such approaches is to destabilize internal order in targeted countries, intensify polarization within societies, and render these states dependent on international powers.

Today, our contemporary world is undergoing a deep, chaotic, and contradictory phase of transformation. The innovations brought by scientific and technological progress, which are evident both in everyday life and the broader environment, are affecting every sphere. Despite their contradictions, the new trends emerging from the generalization of these processes are often transferred to the social domain and, in some cases, manifest in entirely unexpected forms against a backdrop of chaotic events. Such chaotic changes can be observed not only in social domains but also in the political realm. A defining feature of a chaotic system is its sensitivity to initial conditions. A political system with multiple strategic choices resembles a mathematical model close to a chaotic state. In such a context, forecasting the next step or identifying a new strategy becomes nearly impossible. The limitations to prediction may stem from a lack of information or extreme complexity. In a chaotic system, two seemingly similar strategies may result in entirely different decisions and completely divergent political outcomes. For instance, one could lead to the selection of a peace strategy, while another could result in war.

During the initial years of Azerbaijan's independence, traces of managed chaos technologies were identified behind several factors that threatened the country's territorial integrity. Thanks to the

balanced policies pursued by the state and the mobilized concept of civil society aimed at countering external influences, the application of managed chaos theories to Azerbaijan was successfully averted. The political, economic, and social reforms carried out under the leadership of National Leader Heydar Aliyev played an exceptional ideological role in overcoming these difficulties, as did the unity between the people and the leader. The following words of National Leader Heydar Aliyev encapsulate these principles:

“Establishing a rule-of-law state in our republic, creating a democratic and civilized society, ensuring human freedom, freedom of expression and conscience, guaranteeing modern pluralism, and forming a multi-party system are principles we have adopted from the outset¹.” These noble ideas protected our society from the negative impacts of all forms of chaos.

The pressures faced by Azerbaijan during the 44-day Patriotic War and the struggle that culminated in the restoration of the country’s territorial integrity are also examined in this context. Based on political analysis, it is concluded that the well-considered domestic and foreign policies implemented by President Ilham Aliyev ensured stability and development in Azerbaijan and led to the formation of resilient national defense mechanisms against managed chaos technologies. As a result of this policy, Azerbaijan has become the leading state in the South Caucasus and plays a significant role in regional and global processes. As President Ilham Aliyev stated: "Today, Azerbaijan is a reputable member of the international community and plays a very positive role at the regional level. Our initiatives are directed at strengthening regional cooperation."² Open to the global sphere, Azerbaijan has successfully overcome many difficult situations under the successful and pragmatic policy of President Ilham Aliyev. As noted earlier, our country has fully ensured its sovereignty.

¹ Əliyev Heydər Müstəqillik yolu seçilmiş fikrlər.-Bakı; Azərbaycan Universiteti nəşriyyatı 1997 136 s., səh 5

²Azərbaycan Respublikasının Prezidenti İlham Əliyevin Ümumdünya Mədəniyyətlərarası Dialoq Forumunda nitqi. 07-09 aprel 2011-ci il. <http://president.az/articles/1845>

In general, the processes of the intellectualization, informatization, and technologization of politics are gaining increasing significance over time. These technologies accelerate international and regional political processes, considerably enhance the importance of expertise and scientific research in political decision-making, and create new opportunities for managing large flows of information. Simultaneously, power centers that observe and monitor political maneuvers also undergo certain transformations, all of which manifest their influence on the international political arena. One of the essential components of chaoticism, the development of the internet, also plays an exceptional role in shaping the new political reality. Social networks have become a significant phenomenon in people's lives, managing social agendas and directing public life.

While the emergence of global inter-state relations provides opportunities for cooperation and sustainable development, it also gives rise to international political competition and cultural and civilizational contradictions. Major powers' determination to preserve their hegemony pushes them toward more aggressive behavior, thereby deepening the crisis related to maintaining peace and security worldwide.

In such a period, states are coming to understand more clearly that military force alone is insufficient to solve problems. New concepts are emerging within the international relations system. From this perspective, the concept of "managed chaos" is of exceptional importance.

This dissertation is devoted to the investigation of pressing issues such as the essence of the political strategy of "managed chaos," which has become a new reality of our time, the tactics employed by great powers to transform processes into chaotic conditions in order to expand their spheres of influence, as well as the mechanisms and consequences of the application of this strategy to nation-states.

The topicality of the subject can be expressed in the following points:

- The current international political landscape is characterized by complexity and unpredictability. Geopolitical competition, mutual economic dependence, cyber warfare, global terrorism, and climate

change have contributed to the emergence of the concept of “managed chaos.” Investigating how political power centers either intentionally or inadvertently create, manage, and exploit such conditions can make important contributions to global governance, diplomacy, and conflict resolution.

- The content of “managed chaos” also includes strategies employed by powerful states and non-state actors to destabilize their rivals, increase their own influence, and shape regional and global power dynamics. These include hybrid warfare, disinformation campaigns, and economic coercion. A deeper analysis of these strategies is highly relevant for understanding their tactics and developing resistance mechanisms.

- “Managed chaos” also affects international organizations, regional blocs, and bilateral relations. It challenges the traditional mechanisms used for conflict resolution and governance. By analyzing the manifestations and impacts of this issue, contributions can be made toward mitigating the destabilizing outcomes of such strategies, thus underscoring the topical relevance of the subject.

Degree of research of the problem.

In the process of writing this dissertation, a wide range of scholarly literature and sources in Azerbaijani, Russian, and English related to various aspects of the topic have been extensively analyzed.

Numerous scholarly works have been produced in Russia on this subject. In addition to these, various aspects of chaos theory have been explored by scholars such as O.A.Mitroshenkov³, P.A.Petrov⁴, S.R.Mann⁵, V.N.Remarchuk⁶, I.S.Sayfulin⁷, A.V.Savchenko⁸,

³ Митрошенков О. А. Теория управляемого хаоса: использовать себе во благо // Власть. 2017. Том 25. № 8. С. 64-73.

⁴ Петров П.А. Теоретические основания концепции «управляемого хаоса» в социальной философии // Научно-технические ведомости СПбГПУ. Гуманитарные и общественные науки. 2017. Т. 8, № 4. С. 77–87

⁵ Mann S.R. Chaos Theory in Strategic Thought // Parametes. Autumn 1992. sit.: M.S.G. Nitzschke. United States Marine Corps Vietnam: A Complex Adaptive Perspective

⁶ Ремарчук В.Н. «Управляемый хаос» как политическая технология в современной геополитике. Гуманитарный вестник, 2014, вып. 1. URL: <http://hmbul.bmstu.ru/catalog/polit/hidden/153.html>

M.V.Vasilyev⁹, V.F.Ukolov, V.A.Kostruykov¹⁰, A.V.Demidov¹¹, R.A.Tlepsook¹², A.A.Davidov¹³, E.E.Shults¹⁴, A.I.Solovyov¹⁵ and others. Among them, the research of renowned scholar Ilya Prigogine stands out. He proved that chaos, alongside its destructive power, also has the ability to create order. Once the order-creating capacity of chaos was confirmed, it was transferred to the socio-political sphere in the 1950s, and based on chaos theory, the foundations of managed chaos were gradually developed. The new theory envisioned disrupting the existing order in various countries, creating chaos, and subsequently building a new order upon it. As it became a useful tool for manipulating states and their peoples, the mechanisms and methods of creating managed chaos were refined and tested in numerous countries, eventually becoming an operational theory.

⁷ Сайфулин. И.С. О политической технологии «управляемого хаоса» и возрастании рискогенной политической активности в современной России. Изв. Саратов. ун-та. Нов. сер. Сер. Социология. Политология. 2015. Т. 15, вып. 1

⁸ Савченко А.В. «Теория хаоса» Стивена Манна и корпоративное управление. УПРАВЛЕНИЕ № 1(15) / 2017. 104: 72–79. Москва, 2017.

⁹ Васильев М. В. «Управляемый» хаос как технология неокOLONиального передела мира // Научно-методический электронный журнал «Концепт». – 2016. – Т. 15. – С. 2161–2165. – URL: <http://e-koncept.ru/2016/96352.htm>

¹⁰ В.Ф. Уколов, В.А. Кострюков. Международные технологии управляемого хаоса. Вестник Университета № 6, 2014 с. 2018-221

¹¹ Демидов А.В. От «мягкой силы» к «управляемому хаосу» // Международные отношения. 2014. № 2. С. 230-236. URL: https://nbpublish.com/library_read_article.php?id=64946

¹² Тлепсок Р.А. «Цветные революции»: теоретический концепт и политическая практика Ежеквартальный рецензируемый, реферированный научный журнал «Вестник АГУ». Выпуск 4 (249) 2019. с. 60-71

¹³ Давыдов А.А. Арабские революции 2011 г.: системная диагностика // Системный мониторинг глобальных и региональных рисков: Арабская весна 2011 г. / Ред. А.В.Коротаев, Ю.В.Зинькина, А.С.Ходунов. – М.: ЛКИ, 2012. – С. 175–176

¹⁴ Шульц Э.Э. Технологии бунта: «цветные» революции и «арабская весна». Национальные интересы: приоритеты и безопасность. Угрозы и безопасность 19 (256) – 2014

¹⁵ Соловьев А.И. Государственные перевороты в структуре активности правящего класса. Заблуждения очевидца // Власть и элиты. 2021. Т. 8, № 2. С. 202–215.

At the same time, in their co-authored work “Order Out of Chaos: Man’s New Dialogue with Nature”, Prigogine and Isabelle Stengers attempted to explore the interconnections between chaos and politics.¹⁶

Numerous Western sources also examine different aspects of this research.

The notion that downplays the concept of chaos and emphasizes the order of nature in Western scientific thought is attributed to the renowned physicist Isaac Newton. Through the law of universal gravitation, Newton provided a scientific foundation for the idea of an eternal natural order in the world. In 1898, French mathematician Jacques Hadamard, followed by Pierre Duhem in 1906 and others, began to substantiate the concept of chaos both scientifically and theoretically. Their work laid the groundwork for what would later become chaos theory, introducing key ideas such as “sensitive dependence on initial conditions” and the “butterfly effect.” These concepts led to the formulation of what became known as the “uncertainty of measurements,” a phenomenon famously encountered by meteorologist Edward N.Lorenz while forecasting weather. The detrimental impact of this uncertainty on deterministic principles was first clarified by Henri Poincaré (1854–1912). Newton’s laws perfectly describe the motion of two celestial bodies, but when more than two bodies are involved, analytical solutions become insufficient. In subsequent stages, the behavior of systems classified as "chaotic dynamics" or chaotic systems was studied, albeit indirectly, through differential calculations. Significant contributions in this direction were made by G.D.Birkhoff in 1920, M.L.Cartwright and J.E.Littlewood in 1940, and A.N.Kolmogorov and S.Smale in the 1960s.

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¹⁶ Prigogine, I., & Stengers, I. (1984). *Order Out of Chaos: Man's New Dialogue with Nature*. Toronto ; New York, N.Y.p.349 : Bantam Books

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Among Azerbaijani scholars who have contributed to the study of this issue are academician Ramiz Mehdiyev^{18,19}, corresponding member of ANAS Professor Musa Qasımlı^{20,21,22,23},

¹⁷ Auckland 10, New Zealand. Copyright © James Gleick, -in "Chaos: Making a New Science" 1987. All rights reserved. First published in 1987 by Viking Penguin Inc. Published simultaneously in ..p..360

<https://opencourses.ionio.gr/modules/document/file.php/DAVA275/James%20Gleick%20-%20Chaos.%20Making%20a%20new%20science.pdf>

¹⁸ Mehdiyev R. Azərbaycan: Qloballaşma dövrünün tələbləri, Yeni nəşrlər Evi, Bakı: -2005, -s.91

¹⁹ Mehdiyev R.Ə. Gələcəyimizin strategiyasını müəyyənləşdirərkən. Bakı: Şərq-Qərb, -2008, -215 s.

²⁰ Qasımlı Musa, Azərbaycan Respublikasının xarici siyasəti (1991-2003). I hissə. Bakı: Mütərcim, -2015, -648 s.

²¹ Qasımlı Musa, Azərbaycan Respublikasının xarici siyasəti (1991-2003). II hissə. Bakı: Mütərcim, -2015, -664 s.

²² Qasımlı Musa. Avropa və Amerika ölkələrinin müasir tarixi. 2 hissədə. I hissə (1918-1945). Bakı: -2003, -370 s.

²³ Qasımlı M. Xarici siyasət: reallıqlar, uğurlar və perspektivlər. – Müstəqillik yollarında -25. Bakı, Şərq-Qərb nəşriyyatı, 2016, s.328-349

A.Abbasbeyli^{24,25}, V.Abdullayev²⁶, Abbasbayli A.N., P.Q.Darabadi, A.G.Ibrahimov²⁷, Uzeyir Shafi²⁸, J.Ahmadli²⁹ and others.

The object of this research is to study the strategies through which instability is deliberately introduced or intensified in the name of achieving specific geopolitical, economic, or ideological goals under the framework of “managed chaos.” It also examines the reasons and methods for the emergence of managed chaos, as well as the ways in which major political powers and international organizations exploit this phenomenon, including its mechanisms, strategies, and technologies.

The subject of the research is the role and significance of managed chaos in modern international relations, explored through case studies, concrete examples, and analytical methods. This includes its purposeful application in political processes such as color revolutions, coups d'état, regional conflicts, revolutions, economic crises, hybrid wars, information manipulation, political demonstrations, and more.

Research goals and objectives: The primary aim of the research is to analyze the forms and characteristics of chaos in modern international political relations and to assess how powerful states exploit this concept. It also seeks to explore the implications for Azerbaijan's national security, statehood, and balanced foreign policy based on mutual respect and cooperation. The dissertation sets out to address the following objectives:

- To determine the forms and functions of managed chaos in contemporary political processes around the world;
- To trace the historical development and conceptual framework of the theory of managed chaos;

²⁴ Abbasbəyli A. Beynəlxalq münasibətlərin proqnozlaşdırılmasının nəzəri problemləri. B.: Şirvanəşr, 2006, 348 s.

²⁵ Abbasbəyli A. Müasir dünyanın siyasi mənzərəsi. B.: Təhsil, 2008, 276 s.

²⁶ Abdullayev V. Azərbaycan yeni diplomatiya məkanında. B.: Azərbaycan nəşriyyatı, 2000, 280 s.

²⁷ Abbasbəyli A.N., Darabadi P.Q., İbrahimov Ə.G. Konfliktologiya. Bakı: BDU, 2006, 286 s.

²⁸ Şəfi Ü. Konfliktologiya. Siyasi-sosial təhlil. Bakı: Adiloğlu, -2002, -182 s.

²⁹ Əhmədli C. Cəmiyyət, siyasət, ideologiya. Bakı 1997

- To uncover the connections between the methods of creating managed chaos and the phenomenon of globalization;
- To examine the role of chaos mechanisms in the influence exerted by powerful states over nation-states;
- To analyze protest movements, color revolutions, and regime changes across different countries through the lens of managed chaos theory;
- To identify methods and approaches for neutralizing the threat posed by managed chaos;
- To reveal the unique characteristics of national unity and leadership in Azerbaijan in preventing attempts to instigate chaotic situations;
- To investigate the influence of chaos in regional political conflicts and assess the positions of major powers;
- To evaluate Azerbaijan's role in ensuring regional and global political security and independence, with a focus on its balanced and neighborly foreign policy;
- To explore ways of countering destabilization efforts and chaos threats in Azerbaijan and the broader region.

Research methods: The study employs a systematic approach, structural-functional analysis, comparative analysis, as well as inductive and deductive reasoning methods.

Key propositions for defense:

1. The concept of “managed chaos” has evolved into one of the dominant tools in 21st-century geopolitical confrontation. The dissertation systematically explains its philosophical-scientific origins, historical trajectory, theoretical foundations, and practical applications.
2. The rapid development of globalization and information technologies has expanded the use of “managed chaos,” transforming it into a flexible and multi-layered political technology. Its effective use via digital platforms, social networks, and cyberspace is demonstrated with concrete examples.
3. The deployment of “managed chaos” by major powers and international actors to undermine the internal stability of nation-states and establish favorable political regimes is analyzed as a new phase of geopolitical manipulation. Specific forms such as

hybrid warfare, color revolutions, and political protests are examined.

4. The mechanisms of managed chaos are comparatively analyzed across various regions—Eastern Europe, the CIS, the Middle East, Africa, and the South Caucasus—demonstrating the existence of similar scenarios.
5. The chaotic conditions experienced during the early years of Azerbaijan's independence and their political consequences are assessed through the prism of “managed chaos.” The leadership strategies of national leader Heydar Aliyev and the continued national security policies under President Ilham Aliyev are emphasized.
6. Chaotic scenarios directed against or planned for Azerbaijan are specifically examined, along with the country’s political, legal, and ideological resistance strategies.
7. The dual nature of “managed chaos”—as both destructive and constructive—is presented as a new paradigm in political governance, highlighting the idea of establishing order through chaos.
8. The social psychological effects of “managed chaos” and the mechanisms of shaping public opinion through information manipulation and guiding public discontent are explored, with a focus on their impact on public stability and national unity.
9. Based on international experiences, recommendations are made for building more resilient institutional and ideological resistance mechanisms in Azerbaijan against such strategic threats.

Scientific novelty of the research. The scientific novelty of the research lies in the fact that the problem is examined for the first time from a theoretical and scientific perspective in the presented format. The specific scientific innovations achieved during the research can be listed as follows:

1. Disclosure of the essence of controlled chaos and identification of its main concepts and categories;
2. Identification of the main political technologies of controlled chaos;

3. Revelation of the technologies employed by international power centers to pursue their political interests and ambitions through the creation and management of chaotic confrontations;
4. Determination of the various forms in which controlled chaos is applied in different societies (e.g., peaceful protests, color revolutions, etc.);
5. Analysis of the application of controlled chaos in different countries, with the proposal of effective resistance methods against such strategies in the context of Azerbaijan's national security interests.

The organization of chaos in today's global political conflict zones, the creation of discontented social groups, the development of political methodologies that portray political systems as unjust and illegitimate, the exploitation of governments' socio-economic incompetence and crises in favor of international powers, and the replacement of ruling elites through color revolutions—all scientifically substantiated—also constitute key aspects of the research's scientific novelty.

Theoretical and scientific-practical significance of the research. The study contributes to the understanding of the political essence and characteristic features of modern international relations within the context of chaos. The findings may be of practical value for relevant research institutes, government bodies, and non-governmental organizations in their operations and policy development.

Approbation and application of the research. The content and main theses of the dissertation have been presented by the author at scientific conferences held in Azerbaijan and other countries, and published in scientific articles.

Institution where the dissertation was conducted. The research was conducted at the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Structure of the research work. The dissertation consists of an introduction, three chapters, a conclusion, and a list of references.

The total volume of the dissertation in characters, with the volume of the structural sections of the dissertation separately indicated. The dissertation work consists of an introduction, three

chapters, a conclusion, a list of used literature and a list of abbreviations and symbols. • Introduction 12 pages (21974 characters), Chapter I 28 pages (53844 characters), Chapter II 54 pages (108973 characters), Chapter III 39 pages (77464 characters), conclusion 4 pages (6014 characters), consisting of 286 sources in four languages (Azerbaijani, Turkish, Russian, English) and compiled with internet resources, a 22-page list of used literature and a list of abbreviations and symbols 1 page, the total volume of the work consists of 161 pages, 268269 characters.

MAIN CONTENT OF THE RESEARCH

The “Introduction” section of the dissertation substantiates the relevance of the research topic, defines the object and subject of the study, as well as its aims and objectives. It outlines the scientific novelty of the research, its theoretical and practical significance, presents the theses submitted for defense, and briefly describes the structure and volume of the work.

The first chapter of the research is titled **“The Essence and Content of the Theory of Controlled Chaos.”**

The first subsection of this chapter is called **“The Theory of Controlled Chaos: Historical Background and Formation.”**

The concept of chaos is also found in medieval Christian thought. It appears in Renaissance literature, including John Milton’s *Paradise Lost* and William Shakespeare’s *Othello*. Both thinkers use the term “chaos” in the sense described in the Bible. As is known, Christianity formed the core of medieval Western thought. After the Roman Empire adopted Christianity as its official religion, it transformed the faith into an ideological tool against the East. In this sense, the Byzantine Empire continued the Roman understanding of chaos. As noted by S.L.Bunting, the Church assumed the mission of reviving the dreams of the Roman Empire in the West, and the notion of pure Christianity came under the strong influence of ancient beliefs.³⁰

³⁰ Sjoerd L.Bonting, “Chaos Theology: A New Approach to the Science- Theology Dialogue”, Zygon: Journal of Religion & Science, -1999, vol.XXXIV, No:2

The author notes that the theory of controlled chaos is one of the complex and multilayered concepts that emerged at the intersection of political science, sociology, and systems analysis. At its core lies the idea that chaos and instability can be deliberately used to achieve political, economic, and social objectives. As this phenomenon involves the instrumental use of instability as a tool of power, it provokes intense debate and controversy. Its roots can be traced back to ancient Greek philosophy. The Greek term chaos (khaos) first appeared in the 7th century BCE in Hesiod's *Theogony*, which means "the genealogy of the gods." His poem is dedicated to the birth of the gods and the creation of the world. According to Hesiod, chaos refers to the primordial state that existed before the creation of the world.

The second subsection, titled "Controlled Chaos as a Key Political Technology of the Globalization Era," states that there are sharply differing perspectives on when the process of globalization began. One prevailing view is that globalization has existed since the earliest periods of human history. Philosopher and political analyst Heydar Jamal noted that the first caliphate institution represented the first global liberal society in world history and considered it the predecessor of the Western caliphate.

Other scholars emphasize that the initial stages of globalization began in the 16th–17th centuries, highlighting that the trade and colonial policies of European states laid the foundation for this process.

As is well known, technological advancements—such as the telephone, television, satellite communication, the internet, and similar channels—have fostered the convergence of nations' cultures and religions. An increasing number of commentators argue that the process is moving toward a unified, shared ideology and culture. Today, individuals are compelled to consider international issues alongside their personal and national interests. Certain global forces that advocate for centralized world governance are anticipating the formation of a unified global structure and the emergence of a new culture that humanity can collectively accept.

Some researchers associate globalization with the processes of modernization and capitalism, viewing it as a relatively recent

phenomenon that has emerged in connection with the formation of industrial society and new capitalist relations.

The concept of globalization is sometimes equated with internationalization. While the two share certain features, they also differ in many respects. Shared characteristics include: the global nature of economic relations and the development of corresponding transportation and communication systems; the so-called "information revolution," which enables planetary-scale communication that transcends spatial and temporal limitations; the general liberalization of market relations, including the relatively free movement of capital (with a few exceptions in trade regulations); and the recognition of ecological crisis as a universal, planetary issue.

Denying globalization or questioning the interdependence of countries in economic, political, and cultural spheres can no longer be taken seriously. Globalization is a reality of our time. Therefore, one of the objectives of socio-political research should be the search for a balance between globalization and social justice. The internationalization of key spheres of life must be directed toward reducing global inequality and promoting the flourishing of a shared global culture—an effort that requires thorough research.

It is no coincidence that National Leader Heydar Aliyev stated during the Millennium Summit held on September 7, 2000, in New York City: "The main trend in the current stage of world development is globalization. The prospects of this complex and far from unambiguous process are a matter of concern for all of us. Globalization should contribute to ensuring the stable development, integrity, and governance of states, to eliminating discrimination in economic relations, and to improving the welfare of peoples."³¹

Some view globalization as a stage in the transformation of the world into the system of European values. In fact, there is little doubt that the historical evolution of societal value systems has led to globalization. The issue lies in the propagation of Christian values in Europe as the sole legitimate set of values, which has understandably

³¹ Ümumilli liderimiz Heydər Əliyevin 7 sentyabr 2000-ci ildə Nyu-York şəhərində Minilliyin zirvə görüşündə çıxışı
<https://lib.aliyevheritage.org/az/4303106.html>

generated justified reactions.

The second chapter of the research is titled “The Role and Place of Controlled Chaos in Contemporary International Political Processes.” This chapter consists of three subsections, and the first is dedicated to “Sustainable Development and National Priorities.”

Here, the process of creating chaos is characterized not only as a theoretical issue but also as a practical one in the context of current global realities. Why is controlled chaos necessary? What are its specific characteristics? What are the driving factors behind the changes in methods used to generate chaos from a theoretical perspective?

In general, chaos refers to disorder, confusion, and an unregulated state. In physics, chaos theory studies how small changes in complex systems can lead to large and unpredictable consequences. According to this theory, a system may exhibit such instability and variability that it becomes impossible to fully predict its behavior in advance.

In his article “Coping with Chaos,” S. Mann discusses the concept of self-organized criticality. He emphasizes that even minor unrest can be dangerous for a complex system. According to him, there is no inherent order in international relations. The model of self-organized criticality characterizes the political environment: “Criticality tells us that in a critical environment, any form of stability is metastability. Complex systems cannot achieve true equilibrium; they shift from one metastable state to another.”³²

In the modern era, the theory of controlled chaos, a widely discussed concept, is regarded by some as a mathematical theory and by others as a theory of physics. Regardless of whether its origins lie in mathematics or physics, this theory manifests across all spheres of life—especially in international relations.

In recent years, the theory of controlled chaos has increasingly been applied in the field of international relations. At the same time, chaos is used to analyze the opponent's propaganda influence and to

³² Mann M. The Reaction to Chaos. - In: Complexity, global Politics, and National security. Ed. By D.Aberts and Th. J. Czerwineki. Washington: National Defence University.

identify target audiences. Frank Jefkins noted that activities within the sphere of chaos are directed at carefully selected groups of people who are part of the broader public. It is not only important to clearly identify one's own audience, but also to accurately determine their interests, ideals, and communication channels. This is equally essential for strategy formulation.

Although understanding chaos theory may seem simple at first glance, a scientific examination of the process reveals its deeper, hidden nature. According to many researchers, chaos has the potential to derail democratic processes. In the modern world, international relations increasingly face the dilemma of chaos versus order. Today, globalization in the information sphere, artificial intelligence, and ecological factors are actively employed in the creation of new forms of chaos.

Renowned American political scientist, analyst, sociologist, and statesman Zbigniew Brzezinski described the modern world as one marked by unprecedented instability and chaos. It should be noted that forecasts are not made to “calculate” or “discover” the future—they serve as a critical part of understanding our present reality.³³ According to chaos theory, in many cases, elements of disorder increase even within the framework of order itself. The theory posits that all events arise merely as a result of coincidence. As in other fields, events in international relations are considered to occur without direct cause or logical essence.

The second paragraph of Chapter Two is titled “The Role of Chaos Mechanisms in the Influence of Powerful States on Nation-States.” Here, the author notes that in the 21st century, states have acquired even greater capabilities to influence political processes and the national political goals of other countries. Although the concept of “soft power” may sound gentle, the increasing use of this tool—especially when combined with elements of chaos—has transformed it into a mechanism that creates complex situations and requires effective strategies to resolve them. Current global realities demonstrate that factors with greater impact than military might or

³³ İlham Məmmədzadə. Bir daha fəlsəfə haqqında. “Elm və təhsil”, Bakı – 2019, 200 səh.

nuclear capability include economic success, ideological persuasiveness, and cultural attractiveness.

Interestingly, until recently, hard power—understood as the use of coercive policies—was considered the leading instrument of foreign policy. Hard power involves political strategies based on threatening or applying military force. The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and the U.S. military intervention in Vietnam are prime examples of the application of hard power.

The third paragraph of this chapter is titled “Protest Movements and Color Revolutions in the Context of Controlled Chaos.” Today, we are witnessing the application of both “color” and “non-color” revolution technologies across many regions of the world. Although such political changes are often framed as efforts to restore stability, they frequently result in chaos and deeper conflicts. Emerging chaos tactics have introduced new forms and principles for power transitions. In modern times, the concept of democracy no longer holds the same value as a tool for managing chaos.

Color revolutions are employed as instruments to interfere in the domestic affairs of sovereign states, install favorable regimes in power, and thereby gain control over a country’s economic, political, and military spheres. Color revolutions have become one of the defining phenomena of the contemporary era. The use of artificial intelligence has expanded the practical applications of political science, making the development of new methods within chaos theory inevitable.

Color revolutions in several states have led to entirely new geopolitical realities. Typically, the conditions for such revolutions emerge in countries where a democratic framework appears to exist but where there is large-scale electoral manipulation and opposition forces are systematically prevented from gaining power—in short, in authoritarian or semi-authoritarian regimes. Examples in the post-Soviet space include Ukraine, Georgia, and Kyrgyzstan.

The factors leading to these revolutions, the influence of external forces, and the post-revolutionary political, social, and economic instability often generate significant academic interest, as such instability can persist for many years. Nevertheless, new realities

show that chaos can be instigated even in the most democratic of countries.

Chapter Three of the dissertation is titled “The Changing Political Landscape of the World Through Controlled Chaos and Azerbaijan” and consists of three paragraphs. The first paragraph, titled “The Role of Chaos Theory in Power Transitions in Countries Around the World Based on Similar Scenarios (Eastern Europe, CIS, Middle East, and Africa),” argues that chaos should be viewed as an integral part of critical thinking in the analysis of political processes.

Chaos theory presents itself as a modern alternative to the rigid empiricism of “thinking inside the box” models, offering new frameworks for resolving complex real-world issues. The inherent assumptions of this theory can be modeled through pragmatic solutions. In the realm of critical thinking, the “butterfly effect” can be useful in analyzing and finding lasting solutions to issues such as international terrorism, religious fundamentalism, misunderstanding within dysfunctional educational systems, and the decision-making processes in intelligence operations.

The application of chaos in power transitions around the world through “similar scenarios” reflects a purposeful use of chaos in practice.

The “velvet revolutions” and leadership transitions in Eastern European countries have been of particular significance. As the Soviet Union began to disintegrate in the late 1980s and soon vanished from the world political stage, this also signaled the end of the communist regimes in the Eastern European countries once under its influence.

According to S. Mann, the following tools can be used to create chaos in a particular region: the promotion of liberal democracy; support for market reforms; raising the living standards of the population—especially the elites; and the suppression or removal of national values and ideologies.³⁴

In general, during political interventions, “creating causes” falls within the responsibilities of the intelligence agencies of interested

³⁴ Манн, С. Реакция на хаос. [Электронный ресурс]. — Режим доступа: http://www.intelros.ru/subject/haos/175-stiv_mann_reakcija_na_khaos.html

states. In such cases, the dissemination of rumors and their imposition on public consciousness serve political objectives and are often associated with situations of social conflict. When thoroughly examining the factors that lead to ethnic unrest, hostile rumors are often more effective than accurate information in inciting violence. As Petersen, Osmundsen, and Arceneaux write, “Rumors prevail because they regulate and organize actions in the process.”³⁵

The second paragraph of the third chapter is titled “Methods and Forms of Neutralizing the Threat of Controlled Chaos.” It emphasizes that toward the end of the 20th century, a completely new phenomenon began to emerge in international relations. From that period onward, under the influence of numerous objective and subjective factors, the direct military interventions of major powers in other countries began to recede into the background. The plans of Western states—particularly concerning interference in the internal affairs of Third World countries—started to be developed on an entirely new level. The rapid development of information technologies, the application of scientific and technical advancements, and the widespread accessibility of the internet created a favorable environment for large powers to replace costly military campaigns with so-called “soft power” expansions. A whole arsenal of tools deemed necessary for implementing regime change was now placed at the disposal of Western intelligence services. However, neutralizing chaos in time often leads to the emergence of new contradictions.

The author also notes that current global realities have compelled great powers to favor tools such as soft power and “smart power.” In order to overthrow regimes that do not serve their interests, more subtle methods have been employed—among them, the well-known “color revolution” technologies. These so-called “velvet” or “color revolutions” represent an intervention method based on weakening national governments, creating chaos and anarchy, encouraging civil

³⁵ MICHAEL BANG PETERSEN, MATHIAS OSMUNDSEN, KEVIN ARCENEUX The “Need for Chaos” and Motivations to Share Hostile Political Rumors. *American Political Science Review* (2023) 117, 4, 1486–1505, s. 1486-1487

disobedience, and various forms of peaceful resistance. While these technologies were previously applied in the post-Soviet space and Eastern Europe, the events known as the Arab Spring marked the beginning of a series of “color revolutions” in the Middle East and North Africa as well.

Regardless of the geographic location of the targeted country, these technologies are applied according to the same principles. The intelligence agencies that implement them, the funds and international organizations that finance them, and the global media outlets that cover events are almost always the same. There is little doubt that regime changes in places such as Ukraine and Egypt followed nearly identical scenarios, with mass mobilization strategies developed by a centralized source. Given all these aspects of “color revolution” technologies, analyzing the similarities between the scenarios used in regime changes across different countries, as well as assessing the mechanisms of these technologies, is particularly relevant. Before analyzing “color revolutions,” it is important to emphasize that although they are referred to as revolutions in global media, each “color revolution” is essentially a regime change.

The third and final paragraph of the chapter—and of the entire dissertation—is titled **“The Chaotic Situation in the Early Years of Independence in Azerbaijan and the Establishment of Political and Economic Stability.”**

Here, the author notes that numerous newly independent states with rich natural resources have faced chaotic situations in the early stages of their independence. As the analysis demonstrates, in order for “color revolution” technologies to be successfully applied in a country, both internal and external factors must align. Only with the combination of broad media and financial support and the involvement of foreign intelligence services can such revolutions be executed. The role of large corporations in these processes cannot be overlooked either.³⁶ When examining the “color revolutions” carried out in various regions of the world based on these scenarios, we

³⁶ Skocpol T. *States and Social Revolutions. A Comparative Analysis of France, Russia and China.* Cambridge University Press, 1979. Huntington S.P. *Political Order in Changing Societies.* New Haven: Yale University Press, 1968.

witness a consistent overlap between internal and external factors.

For over 30 years now, the independent Republic of Azerbaijan has held a respectable place among the world's nations as a subject of international law. However, this independence has not come easily. The struggle of our people for independence is remembered as a painful process marked by great losses and the sacrifice of martyrs. The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, initiated under the instigation of forces seeking to prevent Azerbaijan's independence and maintain the country in a state of dependency—culminating in Armenia's military aggression—acted for many years as a barrier to the dynamic development of our nation. In order to overcome such a dire situation, the country needed a strong-willed, competent, and experienced leader. At this critical juncture, the people of Azerbaijan made the right decision and, through their persistent demand, invited national leader Heydar Aliyev to return to power. It was precisely after his second rise to leadership that all of these problems began to be decisively resolved: Azerbaijan emerged from a period of political, economic, and military decline, new prospects were opened, and our people not only achieved their independence but also managed to preserve it like the apple of their eye.

Under the leadership of Ilham Aliyev, the worthy successor of Heydar Aliyev's political legacy, independent Azerbaijan continues to achieve new successes. Against the backdrop of cataclysms in the Near and Middle East, the Caucasus, and the post-Soviet space, Azerbaijan resembles an island of peace, stability, and tolerance. However, certain foreign circles that cannot bear to see these achievements have repeatedly attempted to undermine the political stability in our country. Nevertheless, thanks to the unity between the people and the government, political stability has been maintained. Today, Azerbaijan's international image, its achievements in economic and cultural spheres, and its successes in military development can ultimately be regarded as results of this socio-political stability. The fact that giant transnational corporations have invested billions of dollars in Azerbaijan can also be seen as tangible proof of political stability.

It would be appropriate to make a brief excursion into history to understand the difficulties Azerbaijan has overcome in order to reach

its current accomplishments and how the present political stability has been achieved.

The “Conclusion” section of the dissertation summarizes the scientific research, presenting theoretical and practical suggestions based on the general findings. It is concluded that by analyzing the essence, historical development, areas of application, and mechanisms of influence of the theory of controlled chaos in contemporary international political processes, it becomes evident that major powers utilize this strategy to achieve their geopolitical, economic, and ideological goals. The study emphasizes that in the era of globalization, the theory of controlled chaos has become a key political technology for powerful states and has introduced new dynamics into the system of international relations.

The theory of controlled chaos has been examined as a complex and multifaceted phenomenon, with its fundamental principles, manifestations, and methods of application thoroughly analyzed. The findings demonstrate that in the modern era, this theory is implemented through color revolutions, information wars, hybrid conflicts, and social manipulations, serving as a tool to destabilize the political and economic stability of nation-states. Through the use of controlled chaos, international power centers create chaotic conditions in various countries to serve their own interests and attempt to establish a new political order on top of that instability. This strategy has expanded its influence particularly through color revolutions, economic sanctions, disinformation campaigns, and the activities of non-governmental organizations. The primary goal of such approaches is to undermine internal stability in targeted states, intensify polarization within society, and render those countries dependent on international powers.

Despite the existence of various perspectives, the future of chaos processes remains a topic of serious debate and discussion. The inherent uncertainty and risks associated with this process make it difficult to provide accurate forecasts.

The ability to predict events on the political stage is a crucial factor. During the course of international relations, political analysis and forecasting are closely intertwined. In these processes, it is necessary to consider the core nature of political conflict, the causes

behind political events, development trends, the likelihood of regulating political incidents, strategic analysis, and system-level evaluations.

Chaos in international relations is accompanied by instability between states, and it becomes extremely difficult to predict the detailed trajectory of this process. In such circumstances, forecasting crisis situations in international relations in advance becomes vitally important. However, fulfilling this task is not so easy. One can only speak of potential scenarios from a probabilistic perspective. This significantly reduces the ability to anticipate unexpected and abrupt developments.

Undoubtedly, such a situation shows that “the risk of intensifying emerging contradictions is conditioned by the nature of the world order.” The dynamics of such systems are typically chaotic in nature. Chaos, in turn, is a source of uncertainty.

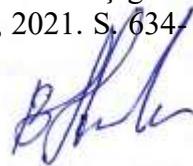
To summarize the above, the following key scientific findings have been obtained as a result of the research:

- The essence of the theory of controlled chaos and its methods of application by international power centers have been thoroughly analyzed.
- The use of chaos as a primary instrument in the strategies of powerful states to influence rival countries during the era of globalization has been investigated.
- Color revolutions, social manipulations, and information warfare have been identified as the main forms of applying controlled chaos.
- Based on the case of Azerbaijan, methods for neutralizing chaos threats to national security and the significance of the unity between the people and the national leadership have been evaluated.

The main content of the dissertation is reflected in the following published scientific works:

1. Nəzərov B.Ə. Müasir beynəlxalq siyasi proseslərdə idarəolunan xaos nəzəriyyəsi: siyasi təhlil //Azərbaycan Dövlət İdarəçilik Akademiyası “Heydər Əliyev irsi və Azərbaycan Respublikasının

- davamlı inkişafı” mövzusunda doktorant və dissertantların elmi-praktik konfransının materialları, 2015. S. 191-198.
2. Nəzərov B.Ə. Dinc etiraz aksiyaları və “rəngli” inqilablar idarəolunan xaosun forma və vasitələri kimi // Azərbaycan Respublikasının Prezidenti yanında Dövlət İdarəçilik Akademiyası, Dövlət İdarəçiliyi: Nəzəriyyə və təcrübə, 2018. №2 (62). S. 253- 264.
 3. Nəzərov B.Ə. Azərbaycanın güclü sosial iqtisadi inkişafı Beynəlxalq siyasi proseslərdə idarəolunan xaos kontekstində // Azərbaycan Respublikası “Geostrategiya” jurnalı, 2018. №3 (45). S. 66-68.
 4. Nəzərov B.Ə. Chaotic Situation in the Middle East, Arab Spring and the Syrian problem // Cultural Sosial History International Academic journal, 2018. №1. S. 52-66.
 5. Nəzərov B.Ə. «Мирные акции протеста» и процесс их подготовки через призму взглядов политолога-теоретика Дж. Шарпа // Хабарбашы Вестник Bulletin Серия «Международная жизнь и политика», 2018. №3-4 (54-55). S. 211-215.
 6. Nəzərov B.Ə. Controlled chaos in international modern polytechnic processes and conflicts in the Caucasus // Международная научно-практическая конференция «Наука и инновации в XXI веке актуальные вопросы, открытия и достижения», 2018. S. 110-115.
 7. Nəzərov B.Ə. Как «Теория хаоса» трансформировалась в «Управляемый хаос» // Хабарбашы Вестник Bulletin Серия «Исторические и социально-политические науки», 2019. №1(60). S. 181-187.
 8. Nəzərov B.Ə. Экономическая глобализация и управляемый хаос: начало конца // Azərbaycan Dövlət Neft və Sənayə Universitetinin 100 illik yubileyinə həsr edilmiş gənc tədqiqatçı və doktorantların elmi konfransının materialları, 2020. S. 967-972
 9. Nəzərov B.Ə. Как создают Гомо Мобилиус: IT осьминоги на пути к мировому господству // Ümummilli lider Heydər Əliyevin anadan olmasının 98-ci ildönümünə həsr olunmuş gənc tədqiqatçı və doktorantların onlayn Elmi Konfransı, 2021. S. 634-638.



The defense of the dissertation will be held at the meeting of the BED 2.30 Dissertation Council operating under the FD 2.30 Dissertation Council at the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, on "14" iyun 2025 at "13:30".

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The dissertation is available for review at the Scientific 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.

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