

REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

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ABSTRACT

of the dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

PRIORITY DIRECTIONS OF FORMATION AND STRENGTHENING OF MODERN AZERBAIJAN STATESHIP

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INTRODUCTION

The relevance and degree of development of the topic. Each historical period and event remains in memory with the interest it arouses in socio-political life and the mark it leaves, and is evaluated by the people who lived that historical event and their successors. As time distances people from that particular event, the processes taking place there become more clearly visible and, after the initial stage of purity and decay, become the object of research.

In the early 1990s, the political map of the world underwent significant changes that were not repeated often. At the heart of these changes was the collapse of the USSR and the world socialist system. With the collapse of the USSR, 15 new independent states joined the list of states in the world.

One of these states is the Republic of Azerbaijan. Although similar events have occurred very rarely in history, several of them have happened to the Azerbaijani people. Thus, when the Russian Empire collapsed in 1917, the Azerbaijani people gained their independence and devoted a large part of the struggle for this independence to the fight against the Armenian syndrome. After the collapse of the USSR in the early 1990s, Azerbaijan, along with other former allied republics, declared its independence, but from the very first day it had to face the same Armenian problem again. This problem became the biggest obstacle to the successful development of the new independent state. Finally, after several changes of power, the National Leader Heydar Aliyev, who led Azerbaijan during the USSR and gained rich state experience by rising to the position of First Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers in Moscow, took the helm of independent Azerbaijani statehood. Thus, the process of forming modern Azerbaijani statehood began.

The relevance of the research topic can be specifically expressed in the following theses:

1. The problem of restoring state independence and independent national statehood, which marked the beginning of a new historical period in the life of the Azerbaijani people towards the end of the 20th century, is one of the most urgent issues for modern

Azerbaijani political science. Although in a number of scientific literatures the achievement of national independence by the Azerbaijani people at the end of the 20th century is presented as a “share” or “gift” that fell to their lot with the collapse of the USSR, it is possible to confirm with very precise historical facts that the restoration of Azerbaijan’s state independence was the historical and political result of the national awakening and national liberation movement that began in the late 1980s.

2. The relevance of the topic we are discussing and trying to study began precisely from here. Because, preserving independence achieved by any means is usually much more difficult than achieving it. Thus, before the actual collapse of the USSR, after the adoption of the “Constitutional Act on the State Independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan” on October 18, 1991 as a result of the national-liberation struggle, the indecision of the “former communists” who concentrated power in their hands, their inability to form a new political force, and in May 1992 as a result of the incompetent policy of the APR in power, many problems arose that prevented the formation of independent statehood. The struggle for power, on the other hand, the occupation of some of the lands as a result of Armenia’s military aggression against Azerbaijan, and the displacement of hundreds of thousands of citizens of the country in their homeland, further deepened the problems and strained the socio-political situation.

3. In such a complex situation - after the return to power of the National Leader Heydar Aliyev in June 1993, a new stage began in the formation of the state independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Despite many difficulties, the Great Leader Heydar Aliyev saved the people from civil strife, coup attempts, and the threat of losing independence. From that period, the independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan began to take shape and strengthen. In general, the idea of statehood occupied a special place in Heydar Aliyev's concept of a political strategy expressing the national interest and its implementation . Our National Leader said: “Statehood is the main task of every citizen, society, and state today and in the future. Statehood is to preserve the independence and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. It is to strengthen the independence of Azerbaijan.

Statehood should be in the heart of every citizen .” It is from this point of view that we see that conducting new scientific research in the direction of in-depth investigation of the issues of the emergence, formation, and development of modern Azerbaijani statehood is one of the most urgent issues of special attention for Azerbaijani political science .

4. At the modern stage, as a result of the complex reforms implemented since the first years of the presidency of Ilham Aliyev, a worthy and successful successor of Heydar Aliyev's statehood course, a far-sighted and pragmatic politician, a new qualitative stage of the country's development begins with the completion of the transition period in the economic sphere. At this stage, the factors that serve as the main resources of the policy implemented towards strengthening statehood are characterized by their versatility. The formation of new priorities for strengthening independent statehood, rapid, dynamic and sustainable development in the political, economic, social and cultural spheres of society, and the comprehensive rise of the non-oil sector are the main features characterizing the modern stage of our statehood. At this stage, achieving very important national and fateful successes in strengthening independent Azerbaijani statehood, both within the country and beyond its borders, abroad, is of great importance. Naturally, the basis of these successes is a comprehensively thought-out, correct and flexible statehood policy.

5. The problem of building a legal, democratic state and civil society in countries that are in the stage of independent state building, including Azerbaijan, plays the role of an important research object in practical terms, for society in general, and for social and humanities sciences when approached from a theoretical point of view. This is mainly the relevance of the topic we are studying today.

The degree of development of the problem was analyzed on the basis of the grouping of the existing scientific literature in this field. In this regard, first of all, it is necessary to specially mention the multivolumes "Our Independence is Eternal" and "Development is Our Goal", which consist of speeches and speeches, statements, and interviews of the National Leader Heydar Aliyev and his worthy political successor, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham

Aliyev. In the indicated fundamental works, valuable, conceptual ideas and provisions of great practical importance regarding the formation and strengthening of independent Azerbaijani statehood were put forward.¹

Azerbaijani scholars U.K.Alekperov, A.Z.Abdullayev, H.K.Huseynova, A.H.Nakhchivanli, Hikmet Babaoglu, Y.M.Mahmudov, I.M.Huseynova, E.H.Nasirov, F.T.Mammadov, Elshad Mirbashir oglu, F.R.Agamali, S.I.Mammadova, Z.Z.Habibova, E.I.Ahmadov, M.I.Yusifov and others, the main role played by the National Leader Heydar Aliyev and the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev in the formation and strengthening of modern Azerbaijani statehood and effective state administration in our country has been revealed and shown, and their phenomenal leadership has been widely commented on.

Huseynova, "The Ideas of Heydar Aliyev: as a Successful Foundation for Development" by U.K.Alekperov, "The Personality of Heydar Aliyev in the History of Azerbaijan" by Y.M.Mahmudov, "Time and Personality" by A.Z.Abdullayev. In the works of Abdullayev and E.A.Najafov entitled "The Role of the National Leader Heydar Aliyev in the Development of the Idea of Azerbaijaniism", Hikmet Baboglu's "Political Aspects of Heydar Aliyev's Political Heritage", E.H.Nasirov's "Heydar Aliyev's National Renaissance Mission and Its New Stage", I.M. Huseynova's "The Guarantor of Our Independence", etc., the indispensable role of the National Leader Heydar Aliyev in the formation and development of independent Azerbaijani statehood has been extensively commented on.²

¹ Əliyev H.Ə. Müstəqilliyimiz əbədidir. Bakı: Azərneşr, 46 cildə, 1997-2016; Əliyev İ.H. İnkişaf məqsədimizdir. Bakı: Azərneşr, 139 cildə, 2009-2025.

² Ələkbərov U.K. Heydər Əliyev ideyaları: inkişafın uğurlu təməli // Heydər Əliyev və yeni cəmiyyət modeli. Bakı: 2014, s. 145-153; Ələkbərov U.K. Dövlət idarəçiliyində Heydər Əliyev fenomeni və müasir Azərbaycan Respublikasının davamlı inklüziv inkişafı // Dövlət İdarəçiliyi: nəzəriyyə və təcrübə jurnalı (xüsusi buraxılış). 2023, № 2(82), s.27- 32; Abdullayev Ə., Nəcəfov E. Azərbaycançılıq ideyasının inkişafında Ümummilli Lider Heydər Əliyevin rolu // Dövlət idarəçiliyi: Nəzəriyyə və təcrübə. 2013, № 2 (jurnalın xüsusi buraxılışı). - s. 65-74; Hüseynova, H.K. Heydər Əliyev və dövlət qadın siyasəti // Respublika

I.Z.Ismayilov, who discussed the emergence and formation of Azerbaijani statehood in his work "Issues of Azerbaijan's Statehood Policy in the 20th Century", also focused his scientific views on the study of the problem through historical comparisons. The author focused his main scientific views on the role of Heydar Aliyev in the political life of Azerbaijan and his rich experience of statehood. The same ideas were reflected in M. Guliyev's article "Heydar Aliyev's political heritage serves the development of national ideology". According to the author's conclusion, it was the Great Leader Heydar Aliyev who laid the foundation for the formation of our national statehood.³

Thus, the great role of our National Leader in the formation and strengthening of the independent Azerbaijani statehood is revealed and shown from various aspects, and the further successful development of our republic is connected with the name of the worthy successor of Heydar Aliyev's political course, the President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev. These ideas are confirmed by solid evidence in the book "Ilham Aliyev Stage of Our Statehood" by F.R.Agamali, in the article "National Leader of the XXI Century: Ilham Aliyev and the Development of Azerbaijani Statehood" by K. Adigözəlov, etc.⁴

In his article titled "The Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan as one of the main priorities of the development of our statehood," I.M.Jafarov provided a comprehensive interpretation of our Constitution, which is one of the most important guarantors of Azerbaijani statehood. R.A.Mehdiyev's works "National Statehood in the 21st Century", "Dialectics of Development of Azerbaijan" and

2023. 5. may, №92. səh.12; Naxçıvanlı A. Şəxsiyyətin qüdrəti / A.Naxçıvanlı. Bakı: – Yazıçı, – 2012, 325 s.; Hikmət Babaoğlu. Heydər Əliyev siyasi irsinin politoloji aspektləri. Bakı, MSA,2013. 456 s.; Nəsirov E.X. Heydər Əliyevin milli intibah missiyası və onun yeni mərhələsi // Dövlət idarəçiliyi: Nəzəriyyə və təcrübə. - 2013. - № 2 (jurnalın xüsusi buraxılışı). - s. 83-92; Hüseynova İ.M. Müstəqilliyimizin təminatçısı (Məqalələr, çıxışlar, rəylər...). Bakı: Təhsil, 2003, 504 s.

³ İsmayilov İ.Z. Azərbaycanın XX əsrdə dövlətçilik siyasəti məsələləri. Bakı: Təhsil, 1998, 216 s. ; Quliyev M. Heydər Əliyev siyasi irsi milli ideologiyanın inkişafına xidmət edir. // "Azərbaycan" qəz., Bakı: 2010, 28 aprel.

⁴ Ağamalı F. Dövlətçiliyimizin İlham Əliyev mərhələsi. Bakı, OSKAR NPM, 2005, 304 s.; K.Adigözəlov "XXI əsrin milli lideri: İlham Əliyev və Azərbaycan dövlətçiliyinin inkişafı"// <https://1news.az/az/news/20191225022124286>

other works commented on the issues related to the development of our statehood. E.H.Nasirov in his work “Azerbaijani Oil and International Agreements” discussed the special position of the oil factor in strengthening Azerbaijani statehood and achieved valuable scientific results. S.I.Mammadova's article “The Factor of Socio-Political Stability in the Strategy of National Leader Heydar Aliyev's Independent State Building” revealed and showed the role of socio-political stability as one of the main factors in strengthening and developing our statehood. E.I.Ahmadov's work “Armenia's Aggression against Azerbaijan” extensively commented on Armenian separatism, which is a major obstacle in the development of our independent statehood.⁵

Azerbaijan's national statehood and its scientific analysis have also attracted the attention of researchers from other countries. In this regard, the article "Economic and Political Transformation of Azerbaijan during the Heydar Aliyev Era: Opportunities and Problems" jointly written by Turkish researchers Mehmet Dikkaya and Adem Çolak is of particular interest.⁶

Among them, we can mention the articles of Turkish scholars Genenç Levent entitled "Notes on the Constitution of Azerbaijan", Koksall Şahin entitled "An Analysis Based on Azerbaijan - Oriented Democracy", Aras Nuri entitled "Azerbaijan's Economy and Transformation Process", and İpek Pınar entitled "Challenges Regarding Azerbaijan's Foreign Policy and Energy Security".⁷ One of

⁵ Cəfərov İ.M. “Azərbaycan Respublikası Konstitusiyasının şərhı”. Bakı: “Hüquq ədəbiyyatı” nəşriyyatı, 2010, 724 s.; Mehdiyev R.Ə. Azərbaycanın inkişaf dialektikası. Bakı: Azərbaycan MEN., 2000; Mehdiyev R. XXI əsrdə milli dövlətçilik. Bakı, XXI –Yeni Nəşrlər Evi., 2003; Nəsirov E.X. Azərbaycan Respublikasının Avropanın enerji təhlükəsizliyində yeri və rolu // “Geostrategiya”, 2011, №4(04), s. 36-39; S.İ.Məmmədova. Ümummilli Lider Heydər Əliyevin müstəqil dövlət quruculuğu strategiyasında ictimai-siyasi sabitlik amili// Dövlət İdarəçiliyi: nəzəriyyə və təcrübə jurnalı (xüsusi buraxılış). 2023, № 2(82), s..173-190; Əhmədov E.İ. Ermənistanın Azərbaycana təcavüzü: təhlili xronika: 1987-2011. Bakı, Letterpress, 2012, 912 s.

⁶ Mehmet Dikkaya və Adem Çolak. Haydar Aliyev döneminde Azərbaycanın ekonomik ve politik dönüşümü: fırsatlar ve sorunlar // OAKA . 2008, Cilt: 3, Sayı: 5, s. 131-157.

⁷ Gönenç Levent (1998), “Azerbaycan Anayasası Üzerine Notlar”, Ankara Üniversitesi Hukuk Fakültesi Dergisi, Cilt 47, Sayı 14, ss.185-219; Aras, O. Nuri,

the Russian researchers, A. Nursha, in his article entitled "The Caspian Region: The Strategic Importance of the Region and Oil", spoke about the superior position of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the mentioned region after the collapse of the USSR. Another researcher, V. Shorokhov, in his article entitled "Energy Resources of Azerbaijan", directly touched on the issue and evaluated our country as the state with the most potential power in the Caucasus region. According to the author, the rich energy resources of Azerbaijan are one of the main priority directions in strengthening our statehood⁸.

Thus, although the issue of the formation and strengthening of modern Azerbaijani statehood has been studied from various aspects, based on the analysis of scientific literature in this field, it can be emphasized that the problem posed in the presented dissertation has not been systematically studied within the framework of Azerbaijani political science. This indicates that the dissertation research is a certain attempt to eliminate the existing gap.

The object of research is Modern Priority directions of the formation and strengthening of Azerbaijani statehood,

Its subject is the difficulties that have arisen since the country gained independence, on the path to forming and strengthening statehood, and the policy mechanisms and tools implemented to address these problems.

Goals and objectives of the research. The main goal of the research is to identify the priority directions of the formation and strengthening of modern Azerbaijani statehood, national-democratic. It consists of studying the developmental characteristics of the state - building process based on a systematic approach to the problem.

To achieve this goal, the scientific and theoretical investigation

"Azerbaycan Ekonomisi ve Dönüşüm Süreci", Akademik Araştırmalar Dergisi, Sayı: 19, 2003-2004; Köksal Şahin. Azerbaycan'a yönelik demokrasi eksenli bir analiz // 2013, Uluslararası Hakemli Sosyal Bilimler E-Dergisi Sayı: 38, Eylül – Ekim 2013; İpek P. Azerbaijan's foreign policy and challenges for energy security // The Middle East Journal, 2009, Vol. 63, No. 2, pp. 227-239.

⁸ Нурша А. Прикаспийский регион: стратегическое значение пространства и нефти. // Центральная Азия и Кавказ, 2001, №2. с. 47-55; Шорохов В. Энергоресурсы Азербайджана: Политическая стабильность и региональные отношения. // <http://poli.vub.ac.be/publi/crs/caucasus/shorokhov.html>.

of the following issues has been set as specific tasks:

- provide a comprehensive analysis of the historical and political factors that determined the formation of modern Azerbaijani statehood;

- to follow the stages of development of independent Azerbaijani statehood, to show its characteristic features, to consider the specific and general development features of modern state-building during the transformation stage of the political system and the subsequent period, to study the characteristics of individual elements of this process, and to examine their functions in the overall system;

- to study the tendencies of democratization processes to influence the formation of the socio-political system on a qualitatively completely new basis, and to consider the role of the Constitution in this direction;

- to provide a political analysis of the place and role of the "Wise Leader" phenomenon in the process of independent state building;

- to show the importance of the new oil strategy and energy policy in strengthening state independence, developing the country's economy on the basis of new market relations and integrating it into the world economy, and forming Azerbaijan's image as a reliable strategic partner in the world community of states;

- To examine, based on specific factual materials, the place and role of Azerbaijan's oil strategy in the transformation of the Caspian Basin, located in the world's most complex geopolitical space, into a new global power center in the modern world order;

- to study the factors characterizing the importance of a balanced policy serving the national interests of independent Azerbaijan;

- to provide an analysis of President Ilham Aliyev's priorities and development prospects for strengthening the strong Azerbaijani statehood at the modern stage.

The above once again shows that the traditions of democratization that emerged at the turn of two centuries, the formation of national independent state units have set new tasks for the social sciences. In particular, there are significant scientific

research works in the direction of studying the fundamental issues of democratic, secular, legal state-building. At the same time, it is necessary to emphasize that there are still tasks awaiting solution in the general theoretical analysis of such processes. From this point of view, it would be appropriate to combine general scientific efforts in the mentioned direction.

Research methods. The theoretical and methodological basis of the dissertation research is the ideological and political heritage of the National Leader Heydar Aliyev and the conceptual provisions put forward by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev regarding the problem .

The study used general logical methods such as analysis and synthesis, induction and deduction, comparative-historical, institutional, comparative political science analysis, content analysis, and other scientific research methods based on a systematic approach. The necessary research methods created the basis for correctly identifying the main scientific propositions.

The main provisions put forward for defense:

- the restoration of modern Azerbaijani statehood was conditioned by the existing historical and political conditions;
- the formation and strengthening of independent Azerbaijani statehood is associated with the "Wise Leadership" of the Great Leader Heydar Aliyev, his rich and titanic statehood activities;

Constitution has been accepted as a priority in building an independent and democratic state ;

-implementing a successful energy policy has turned Azerbaijan into a regional powerhouse;

- The successful implementation of President Ilham Aliyev's rapid socio-economic development strategy has created a stable foundation for the development and strengthening of a strong Azerbaijani state;

-New priorities have been identified in President Ilham Aliyev's strategy for building an independent state in Azerbaijan.

Scientific novelty of the research. The scientific novelty of the dissertation is determined by the choice of the topic, the formulation of the problem, the goals and objectives of the work. The

topic is chosen for the first time as an independent object of analysis at the level of dissertation research, the issues it covers are comprehensively studied in certain directions based on primary sources and modern scientific works.

The main innovations of the dissertation work are as follows:

- The priority directions of the formation and strengthening of independent Azerbaijani statehood were determined in a comprehensive manner for the first time and analyzed on the basis of a systematic approach;

- Leadership concepts in the formation and development of independent statehood were analyzed, and the uniqueness of the phenomenon of the Great Leader Heydar Aliyev in this context was substantiated;

- The continuation of wise leadership in strengthening strong Azerbaijani statehood through the realization of the principle of worthy succession and its successful results have been explained and demonstrated in an argumentative manner;

- The role of the oil strategy and energy policy implemented by our state in the formation and strengthening of Azerbaijani statehood was examined, and the great achievements achieved in their implementation were revealed and shown;

- Based on a systematic review of the priorities set by the country's president for the new era of strengthening independent Azerbaijani statehood, future development prospects have been predicted based on political science analysis.

Theoretical and practical significance of the dissertation.

The materials of the dissertation work can be the basis for future research in this direction . Since the topic under study is relevant, the dissertation presented in this article can play the role of a worthy source and literature in future scientific research on this topic . As long as the application of Heydar Aliyev's concept in the development of our independent statehood continues, the problem investigated in this dissertation will always be in the focus of future researchers.

The results of the study can be used in the analysis and evaluation of political processes, in the compilation of methodological tools on socio-political sciences, in the preparation of lecture

materials, as well as in making practical decisions, and will be useful for the activities of relevant state bodies.

Approbation and application of the dissertation work. The research work was carried out at the Department of “Political Science and Political Management” of the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, discussed and submitted for defense. The author conducted extensive research on various sources and literature on this topic, made speeches at international and republican scientific conferences on the main provisions of the dissertation work, dedicated to the priority directions of the formation and strengthening of modern Azerbaijani statehood, and published articles and conference materials.

Name of the organization where the dissertation work was carried out: State Academy of Administration under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Structure of the dissertation: The dissertation consists of a total of 268438 characters: introduction (17851 characters), two chapters (Chapter I – 104114 characters, Chapter II – 134862 characters, six subchapters, a conclusion (11611 characters) and a list of 237 references.

MAIN CONTENT OF THE DISSERTATION

"Introduction" section of the dissertation , the relevance of the topic is justified, the degree of its development is examined, the goals and objectives, object and subject of the research, scientific novelty, theoretical and methodological foundations, theoretical and practical significance are determined, and information is provided about the source-based research, approval and structure of the work.

The first chapter of the dissertation entitled **“Creation of the Foundations of the Formation and Development of Modern Azerbaijani Statehood”** and the first half-chapter entitled ***“Historical and Political Factors Predisposing the Formation of the Modern Azerbaijan Republic”*** show that the formation of the modern Azerbaijan Republic has undergone a very long historical process. The struggle of our people to regain their statehood traditions has entered

a qualitatively new era since the beginning of the 20th century. Finally, on May 28, 1918, the Declaration of Independence declaring the independence of Azerbaijan was adopted. During the 23-month period of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic's activity, very important and significant measures were taken in the field of building an independent national-democratic state. The establishment of the first parliament and government of Azerbaijan, administrative bodies, the declaration of the Azerbaijani language as the state language, etc. were among the most important successes. Also, the Azerbaijani people were gaining opportunities for independent influence on the outside world.

After the collapse of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, the Azerbaijan SSR was created on its foundation. This structure, which existed within the USSR, was evaluated in historiography as the Second Republic. Although the Azerbaijan SSR was not independent within the USSR, all its state structures functioned, and while maintaining its statehood under the leadership of a kind of Center, it also developed it. Azerbaijani specialists deeply mastered the issues of state and politics. The successes of Azerbaijan's statehood during the Soviet period mainly consisted of such fundamental issues. At the same time, Azerbaijani education, science, and culture in general developed significantly during the Second Republic.

At the end of the 20th century, the Azerbaijani people again achieved free, independent national statehood. In political science, the attitude to this issue is not at all unambiguous. In this semi-chapter, the factors that led to the establishment of the modern Republic of Azerbaijan and the gaining of independence by the Azerbaijani people have been analyzed: the collapse of the Soviet Union, the struggle of the Azerbaijani people, the training of Azerbaijani national statehood cadres during the Azerbaijan SSR, etc. The radical transformation that took place in the life of our people from the period when the National Leader Heydar Aliyev led the Azerbaijan SSR in 1969-1982 has been shown more clearly and in detail. Finally, the idea of laying the foundation of a qualitatively new era in our history of independent national statehood with the establishment of the Republic of Azerbaijan has formed the main main idea.

The first chapter , entitled "**The Phenomenon of the Wise Heydar Aliyev's Leadership in the Independent State Building of Azerbaijan**", shows that one of the most important and fundamental issues in a strong and democratic state is the issue of the leader factor. This issue is of particular importance in the period of transformation and modernization of the political system of society.

A comparative analysis of various theories of leadership, it was concluded that the leader factor in the construction of a national-democratic state in independent Azerbaijan was selected with the specificity of consideration. It is shown here that the phenomenon of Heydar Aliyev was a great happiness bestowed by fate on the Azerbaijani people. The genius personality is a source of great pride and honor for the Azerbaijani people, for every Azerbaijani. Our people have always known the value of their invaluable leader and have appreciated him with dignity.

This paragraph noted that our national ideology was created precisely in those years when the Great Leader Heydar Aliyev returned to power . Since that time, economic reforms have been carried out in parallel with political reforms. Heydar Aliyev's political concept, built on the principle of strengthening national independence and statehood, is extremely important and instructive with its deep optimism.

It is shown here that it was thanks to this invincible unity that the threat of Azerbaijan's independence being lost and disintegrated again was timely prevented, national liberation was achieved, and the unshakable foundation of national development and progress of new state-building in the country was laid. As a key factor in the establishment of independent national-democratic statehood, the basis for its establishment was the power - the unity of the people, which was laid by the phenomenal leader Heydar Aliyev. Under the leadership of Heydar Aliyev, the foreign policy of the Azerbaijani state, its relations with the leading states of the world and international organizations began to develop along lines based on national interests and far-sighted political perspectives.

Possessing such supreme qualities as socio-political perfection, high intellect, skillful oratory, rich statecraft experience, sharp thinking style, deep analytical skills, wisdom, professionalism,

foresight, personal authority, determination and courage, the wise leader Heydar Aliyev led Azerbaijan, which he had once saved from a dangerous situation, onto the path of progress in 1993-2003, brought it into the world community of states, and gave it a reliable reputation and position.

of the dissertation , entitled ***“Constitutional Foundations of Modern Azerbaijani Statehood and Successes in Their Realization,”*** shows that concepts such as ***“democratic,” “legal,” and “secular”*** enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan, adopted by referendum on November 12, 1995, express the characteristic features and distinctive aspects of modern Azerbaijani statehood as a state-building and governance system. This statehood is based on the principles of democracy, social justice, the rule of law, and equality of citizens regardless of their language, race, and worldview.

It is noted that, as is known from historical experience, the Constitution, as a legal basis and the main regulatory factor, has a significant importance and meaning in statehood. The place and role of the Constitution in state-building has taken on a particularly unique form in the post-Soviet experience. This was conditioned not only by the complete transformation of the previous system, but also by the complete renewal of the existing system of international relations and global challenges.

The Constitution's supreme legal status is conditioned by its reference to the principle that the source of power is the people. In the semi-chapter, comparisons were made with the constitutions of countries around the world. It was determined that the role of the Constitution in society is manifested in its functions. It mainly performs three functions: political function, legal function and humanistic function.

The political function, first of all, determines the formation and recognition of political diversity, multi-party system and ideological pluralism. The essence of the legal function is that it recognizes the Constitution as the foundation of the legal system of society and determines the main legal provisions in various areas of law. The humanistic function reflects all the tasks of the Constitution. This means that the Constitution embodies the strengthening of universal

human values and rights and freedoms characteristic of a civilized society.

The views of various researchers on the supreme legal force of the Constitution and its place and role in the life of society have been extensively analyzed in this subchapter. It has been shown that the norms of the Constitution have priority over other norms and that laws and other legally binding acts are adopted in accordance with the rules and procedures established in the Constitution.

The semi-chapter once again concludes that the Constitution, adopted with the aim of preserving and strengthening the state independence of Azerbaijan and determining its future development path, meets democratic and world standards, and one third of its articles are dedicated to human and civil rights and freedoms. The Constitution of the country is a reliable guarantee of the establishment of civil society. The Constitution defines the state structure with specific designations and functions in the legal system of the state, the principles of organization and activity of state authorities, the fundamental rights, freedoms and duties of citizens, and forms the basis of legislation.

The research work is entitled “**Prioritization and development prospects of strengthening modern Azerbaijani statehood**”. This chapter is entitled “*Main directions of the policy of strengthening independent Azerbaijani statehood*”. and its main factors” shows that the adoption of the Constitutional Act on the State Independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan on October 18, 1991 marked the legal and historical beginning of the creation of our modern national statehood. The actual formation and development of this statehood began in mid-1993 after Heydar Aliyev returned to leadership of Azerbaijan.

This subchapter notes that at the end of the last century, when Azerbaijan regained its state independence, it faced many difficult and fateful problems, as it did at the beginning of the century, and the serious political, socio-economic and administrative problems that the country had to face due to the dictates of the new geopolitical situation became even more acute. The uncertainty, inexperience and incompetence in the management work in the early days of independence, and on the other hand, the war that Armenia started

with the intention of occupying our lands and taking possession of Nagorno-Karabakh put the country in a very difficult situation. The idea that Heydar Aliyev, who came to power again in June 1993 at the request of the people, rescued the country and its people from such a difficult situation is the main idea of this subchapter. It is noted here that in order to realize its potential opportunities for the sake of establishing its independence, Azerbaijan had to go through a difficult and difficult path during the period in question. Historical experience shows that preserving independence is more difficult than achieving it.

It has been shown that the 1993 addresses of the National Leader Heydar Aliyev have an exceptional place and role as a guiding main program in the establishment of our national independence and modern national statehood. In these addresses, Heydar Aliyev, in addition to providing an analysis of the socio-political situation and the reasons that arose in Azerbaijan, which had just achieved independence, showed the way out of the current situation and expressed his main ideas that were of vital importance for the destiny of independent Azerbaijan.

Second chapter of the dissertation, titled "*Azerbaijan's energy policy and its transformation into a power center in the region*," shows that 1994 of the year on September 20th A major historical event took place in Azerbaijan. The negotiations of the State Oil Company of the Republic with large oil companies of foreign countries, which lasted for more than three years, have ended. Finally, on the basis of these negotiations, a draft agreement suitable for the Republic of Azerbaijan was obtained. The State Oil Company of Azerbaijan signed an agreement with a consortium of seven large companies of the world. These companies belong to the USA, Great Britain, Russia, Norway and Turkey, and later the Saudi Arabian "Delta" oil company also joined them. This consortium signed a contract with the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan for a period of 30 years.

The signing of a major strategic agreement with the world's largest professional companies on the joint exploitation of oil fields in the Azerbaijani sector of the Caspian Sea once again demonstrated to

the world that Azerbaijan is completely independent and that our people own their own resources. The signing of a contract between eleven experienced oil companies belonging to seven states (Azerbaijan, Turkey, the USA, Great Britain, Russia, Sweden, Saudi Arabia) on the joint extraction, transportation and distribution of 511 million tons of oil over a period of 30 years, provided that 253 million tons fall to Azerbaijan from three oil fields on the shelf in the Azerbaijani sector of the Caspian Sea, and the implementation of the oil strategy of independent Azerbaijan on this basis is of great historical, political, regional and global importance.

The national oil strategy in the strengthening and development of our independent statehood, including the transformation of the Caspian region into a new global power center, has been of exceptional importance. As one of the initial important results of the implementation of the “Contract of the Century”, the day when oil production began from the “Chirag-1” field in the Caspian sector of Azerbaijan - November 12, 1997 - was evaluated by the British Foreign Secretary Derick Fechetti as a historic success of independent Azerbaijan, “the beginning of its many successes ahead”.

Azerbaijan's rich oil and gas resources were one of the most important factors for the country's current and future development, strengthening its state independence, and the well-being of its people. The successes of the oil strategy created a reliable guarantee for investments in the Azerbaijani economy. These successes, along with the dynamic and rapid development of Azerbaijan's oil industry, became the basis for the revival of other sectors of the economy. They allowed Azerbaijan to establish extensive trade relations with various countries of the world, becoming a strong trading partner, and at the same time to freely exchange technologies, ideas, etc. with them.

By opening its doors to the world economy in the direction of implementing its oil strategy, Azerbaijan has gained broad opportunities for the development of its own economy on the basis of civilized market relations, its integration into the world economy, and the export of oil and gas to foreign countries.

The role and functions of Azerbaijan as a key factor in the Caspian basin are subject to innovations in the context of competition

between West and East, Europe and Asia, and other civilizations. In other words, the uniqueness of the region and the interests of the conflicting powers open up new maneuvering opportunities for Azerbaijan. Within these opportunities, ensuring the priorities of strengthening statehood becomes the main criterion.

Second chapter of the dissertation, entitled "***President Ilham Aliyev's policy of strengthening strong Azerbaijani statehood in the context of new goals at the modern stage***," shows that President Ilham Aliyev, at the modern stage of our independent statehood, has shown the main factors and priorities of strengthening it in his excellent and programmatic activity. Ilham Aliyev's statement on the end of the transition period is an issue of equal importance to our political independence. Thus, if the country is not economically independent, it is not worth talking about political independence.

Another factor that increases the transit importance of Azerbaijan, along with its oil, gas, and railway networks, is the Baku International Sea Trade Port Complex, one of the largest infrastructure projects in the South Caucasus. This port provides diversification of existing transport networks as a transit hub.

The Republic of Azerbaijan took another step at the end of 2006 to ensure the wide operation of the East-West energy corridor and to achieve the development of another type of transport in the region. This is the project to build the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway line. The 850-kilometer railway line will connect Turkey with the Caucasus Railway. The Kars-Akhalkalaki route is actually the shortest railway line connecting the South Caucasus with Europe. All of these large projects directed from Asia to Europe originate from Azerbaijan. On October 30, 2017, this project has already become a reality. The total length of the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars road is 850 kilometers, of which 504 kilometers pass through the territory of Azerbaijan. It is planned to transport 5 million tons of cargo in the first stage, 17 million tons in the next stage, and then a larger volume of cargo.

The semi-chapter shows that currently our country is the author of multi-faceted export routes, including projects covering the Mediterranean, Black and Baltic Seas. This, in turn, creates the conditions for Azerbaijan to have mechanisms to influence the policy

not only of the South Caucasus, but also of Central Europe and the Balkans as a whole.

It is noted here that President Ilham Aliyev is pursuing a consistent policy to liberate our occupied lands, return refugees and internally displaced persons, and ensure territorial integrity. Azerbaijan, as an independent subject of international law, has ensured its national interests and benefits. Azerbaijan, through balanced diplomacy, is gaining the image of an equal partner in relations with various organizations and individual states, bringing together conflicting interests in the South Caucasus and the Caspian region .

The original proposals, aimed at protecting the country's economic and geopolitical security, embody the reformist views of Ilham Aliyev based on evolution. Today, Azerbaijan is one of those countries that lives on its own. One of the main tasks in the republic is to increase the export of non-oil products. To do this, traditional sectors of agriculture must develop.

A strong state, an efficient economy, and a free people - this is the main goal of the strategic policy that President Ilham Aliyev has been implementing with great success. At the core of this goal is the goal of national development and progress, and the permanent and eternal independence. Thus, it can be concluded that strengthening the economic foundations of modern Azerbaijani statehood is one of the main goals of President Ilham Aliyev's nationwide development concept.

Finally, as a result of the signing of the Shusha Declaration on June 15, 2021, Azerbaijan found a strategic partner and official ally in brotherly Turkey for the first time in modern history. Thanks to its non-aligned policy, Azerbaijan has never been a member of any military-political bloc and, unlike some of its neighbors in the South Caucasus, has never had any official allies. Thus, the signing of the Shusha Declaration made Azerbaijan and Turkey non-aligned allies for the first time and played a key role in the further integration and mutual cooperation of the two Turkic states, which could serve as an example for other countries.

In addition, the parties discussed various issues related to the implementation of joint reconstruction and construction projects in

Karabakh. Speaking after the signing ceremony, President of the country Ilham Aliyev called this day a great historical event. The signing of the declaration raises relations between the two neighboring states to the highest level and ensures the unity of the "closest countries on a global scale" in the future.

By order of President Ilham Aliyev, the National Priorities of Socio-Economic Development "Azerbaijan 2030" were approved. The document identifies five main priority areas for the next decade:

- a continuously developing competitive economy;
- a dynamic, inclusive and socially just society;
- competitive human capital and a space for modern innovations;
- a large return to the liberated territories;
- a country of clean environment and green development.

All these areas are, of course, interconnected. Azerbaijani Prime Minister Ali Asadov has already signed a document to ensure the implementation of the decree of the President of Azerbaijan "On approval of national priorities of socio-economic development of Azerbaijan for 2030".

COP29, held in Baku in November 2024, was a major global forum where important steps would be taken together to solve environmental problems. This event once again proved that Azerbaijan has great opportunities to work with other countries to solve pressing environmental problems and find sustainable solutions.

Azerbaijan is demonstrating its international prestige and commitment to the environmental agenda by hosting an important global conference, thereby strengthening its role as an active and influential player on the world stage: "The decision taken by the countries of the world in a few days to hold COP29 in Baku is a testament to the deep trust and respect for Azerbaijan in the international community. It confirms the country's status as a responsible and reliable partner in solving global problems. The leadership of President Ilham Aliyev confirms the country's commitment to playing a key role in advancing discussions and actions essential for environmental sustainability at COP29.

As a result, the research was concluded and practical recommendations and suggestions were put forward based on generalizations.

First of all, the general conclusion is that, as our Great Leader Heydar Aliyev noted, Azerbaijan gained its independence through difficult and arduous paths. Therefore, the preservation, strengthening, and further development of the independent Azerbaijani state as a strong and powerful state should be a deeply important task for our people and society .

Secondly, the phenomenon of the wise leadership of Heydar Aliyev in the building of an independent state in Azerbaijan should be studied more extensively and its special importance should be promoted from the perspective of national interests.

A comprehensive study of the policy of strengthening independent Azerbaijani statehood based on the research conducted within the framework of the dissertation would allow for further increasing the effectiveness of this policy.

Fourth, the successful energy policy of modern Azerbaijan serves as an example for world countries, further developing and expanding cooperation in this area at the regional level. to take into account the great achievements that will be achieved in the successful implementation of the new goals set by President Ilham Aliyev for the development of a strong Azerbaijani statehood in predicting the country's future sustainable development prospects.

The content of the dissertation is also reflected in a number of published scientific articles by the author:

1. “Avropaya integrasiya: müstəqil dövlətçiliyimizin möhkəmləndirilməsi və inkişafında Heydər Əliyevin rolu”. “Heydər Əliyevin zəngin siyasi, mədəni irsi ümummilli sərvətimizdir” mövzusunda aspirant və dissertantların elmi konfransının tezisləri, Bakı, 2004, Çarşıoğlu, s.150-153.
2. “Azərbaycan Respublikasının yaradılması və onun inkişaf xüsusiyyətləri” // “XXI əsrdə Azərbaycan Respublikasının sosial, iqtisadi və siyasi inkişafının aktual problemləri” mövzusunda aspirant və dissertantların V elmin konfransının materialları, Bakı, 2006, s.78-85.

3. “Азербайджан и Россия: взаимосвязи стран и роль туризма в их развитии” // Научные исследования в сфере туризма. Труды Международной Туристской Академии. Москва, 2010, s.117-121.
4. “Silkway and Heydar Aliyev. The new integration opportunities of Azerbaijan in the historical route” // «Туризм в современном мире: направления и тенденции развития» Материалы IV Всероссийской научно-практической конференции с международным участием, посвященной 10-летию кафедры «Социально-культурный сервис и туризм». Хабаровск, 28-29 mart 2013, s.343-345.
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8. “Dövlət müstəqilliyimizin möhkəmləndirilməsində Heydər Əliyev fenomeni” // “Geostrategiya” jurnalı/ Bakı, 2024, №4(82), s.31-37
9. “The role of the national oil strategy in the strengthening and development of independent statehood”. Південноукраїнський національний педагогічний університет імені К.Д.Ушинського “Політичні проблеми міжнародних систем та глобального розвитку” політикус Науковий журнал. Ukrayna, 2024, №2, s.123-128
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