

REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

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RELATIONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN WITH TURKIC-SPEAKING STATES OF CENTRAL ASIA

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ABSTRACT

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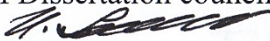
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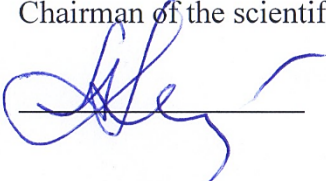
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INTRODUCTION

The actuality and the usage rate of the research work. The modern period is characterized by the emergence and development of fundamental changes in terms of the formation and development of interstate relations, the emergence of new forms of cooperation. Within the last three decades, the Turkic republics, which have determined their own historical destiny, have been integrating into the international system and building their relations with foreign countries in accordance with the requirements of our time. So Azerbaijan and the Turkic countries of Central Asia, which gained state independence in 1991, are undergoing a process of rapid socio-political development. In these countries, Soviet-era political organizations and structures were changed, and relations with the Western world began to be established through membership in international organizations and institutions. In this regard, the national leader of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev stressed: “The socio-political processes taking place in the world at the end of the twentieth century, the changes that took place and the collapse of the Soviet Union created opportunities for the complete freedom, independence and establishment of an independent state of Turkic-speaking peoples belonging to the Turkic world and it gave its wonderful results in a short time”¹.

Desiring to establish relations with Western countries as well as with the countries of the region, The Republic of Azerbaijan gave special importance to Central Asia in its foreign policy strategy after ensuring socio-political stability within the country. Because it was important to establish relations with Turkic-speaking countries in Central Asia, which is located in the center of Eurasia and is a region rich in natural resources. According to Brzezinski, the biggest challenge of the 21st century will be in Asia. Due to Europe's connection with Asia, the South Caucasus has an important position. Azerbaijan borders the Caspian Sea through Central Asia, China, Russia, as well as countries like the US, Turkey, Iran and India's interests. This makes the region more important for Azerbaijan².

¹ Əliyev, H. Müstəqilliyimiz əbədidir / H.Əliyev.- Bakı: Azərənəşr, - 1998. –s. 488

² Brzezinski, Z. Büyük satranç tahtası / Z.Brzezinski - İstanbul: İnkılap yayınları, - 2005. - s. 155

The geographical location of the Turkic states is another reason why the issue is relevant. As known, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan share a border with Azerbaijan via the Caspian Sea. The other two Central Asian countries of strategic importance are Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, because Uzbekistan is located in the heart of Central Asia and Kyrgyzstan has a border with China. It should be noted that many Azerbaijanis also live in Central Asia, where Azerbaijan shares a common history, language, religion and traditions.

The mutual interest factors in the relations of the Republic of Azerbaijan with the Turkic-speaking countries of Central Asia are as follows:

- Central Asian countries do not have direct access to the open seas, so they have problems exporting the region's energy resources to the world market and this situation can be solved by using Azerbaijan as a transit country.

- One of the important factors determining the urgency of the issue is the resolution of the legal status of the Caspian Sea in 2018 by the heads of state on the Caspian Sea. As known, despite the fact that three of the Caspian littoral states are Turkic-speaking, the rich energy resources of the Caspian caused a number of problems between the 5 countries, however, the status of the Caspian was resolved at the August 2018 meetings in Aktau.³

- The Turkic-speaking countries of Central Asia, the center of attention of the great powers, are an important part of the broadening of international cooperation, and this cooperation has great importance for Azerbaijani foreign policy. Through large-scale projects initiated by national leader Heydar Aliyev and successfully continued by his worthy successor, President Ilham Aliyev, Azerbaijan has taken confident steps and will continue to take these steps in the common interests of all Turkish-speaking countries, including Turkey.

- Examining the relations of the Republic of Azerbaijan with the Turkic-speaking countries of Central Asia in cultural and

³ Bekdeş, H. 5. Hazar zirvesi: yeni düzenlemeler: [Elektron resurs] / SD Analiz. – Ankara, 2018. URL: <http://www.sde.org.tr/genel-/sd-analiz-5-hazar-zirvesi-yeni-duzenlemeler-analizi-6591>

humanitarian spheres is important for the formation of common Turkish cultural values.

- The political support provided by the Turkic-speaking countries of Central Asia to Azerbaijan to solve the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh has great importance and it requires systematic research.

The usage rate of the research work. This study was made because, although, articles, researches and books on the subject were published after independence of Azerbaijan, there is no study in the recent history covering these relations between Azerbaijan and Turkic-speaking countries of Central Asia in terms of political, economic and cultural aspects.

One of the most interesting studies on the subject is M. Qasımlı's book "Foreign Policy of the Azerbaijan Republic (1991-2003)". The book is dedicated to the study of the history of diplomacy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in 1991-2003⁴.

After giving general information about world politics in his "World Politics" textbook published in 2011, A.Abbasbəyli studied issues related to geostrategy in Europe, Caucasus, Asia and America⁵.

S.Ruınten in his monograph "Azerbaijan in the system of political relations with Turkic states" examines the history of the first decade of political relations of Azerbaijan with Turkic-speaking states⁶.

One of the researchers, A.Ahmadov, in his monograph "Azerbaijan in international relations (relations with Turkic-speaking countries in the 90s of the XX century)" published in 2009, examines the relations of the Republic of Azerbaijan with Turkic-speaking countries in the 90s of the XX century⁷.

⁴ Qasımlı, M. Azərbaycan Respublikasının xarici siyasəti (1991-2003). [2 hissədə] / M.Qasımlı. - Bakı: Mütərcim, - c. 2. – 2015. - s. 12.

⁵ Abbasbəyli, A. Dünya siyasəti / A.Abbasbəyli. - Bakı: Nurlar nəşriyyat, - 2011. – s. 425-433.

⁶ Ruıntən, S. Azərbaycan türk dövlətləri ilə siyasi əlaqələr sistemində (XX əsrin 90-cı illəri) / S.Ruıntən. - Bakı: Adiloğlu nəşr, - 2005

⁷ Əhmədov, Ə. Azərbaycan beynəlxalq münasibətlərdə (Türkdilli dövlətlərlə əlaqələr XX əsrin 90-cı illəri) / Ə.Əhmədov. - Bakı: Elm və təhsil, - 2009. – s. 8-10.

Among the researches on the subject, the political development process of Turkic-speaking countries in E. Hajaliyev's thesis titled "Political relations between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Central Asian Turkic states" is examined in scientific and practical terms and the political relations⁸. Likewise, G.Babayeva's thesis titled "The role of political relations in the development of Azerbaijan's relations with the Turkic-speaking countries" in the new geopolitical conditions in the Caspian Basin is examined in scientific and practical terms⁹.

One of noteworthy research on the subject is J.Feyziyev's book "Union of Turkic States, Eurasian Model of Global Integration". The book is dedicated to an urgent problem related to the fate of the Turkic world - the need to create a union of Turkic states¹⁰.

The collection of articles entitled "Main directions of the foreign policy of the Republic of Azerbaijan (1991-2016)" published in 2017 has a serious scientific and political value among the works covering the issues of cooperation in the foreign policy of the Republic of Azerbaijan with the Turkic-speaking countries of Central Asia¹¹.

In addition, N.Mammadov, A.Mukhtarova, H.Mammadova and other researchers included the issues about Turkic-speaking states in their studies¹².

⁸ Hacıyev, E. Azərbaycan Respublikası və Orta Asiyanın türk dövlətləri arasında siyasi münasibətlər: / siyasi elmlər namizədi alimlik dissertasiyası) / - Bakı, 2005. - 164 s.

⁹ Babayeva, G. Azərbaycanın türkdilli dövlətlərlə münasibətlərinin inkişafında siyasi əlaqələrin rolu: / siyasi elmlər üzrə fəlsəfə doktoru dissertasiyası) / - Bakı, 2014. - s. 42-43.

¹⁰ Feyziyev, C. Türk dövlətləri birliyi Qlobal inteqrasiyanın Avrasiya modeli, Bakı: Şərq-Qərb, 2013. – s. 26-27.

¹¹ Qəribov, A. Azərbaycan–Mərkəzi Asiya münasibətləri // Azərbaycan Respublikasının xarici siyasətinin əsas istiqamətləri (1991-2016) /məqalələr toplusu / - Bakı: Poliart MMC, - 2017. - s. 299-300.

¹² Məmmədov, N. Xarici siyasət: reallıqlar və gələcəyə baxış / N. Məmmədov. - Bakı: Qanun nəşr., - 2013. - 264 s.; Muxtarova, Ə. Türk xalqlarının tarixi (Qədim dövr və orta əsrlər) / Ə. Muxtarova. –Bakı: TTM,- 2002. – 386 s.; Məmmədova, H. Azərbaycan Respublikasının Xarici Siyasətində Ermənistan Azərbaycan Dağlıq Qarabağ Münaqişəsi / H. Məmmədova. – Bakı: Elm, - 2009. - 359 s.

Scientific studies involving co-operation between the Turkic-speaking countries are not only by Azerbaijani researchers, but also has been studied by many researchers from Turkey, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan.

I.Dogan, one of the Turkish authors, in his scientific article "Changing perceptions in the national and international arena" focuses on the structural problems facing the Turkic states¹³.

J.Sobirov emphasizes in his scientific article titled "International relations between the Turkic-speaking countries" the importance of the fact that the Turkic-speaking countries with a population of 160 million and a gross domestic product of more than 1 trillion 150 billion dollars can unite without creating a single centralized state under the name 'Great Turan'¹⁴.

Z.Baizakova, in her scientific article "Border issues in Central Asia: current conflicts, disputes and concessions" touches on the border disputes between the Turkic-speaking countries of Central Asia after the collapse of the Soviet Union¹⁵.

In addition, the studies made by H.Alkan, Sh.Akiner, M.Laumulin, F.Aminjonov and others are devoted to issues covering the region and cooperation between Turkic-speaking countries¹⁶.

¹³Doğan, İ. Ulusal ve uluslararası alanda değişen algılar // Küreselleşme ve Türk Dünyası Değerlendirmesi Bölgesel ve Küresel Politikalarda Orta Asya (Edt. Savaş Kafkasyalı) /- Ankara-Türkistan: Hoca Ahmet Yesevi Uluslararası Türk-Kazak Üniversitesi, - 2012, - s. 242-245.

¹⁴ Sobirov, J. International relations between turkic speaking states // The American journal of political science law and criminology, - 2020, 2(12), - p. 146.

¹⁵ Baizakova, Z. Border issues in central asia: current conflicts, controversies and compromises // Revista UNISCI / UNISCI Journal, -2017, No: 45, - p. 223

¹⁶ Alkan, H. Orta Asya türk Cumhuriyetlerinde siyasi hayat ve kurumlar / H.Alkan. - Ankara:USAK yayınları, -2011. - 466 s.; Akiner, S. Kazakhstan's relations with the South Caucasian states // Caucasus International, - Spring 2012. 2(1), - p.157-175.; Laumulin, M. Limits and opportunities of Eurasian integration / International science complex "Astana", <http://isca.kz/ru/analytics-ru/3247>; Aminjonov, F. Central Asian Regional Economic Cooperation Program as Driver of Regional Energy Projects to Promote Energy Security in the Post Soviet Central Asia // Post-Soviet Issues, - 2019, 6(1), - p. 53-64.

It should be noted that, in general, the Caspian Basin will continue to play an important role in world politics due to its geopolitical importance and rich hydrocarbon resources. It is no coincidence that Western and Russian political thought always keep the processes in the region on the agenda. Thus, the studies of A. Dugin, S.I Chernyavsky, S. Zhiltsov, M.M Lebedeva and others are devoted to issues such as the political and economic development of Turkic-speaking countries and the definition of the contours of Russia's regional policy¹⁷.

R.Pomfret, a Western researcher, explores the characteristics of the economies of Central Asia in the former Soviet Union in his book, "The Economies of Central Asia"¹⁸.

B. Shaffer focuses on Azerbaijan's foreign policy strategy in his article "Azerbaijan's foreign policy after independence"¹⁹.

However, the analysis and evaluation of the scientific literature on the subject shows that substantial and comprehensive research is needed to fill the gaps in this area and to make generalizations.

The object of the study is the relations of the Republic of Azerbaijan with the Turkic-speaking countries of Central Asia in modern times, and the subject is the study of the formation, development dynamics and prospects of political, economic and cultural relations of the Republic of Azerbaijan with the Turkic-speaking countries of Central Asia.

The aim and the objectives of the research. The purpose of the dissertation is to study the relations of the Republic of

¹⁷ Дугин, А. Основы геополитики / А. Дугин. М.: АРКТОГЕЯ центр, - 2000. - с. 812-813; Черняевский, С.И. Новый путь Азербайджана / С.И. Черняевский. М.: Книга и бизнес, - 2002. - с. 327; Жилтсов, С. Геополитическое влияние России в Каспийском регионе // Центральная Азия и Кавказ,- 2004. №4, - с.58-66; Лебедева, М.М. Мировая политика / М.М.Лебедева. М., Аспект-Пресс, - 2003.- с. 294

¹⁸ Pomfret, R. The economies of Central Asia / R.Pomfret. –Princeton: University pres, -1995. - 234 p.

¹⁹ Shaffer, B. Azerbaijan's foreign policy since independence // Caucasus International, -2012, 2(1), - p. 73-84

Azerbaijan with the Turkic-speaking countries of Central Asia and to explore cooperation and existing problems between these countries.

To achieve this goal, the following tasks were identified and fulfilled in the dissertation:

- To determine the theoretical basis of the process of political, economic and humanitarian relations of Azerbaijan with the Turkic-speaking countries of Central Asia and the principles of foreign policy of the Republic of Azerbaijan;

- To explore the stages of development of Azerbaijan with the Turkic-speaking countries of Central Asia after gaining independence;

- To explore the position of the Turkic-speaking states of Central Asia on the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh;

- To determine the role of the energy factor in the development of cooperation with Turkic-speaking countries;

- To identify problems in the development of Azerbaijan's relations with the Turkic-speaking countries of Central Asia and to make recommendations and proposals to eliminate obstacles.

The methods of the research. The methodological basis of the dissertation is the methods and principles of the theory of international relations, theories of regional integration. Political, scientific-theoretical methods (analysis and synthesis, generalization, historical approach, etc.) were used to study the problem. The author collected and systematized various materials and facts, made generalizations, made suggestions and recommendations.

The information collected from different sources plays an important role in the source study base of the research. Thus, the official data of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan on the relations and cooperation strategy of Azerbaijan with Turkic-speaking countries, documents of the State Statistics Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan, information obtained from the media published in Azerbaijan, Turkey, Central Asian Turkic-speaking countries and other countries, decrees and orders of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, materials of summits of Turkic-speaking countries, official information and documents published in the periodicals of Azerbaijan and Turkey were used as sources in the dissertation.

The scientific novelty of the research. The establishment and development of relations between the independent Turkic-speaking states of the post-Soviet space has led to numerous studies, which have always been the focus of Azerbaijani political thought. However, for the first time, Azerbaijan's political, economic and cultural relations with the Turkic-speaking countries in Central Asia were analyzed as a whole as a dissertation. The scientific novelty of the dissertation can be summarized as follows:

- The development of Azerbaijan's relations and cooperation with the Turkic-speaking countries of Central Asia has been studied on the basis of new facts;

- The role of Azerbaijan's bilateral and multilateral cooperation with the Turkic-speaking countries of Central Asia in the system of international relations was analyzed and concluded that the development of cooperation between Turkic-speaking countries would contribute to integration with Turkic-speaking countries as well as the United States and Western countries;

- The current state of political, economic and cultural relations of Azerbaijan with Turkic-speaking countries was analyzed and the prospects for the development of relations between the Turkic-speaking countries in the near future were assessed;

- The position of Turkic-speaking countries on the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict was analyzed, support of the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan by those states is justified. However, with the exception of Uzbekistan, the continuation of diplomatic relations with other Turkic-speaking countries with the aggressor Armenia was assessed as negative.

The basic provisions giving to the defence. The following provisions are included in the defense:

- The foreign policy of the Republic of Azerbaijan includes cooperation with the Turkic-speaking countries of Central Asia in the political, economic and cultural spheres.

- Factors determining the relations of the Republic of Azerbaijan with the Turkic-speaking countries of Central Asia include history, language, religion, traditions, etc. can be attributed.

- Analysis of the prospects for the development of diplomatic and political relations between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Turkic-speaking countries of Central Asia shows that these relations will continue successfully

- The role of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States, the Parliamentary Assembly and TURKSOY in the development of political, economic and cultural relations between the Turkic-speaking countries is great.

- The cooperation of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the field of energy with the Turkic-speaking countries of Central Asia is important both for the further development of bilateral relations and integration with the West.

The theoretical and practical importance of the research.

The materials of the dissertation can be used in the writing of research papers, monographs, textbooks and articles on the political, economic and cultural relations of Azerbaijan with the Turkic-speaking countries of Central Asia, the practical activities of government agencies engaged in foreign policy and international relations. The materials collected in the research process can be used in conducting lectures and seminars on relevant issues in higher and secondary special schools, in promoting the foreign policy activities of the Azerbaijani state.

The approbation of the dissertation. The dissertation was discussed at the Department of International Relations of Baku State University and recommended for defense. The main scientific provisions and results of the dissertation are reflected in the author's scientific articles published in Azerbaijan and abroad, reports at various scientific conferences and symposiums.

The name of the organization where the dissertation work is performed. Department of international relations, Baku State University.

The structure of the dissertation. The dissertation consists of an introduction, three chapters, a conclusion and a list of references. The introductory part of the dissertation consists of 15 pages, the first chapter - 35 pages, the second chapter - 33 pages, the third chapter -

48 pages, the final part - 5 pages, the literature part - 18 pages. The dissertation consists of 157 pages and 285,135 characters.

THE BASIC CONTENT OF THE DISSERTATION

In the **Introduction** of the dissertation, the actuality of the research on the topic is proved, the level of the study of the problem and the source knowledge base are analyzed, theoretical and methodological issues are clarified, the object and subject of the research, aims and objectives are defined, the scientific novelty and practical importance of the the work is revealed

The first chapter of the dissertation is entitled as "**Areas of cooperation with the Turkic-speaking countries of Central Asia in the foreign policy of the Republic of Azerbaijan** " and consists of three semi-chapters. The first semi-chapter is entitled as "**Main directions of foreign policy of the Republic of Azerbaijan**", and this chapter identifies specific directions and principles of Azerbaijan's foreign policy strategy, examines issues in the field of Azerbaijan's relations with regional and non-regional states, as well as cooperation with international and regional organizations. The essence of the balanced foreign policy pursued by the national leader of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev is clarified, as a result of this policy, it was possible to reconcile the strategic interests the state of Azerbaijan with the interests of international power centers that have serious interests in the region and have the potential to have a real impact on the region.

At present, foreign policy strategy pursued by President Ilham Aliyev is a successful continuation of the foreign policy strategy of national leader Heydar Aliyev and so that Azerbaijan continues to achieve success in the international arena. Thus, in the elections held on October 24, 2011, Azerbaijan won the support of 155 countries and became a non-permanent member of the United Nations (UN) Security Council for the next year. Azerbaijan, which received 176 votes from the member states, was elected a member of the UN Economic and Social Council for 2017-2019. In addition, Azerbaijan, a member of the Non-Aligned Movement since 2011, hosted the 18th Summit of Heads of State and Government held in Baku on October 25-26, 2019.

With this Summit, Azerbaijan was elected chairman of the Movement for 2019-2022 and is successfully fulfilling this mission. Azerbaijan's achievements in international competitions and in various fields of sports are growing. In particular, the transformation of Baku into a center of important international competitions around the world has a positive impact on Azerbaijan's international reputation.

The second semi-chapter is entitled "**Factors determining the relations of the Republic of Azerbaijan with the Turkic-speaking countries of Central Asia**". In this section, it is emphasized that along with such factors as religion, language, and race, the development of relations with the Turkic world, where a common culture is a unifying element, is one of the priorities of the foreign policy of the Republic of Azerbaijan. As known, after gaining independence, the geopolitical position of the Turkic-speaking states has been in the focus of Russia and the Western world attention, especially the United States. In the new international conditions, in the context of mutually beneficial cooperation, the Republic of Azerbaijan has begun to expand relations with Turkic-speaking countries in all areas, especially created conditions of the transportation of Central Asian countries' resources from its own lands in order to bring their energy resources to world markets. Thus, on June 16, 2007, the Republic of Kazakhstan joined the BTC project, and the Presidents of Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan signed an agreement to support and facilitate the access of Kazakh oil to world markets via Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan. The construction of the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway that year was one of the greatest successes of Azerbaijan's communication policy. The railway project, which was commissioned on October 30, 2017, will also carry passengers. Thanks to this project, Azerbaijan, located at the crossroads of East and West, has become one of the central countries of China's Belt and Road Initiative. In December 2015, during the state visit of President Ilham Aliyev to China, the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Government of the People's Republic of China signed a memorandum of understanding to jointly promote the establishment of the Silk Road Economic Belt. This belt will promote trade, tourism

and global relations, as well as the development of relations between the countries of the region²⁰.

In the third semi-chapter of this section entitled "**The position of the Turkic-speaking states on the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh**", extensive information is provided starting from the first stage of the conflict and it is noted that after the national leader Heydar Aliyev came to power on June 15, 1993, a new phase began in the solution of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh²¹. Resolving the conflict within the framework of Azerbaijan's territorial integrity has been a priority in the foreign policy of President Ilham Aliyev, who successfully continues the political course of national leader Heydar Aliyev.

Decisions of regional and international organizations on the settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, statements of all Turkic-speaking heads of state supported the settlement of the conflict on the basis of norms and principles of international law and within the inviolability of Azerbaijan's state borders and territorial integrity. In this process, Uzbekistan has unequivocally stated that it will not establish diplomatic relations with Armenia until the conflict is resolved. Thus, Armenia is the only country in the sphere CIS that does not have a diplomatic mission in Uzbekistan²². In addition to establishing and expanding diplomatic and political relations with Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan have also established mutual embassies with Armenia. However, Turkic-speaking countries expressed concern over the escalation of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh

²⁰Rakhimov, A. Khasanov, U., Umarov, A. The New Foreign Policy of Uzbekistan: Central Asia, the EAEU and the BRI / A. Rakhimov, U. Khasanov, A. Umarov. – Kent: GCRF Compass Policy Paper, - November 2020. – s. 4.

²¹ Abbasbeyli, A., Özsoy, B. An evaluation on economic development of Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan after the independence // - Bakı AvrasiyaUniversiteti, Sivilizasiya, -2019. 8(2), s. 24-31.

²² Rabbimov, K. “Tog‘li Qorabog‘ Mojarosi: O‘zbekiston Qaysi Tarafda?”, SOF.UZ.: [Elektron resurs] – Sentyabr 30, 2020. URL: <https://sof.uz/uz/post/togli-qorabog-mojarosi-ozbekiston-qaysi-tarafda>

on September 27, 2020²³. The Turkish Council also issued a statement on September 28 emphasizing the importance of resolving the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict on the basis of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of internationally recognized borders of the Republic of Azerbaijan²⁴. This statement is of great importance in terms of showing that the member states of the Turkish Council stand by Azerbaijan in the Nagorno-Karabakh issue. On January 19, 2021, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan İlham Aliyev received Secretary General of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States Baghdad Amreyev in video format. During the meeting, President İlham Aliyev stressed that the Turkic Council was the organization that supported Azerbaijan the most during the war, repeatedly made statements, and thanked for the support during and after the war²⁵.

This semi-chapter also analyzes the position of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in the context of their membership in the Collective Security Treaty (CSTO). As known, the CSTO was established on May 15, 1992 by the Republics of Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Armenia, and in October 2002 became the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO). According to the Collective Security Treaty, an attack on any member of the organization is considered to have taken place against all member states. This has always raised the question of the position of the Turkic-speaking member states in a state of war. Nevertheless, as a result of the multilateral activities of Azerbaijani diplomacy, in the event of a war between the two countries, it was considered that

²³ Öztöpal, M.K. Azərbaycan ilə ilişkileri bağlamında Türkiistan devletlerinin Dağlık Karabağ konusundakitutum ve tepkileri // - Giresun Üniversitesi İktisadi ve İdari Bilimler Dergisi, -2021. 7(1), s. 216-232.

²⁴ Türk Keneşi, Türk Konseyi Genel Sekreteri'nin Beyanati, [Elektron resurs]- Senyabr 28, 2020. URL: https://www.turkkon.org/tr/haberler/turk-konseyi-genel-sekreterinin-beyanati_2075

²⁵ İlham Əliyev Türkdilli Dövlətlərin Əməkdaşlıq Şurasının Baş katibini videoformatda qəbul edib, [Elektron resurs] - Yanvar 19, 2021. URL: <https://president.az/articles/50282>

these countries would act within the economic, geostrategic and South Caucasus interests rather than the terms of the Treaty.

It should be noted that during the Second Karabakh-Patriotic War, despite the efforts of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan, none of the member states, including Russia, supported the aggressive policy of Armenia.

The second chapter of the dissertation is entitled "**Development of diplomatic and political relations of the Republic of Azerbaijan with the Turkic-speaking states of Central Asia.**" The first semi-chapter entitled "**Bilateral relations of the Republic of Azerbaijan with the Turkic-speaking countries of Central Asia**" states that the establishment of diplomatic and political relations of Azerbaijan with the Turkic-speaking countries dates back to 1991-1992. However, in the first years after the restoration of state independence, the relations between the Turkic-speaking countries of Central Asia could not turn into real cooperation. During this period, each state had its own internal problems, and the Turkic-speaking states gave priority to solving these problems. The multifaceted development of bilateral and multilateral relations began to expand in the following years.

During the years of independence, the Republic of Kazakhstan had an important place in relations of Azerbaijan with the Turkic-speaking countries of Central Asia. Relations between the two brotherly countries, which signed the Strategic Partnership and Alliance Agreement in 2005, have become more stable and problem-free than in other Central Asian states.

During the years of independence, the issue of the "legal status of the Caspian Sea" was the main cause of the problem between Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan, and no document was signed between 1991 and 1996 to define the legal basis for bilateral cooperation. However, after the election of G. Berdimuhamedov as the new President of Turkmenistan in 2006, the political relations between the two Caspian littoral states began to revive. The signing of the Convention on the Legal Status of the Caspian Sea by the heads of the Caspian littoral states on August 12, 2018 should be considered as the beginning of a new page in Azerbaijani-Turkmen relations. This is evidenced by the official visit of President Ilham Aliyev to

Turkmenistan on 21-22 November following the Agreement and the signing of 20 agreements in various fields of cooperation between the two countries²⁶.

In the first years of independence, the fact that Azerbaijani officials expressed their views on the political processes in Uzbekistan caused Azerbaijan-Uzbek relations to cool down for a while²⁷. However, this did not last long, and after the election of Heydar Aliyev as President, bilateral relations began to develop again. The agreements reached during the reciprocal visits of the two heads of state, the documents signed and the commitments made have raised relations between the two countries to the level of strategic cooperation. After the death of I. Karimov on September 2, 2016, Shavkat Mirziyoyev was elected President of Uzbekistan and soon began serious reforms in the country. Although Uzbekistan's relations with Azerbaijan, which have adopted a foreign policy strategy aimed at resolving the existing problems in the political sphere, continue within the framework of mutual trust and cooperation, Mirziyoyev has not yet paid a direct official visit to Azerbaijan.

Diplomatic relations between Azerbaijan and Kyrgyzstan were established in early 1993, but at first they were not at the desired level. Diplomatic relations between the two countries were established in part compared to other countries. Thus, the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Kyrgyzstan was opened on May 16, 2007, and on August 10, 2012, the diplomatic mission of the Kyrgyz Republic was launched in Baku. The mission was promoted to the status of embassy on October 24, 2014 in accordance with the decree of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic. Regular meetings of the heads of state and the documents signed, bring the Azerbaijan and Turkic-speaking countries closer to each other. However, since 2012 - excluding multilateral meetings - there have been no official visits of the

²⁶ Türkmenistan ile Azerbaycan 20'den fazla anlaşma imzaladı: [Elektron resurs] – November 22, - 2018. URL: <http://turkicmedia.com/article/turkmenistan-ile-azerbaycan-20den-fazla-anlashma-imzaladi>

²⁷ Qasımlı, M. Azərbaýcan Respublikasının xarici siyasəti (1991-2003): [2 cildə] / M.Qasımlı. - Bakı: Mütərcim, - c. 2. – 2015. – s. 351-352.

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev directly to Bishkek, and the President of Kyrgyzstan S. Jeenbekov to Baku.

The second semi-chapter is entitled as "**Cooperation of the Republic of Azerbaijan with the Turkic-speaking countries of Central Asia within the framework of international organizations**". In this semi-chapter, the cooperation of the Republic of Azerbaijan with the Turkic-speaking countries of Central Asia within regional and international organizations is examined. It is noted that after independence, the Turkic-speaking republics of the post-Soviet space faced similar problems in the economic, political and social spheres. Therefore, initially, the relations of the Republic of Azerbaijan with the Turkic-speaking countries of Central Asia consisted mainly of joint participation in events held within the framework of international and regional organizations.

This semi-chapter examines the importance of cooperation within the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States (Turkic Council) and the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic Speaking Countries (TurkPa), of which Turkic-speaking countries are members. Furthermore, it is noted that these organizations play an important role in the expansion and development of relations between the independent Turkish republics. Thus, the IX Summit of the Heads of State of the Turkic-speaking countries held in Nakhchivan in October 2009 was an important step towards the unity of the Turkic states. The Nakhchivan Agreement signed by the Presidents of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkey established the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States an intergovernmental organization. The semi-chapter provides an in-depth analysis of the Turkic Council meetings, especially in 2018 and 2019. Thus, the participation of Uzbekistan as an "honorary guest" in the Summit held in Kyrgyzstan on September 3-6, 2018 was an important event in ensuring the integrity of the Turkic-speaking countries. Azerbaijan took over the chairmanship of the Summit of the Turkic Council held in Baku on October 15, 2019. It should be noted that on April 10, 2020, at the initiative and chairmanship of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, Extraordinary Summit of the Turkic Council dedicated to the

fight against the COVID-19 pandemic was held in video conference format.

This semi-chapter also examines the relations between the Turkic-speaking countries within the framework of the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic-speaking countries (TurkPA) and it is noted that the legal framework for cooperation between Turkic-speaking countries is formed by the TurkPA, established on October 21, 2008 between Turkey, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. The declarations adopted at the plenary sessions of the TurkPA also touch upon the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict since 2012. Ninth Plenary Session of TURKPA, hosted by Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan was held on 18 December 2019 in Baku. The main topic of the meeting was "Parliamentary Diplomacy in the Turkic World: Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Peace and Security." During the meeting, it was decided to establish a Women's Parliamentary Group and a Young Parliamentary Group, and at the end of the General Assembly, the Baku Declaration was adopted²⁸.

The third chapter of the dissertation is entitled as "**Current situation and prospects of development of relations in the economic and humanitarian-cultural spheres**". The first semi-chapter is entitled as "**Azerbaijan's economic relations with the Turkic-speaking countries of Central Asia and the importance of the oil factor in cooperation.**" This semi-chapter reflects the dynamics of Azerbaijan's foreign trade turnover with the Turkic-speaking countries of Central Asia. It is noted here that the rate of Turkic-speaking countries in Azerbaijan's foreign trade turnover has decreased over time. In 1992, 7.4% of Azerbaijan's foreign trade turnover fell to the Turkic-speaking countries of Central Asia. In 2006, the rate of four countries in the foreign trade of Azerbaijan was 5.6%, in 2017, although the foreign trade turnover of Azerbaijan increased almost 3 times, the rate of four countries was 1.5%²⁹. This shows that

²⁸TÜRKPA Dokuzuncu Genel Kurulu: [Elektron Resurs] / TURKPA. - dekabr 18, 2019. URL: https://turkpa.org/tr/content/haberler/turkpa_haberleri/2445_-trkpa_-doku_zuncu_genel_kurulu

²⁹ Azərbaycanın statistik göstəriciləri / - Bakı: 2018. - 808 s.

Azerbaijan has not yet been able to cooperate with these countries in the export and import of non-oil products.

The economic unity and integrity of the Turkic-speaking countries is important in providing the necessary transport network for the transportation of natural gas and oil and energy resources. That is why energy and energy transportation projects are the main areas of cooperation between Azerbaijan and the Turkic-speaking countries of Central Asia. Azerbaijan, which has large oil and natural gas reserves, is currently implementing international energy projects, the largest example of which is the Southern Gas Corridor project³⁰. The project, designed to transport gas from the Shah Deniz-2 field in Azerbaijan's Caspian Sea sector to Europe via Turkey, includes the South Caucasus Natural Gas Pipeline, the Trans Anatolian Natural Gas Pipeline (TANAP) and the Trans Adriatic Pipeline (TAP). Turkmenistan, which ranks first in the world in terms of natural gas reserves, is expected to join TANAP, which was inaugurated on June 12, 2018. As a result of the signing of the final agreement defining the legal status of the Caspian Sea in August 2018 in Aktau, Kazakhstan, an opportunity was created for the transportation of Turkmen gas to Europe via Azerbaijan³¹.

The TAP pipeline, which will extend south of Italy through Greece, Albania and the Adriatic Sea, was completed in 2020. 10 billion cubic meters of gas in a year with this pipeline are planned to be transported to Europe.

The second semi-chapter is entitled as **"Cooperation of Azerbaijan with the Turkic-speaking countries of Central Asia in the humanitarian and cultural spheres."** It is explored here Azerbaijan's cooperation with the Turkic-speaking countries of Central Asia in the humanitarian and cultural spheres. It is noted that culture has been a key factor in the use of soft power elements for Azerbaijan, which has a

³⁰ Özsoy, B. Hazar denizi meselesi bağlamında türk cumhuriyetleri arasındaki siyasi ve ekonomik ilişkiler // -Kırgızistan: Manas Sosyal Araştırmalar Dergisi, -2019. 8(1), - s. 461-478.

³¹ Özsoy, B. Xəzərin statusu probleminin həlli və Transxəzər Qaz kəməri layihəsi // - Bakı: Tarix və onun problemləri, - 2019. № 1, - s. 234-238.

strategic position on the historic Silk Road. The success of President Ilham Aliyev in this area, who successfully developed the foreign policy course of national leader Heydar Aliyev, is noteworthy. Thus, as a result of his efforts, since the late 2000s, Azerbaijan has been participating at a high level in international artistic, cultural and sports events. At the same time, it is important to expand cultural ties between the Turkic-speaking countries.

Institutions such as TURKSOY, the Turkic Academy, the Congress of Writers of the Turkic World, the Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation are of great importance in the development of cultural relations between Turkic-speaking countries. The establishment of TURKSOY by the Ministry of Culture of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Turkey in order to examine, reveal, develop, protect and pass Turkic culture, history, language, art, traditions and customs on to future generations has been an important stage to integrate the Turkic world. Recognized as a UNESCO of the Turkic world, the organization introduces to the world such common cultural elements as Novruz, Sabantoy, Manas, Abay, Mahdumkulu, Tukay. At the X Summit of Turkic-speaking countries held in Istanbul in 2010, it was decided to declare one of the cities of TURKSOY member countries as the cultural capital of the Turkic world every year. TURKSOY also seeks to promote important artistic and literary figures in the Turkic world in the international arena. Thus, at the 35th meeting of the Permanent Council of TURKSOY held in Kazakhstan in 2018, 2018 was announced as the years of prominent Azerbaijani composer Gara Garayev, Kazakh poet Magjan Jumabayev and Kyrgyz writer Chingiz Aitmatov. The 37th meeting of the Permanent Council of TURKSOY held in Kastamonu, Turkey on December 18 of the same year. At this meeting, 2019 was declared the year of the great Azerbaijani poet and thinker Imadeddin Nasimi on the occasion of the 650th anniversary of his birth and the year of the famous Turkish folk artist and poet Ashik Veysel on the occasion of the 125th anniversary of his birth. At the 37th meeting of the Permanent Council of TURKSOY in Osh in 2019, Kyrgyzstan, it was decided to declare 2020 the Year of Abay Kunanbayev, a Kazakh

intellectual, due to the 175th anniversary of his birth and to organize various events within this framework.

In conclusion, the research was summarized and generalized, based on which theoretical and practical proposals and recommendations were made. The author concludes that independent Azerbaijan cooperates with the Turkic-speaking countries of Central Asia both bilaterally and within international and regional organizations, consistent efforts are being made to further develop this cooperation, special attention is paid to establishing close relations with these countries within the Turkic Council and other organizations. The energy factor plays an important role in the relations between the Turkic-speaking countries and their existing potential allows for further expansion of relations in this area.

The main content of the research work has been reflected in the following printed thesis and articles:

1. Azərbaycan-Qazaxıstan arasındakı siyasi və iqtisadi əlaqələr (2012-2016) // Doktorantların və gənc tədqiqatçıların XXI respublika elmi konfransı, - Bakı: Bakı Dövlət Universiteti, - 24-25 oktyabr, - 2017,- s. 84-86.

2. Azərbaycanın xarici siyasətində Orta Asiyanın türk dövlətləri // Qafqaz böyük sarsıntılar şəraitində: tarixi təcrübə, müasir dövr və perspektivlər, - Bakı: AMEA Qafqazşünaslıq İnstitutu, - 4 dekabr, - 2017, - s. 81.

3. Türk dünyasında diaspora fəaliyyətləri bağlamında Türk Kəneşi və Türksöy üzərinə bir dəyərləndirmə // Uluslararası Avrasya Göç Sempozyumu, Türkistan/Kazakistan: İstanbul Medeniyət Universiteti medeniyət araşdırmaları mərkəzi, - 9-13 Ekim, - 2018, - s. 397-419 (Co-author: Esra Banu Sipahi).

4. Türk cumhuriyetlerinde kadın sorunsalı: uluslararası raporlar ışığında türk cumhuriyetlerinde kadınların mevcut durumu // - Ankara: Türk dünyası sosial bilimler dergisi (Bilig), - 2019. -89, - s. 171-192.

5. Hazar dənizi meselesi bağlamında türk cumhuriyyətləri arasındakı siyasi və iqtisadi əlaqələr // - Kırgızistan: Manas Sosial Araşdırmalar Dergisi, -2019. 8(1), - s. 461-478.

6. Siyasi ve ekonomik perspektiften Azerbaycan-Kırgızistan ilişkileri üzerine bir değerlendirme // -İzmir: Tarih Okulu, - Şubat 2019. - 12 (38), - s. 751-764.

7. Xəzərin statusu probleminin həlli və Transxəzər Qaz kəməri layihəsi // - Bakı: Tarix və onun problemləri, - 2019. № 1, - s. 234-238.

8. Türk dövlətləri arasında əməkdaşlıqda Türk Şurası və TÜRKPА-nın rolu // Bakı: Tarix və onun problemləri, - 2019. № 2, - s. 256-260.

9. An evaluation on the economic relations of Azerbaijan with turkish states within the framework of commonwealth of independent states // Социально-Экономические и экологические аспекты развития прикаспийского региона, - Элиста, - 28-30 мая 2019 г., - с.8-14.

10. An evaluation on economic development of Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan after the independence // - Bakı Avrasiya Universiteti, Sivilizasiya, - 2019. 8(2), p. 24-31 (Co-author: Ağalar Abbasbeyli).



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