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**RELATIONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN WITH
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION IN THE CONTEXT OF
NATIONAL SECURITY**

Specialty: 5901.01 «International relations»

Field of science: Political sciences

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ABSTRACT

of the dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

Send to the press: 18.11.2021
Paper format: A5
Volume: 41636
Number of printed copies: 20

BAKU – 2021

The dissertation work was carried out at the at the “History” department of the Academy of State Administration under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

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The defense of the dissertation will be held on 24 December 2021 at 11:00 at the meeting of the Dissertation Council FD 2.30 of the Supreme Attestation Commission under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan operating attached to the Academy of State Administration under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

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The dissertation is available in the Library of the Academy of State Administration under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Electronic versions of the dissertation and the abstract are posted on the official website of the Academy of State Administration under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The abstract was sent to the necessary addresses on 23 november 2021.

INTRODUCTION

The relevance and degree of development of the subject. The results of the study of national security issues in the international arena show that the establishment and effective operation of national security system of every country directly depends on the region where it is located and the interaction of international forces there, as well as the implementation of successful policy in vital areas. The process of strengthening the national security from within the state is more effective than the mechanism of strengthening it through foreign policy. A state that achieves solidarity in domestic policy, including socio-political stability is less exposed to external pressure in international relations, even if it does not have strong allies.

The relevance of the research subject can be expressed by the following provisions:

The basis for the formation of the national security of the Republic of Azerbaijan is the right assessment of complex internal and external factors affecting activities of the state. Identifying and neutralizing sources that pose a threat to national security, controlling the conditions and factors that may pose a threat, the country's sovereignty, territorial integrity, inviolability of borders, national interests, sustainable development and protection of the welfare and values of the population are the main tasks of ensuring national security.¹

Investigation in this context is a factor of primary importance that determines the relevance of the subject.

One of the provisions expressing the urgency of the issue is related to the need of determination the place of Azerbaijan in the foreign policy of the Russian Federation;

The Russian Federation (RF), which emerged as an independent state after the collapse of the Soviet Union, in order to achieve its strategic goals began to oppose the hegemony of only one country in international relations². On the one hand, Russia was trying to maintain its influence in the former Soviet republics; on the other

¹ Azərbaycan Respublikasının milli təhlükəsizlik konsepsiyası. Bakı, 23 may 2007.

² Дугин А.Г., Евразийский реванш России. Битва за Россию. Москва, 2014

hand, it was trying to find its place between East and West, to develop relations with Europe, to restrain the expansion of NATO.

Under such circumstances, the Russian leadership, which focused on Azerbaijan in its political, economic and military policy to keep the South Caucasus in its sphere of influence, did not give up the pressure of the former USSR to keep Azerbaijan within the union, and supported Armenia's territorial claims.

The transition period experienced by Azerbaijan and the aggression of Armenia created the necessity to unite all state resources around the goal of ensuring national security. The national security strategy defined the main tactics of the state's political line, which is one of the main factors determining the urgency of the issue.

The efforts of the military-political and economic leadership of the RF to interfere in the development, production and export of rich hydrocarbon fields of Azerbaijan is one of the issues determining the relevance of the research.

One of the important tasks in Russia's foreign policy regarding Azerbaijan is the role of the South Caucasus region in the processes taking place in Central Asia (CA), a region of vital importance for Moscow. The unimpeded flow of strategically important raw materials of the CA republics to the West means that along with being an alternative to Russia in this area, it would be deprived of the transportation costs of energy resources. Today, the cooperation line implemented by Azerbaijan through Georgia is an opportunity for the CA republics to integrate into the West in a secure way, beyond Russia's control. Namely, the leading role of Azerbaijan in these processes, its relations with the Turkic world and Turkey's control over Central Asia and the North Caucasus, increases the importance of Baku in the region for Moscow:

- Iran's interests in Azerbaijan and the factor of increasing its influence in the region also conditions Azerbaijan to remain in the sphere of interest of Russia.

- Iran's interest in Azerbaijan and the factor of increasing its influence in the region also give grounds to keep Azerbaijan, always in the sphere of Russia's interest.

- Today, the geopolitical and economic weight of the South Caucasus in the system of international relations, its unique

geographical location, favorable transit opportunities allow it to be characterized as a strategic region of the world. One of the key factors in the relevance of the issue is the balanced and equal partnership implemented by the Republic of Azerbaijan against the conflict of economic and geopolitical interests of Russia and the West in Azerbaijan, a leading state in the strategic region.

- The realities for the emergence of the problem on the status of the Caspian Sea, its geopolitical roots, the goals and directions of the policy pursued by the Caspian littoral states on this issue are among the urgent matters.

- The Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict has been a serious obstacle to peace and stability in the region for many years, and this problem has had a negative impact on the overall development of the region. This conflict, which is a major threat to Azerbaijan's national security, was resolved as a result of the 44-day Patriotic War under the command of President Ilham Aliyev.

The above-mentioned factors and provisions determine the relevance of the chosen research subject and the need for systematic, in-depth scientific analysis.

The above-mentioned factors show that in the context of relations with the Russian Federation, the establishment of the national security system of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the definition of the nature of Russia's strategy towards Azerbaijan make the research at the dissertation level important and relevant.

As the main theoretical and legal sources related *to the degree of development of the research subject* were taken the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan¹, the National Security Concept of the Republic of Azerbaijan² the Military Doctrine of the Republic of Azerbaijan³ and the Foreign Policy Concepts of the Russian Federation⁴.

¹ Azərbaycan Respublikasının Konstitusiyası (əsas qanunu). Bakı, 1997.

² Azərbaycan Respublikasının milli təhlükəsizlik konsepsiyası. Bakı, 2007.

³ Azərbaycan Respublikasının hərbi doktrinası // Bakı, 2010

⁴ Концепция внешней политики РФ (утверждена Президентом РФ В.В. Путиным 28 июня 2000 г.) // scrf.gov.ru/documents/25.html., Концепция внешней политики РФ (утверждена Президентом РФ В.В. Путиным 12 февраля 2013 г.), Концепция внешней политики РФ , 30 ноября 2016 г.

When analyzing the literature on the subject, one often feels an ideological, propagandistic effect beyond objectivity: the western-oriented literature is distinguished for its Russophobia, and the opposite side tends to see the other one as a worst enemy. The study of materials and documents from the historical, political, humanitarian and other contexts on the subject of the research helps us to understand the logical nature of the research.

Views of the well-known foreign researchers S.Cornell, B.Buzan, S.Kaofman on the need of establishing a unified security system in the Caucasus, stability in the region to meet the interests of leading countries in the region such as Russia, Turkey and Iran, their conclusion that Russia is part of a unified security complex, which includes the North Caucasus region as well, is interesting in terms of the subject under study.¹

In the work of the German lawyer K.Heiko², the process of formation and continuation of the hotbeds of conflict in the Caucasus region is studied from the legal, political and historical aspects with specific documents³. R.Cutler⁴ analyzes the political and economic processes going in Azerbaijan in the first years of independence, from the political viewpoint. The place and role of modern geopolitical processes ongoing in the region in world civilization Zb. Brzezinski researched in his work “The great chessboard”.⁵

¹ Корнелл Сванте, Конфликт в Нагорном Карабахе: динамика и перспективы решения. Москва, 2001 г.; Buzan, Barry, 1991. People, States and Fear. An Agenda for International Security Studies in the Post-Cold War Era. Second Edition. Colorado: Lynne Rienner Publishers Boulder. 318 p.;Buzan, Barry, and Ole Wæver, 2003. Regions and Powers. Cambridge, 298 University Press.; Каофман Стюарт, Современная ненависть: символическая политика этнической войны. (Итака, 2001) ; Крюгер Х. «Нагорно-Карабахский конфликт» Правовой анализ, Ваку, 2012.

² Крюгер Х. «Нагорно-Карабахский конфликт» Правовой анализ, Ваку, 2012.

³ Крюгер Х. «Нагорно-Карабахский конфликт» Правовой анализ, Ваку, 2012.

⁴ Катлер Роберт, « Развитие проблемы: 1990-1994.»

⁵ Бжежинский З. Великая шахматная доска. Господство Америки и ее геостратегические императивы/ http://lib.ru/Politolog/America_bzhezinskij.txt, Бжежинский. З., М.: Международные отношения, 2005.

In his work J.Arasli¹ gives analysis of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict in the region from the military-political aspect, the objective and subjective factors of operation of our military forces in protection of the territorial integrity of the state.

Azerbaijani scientists M.Gasimli, A.Abbasbeyli, P.Darabadi, E.Ahmadov, A.Mirabdullayev, H.Babaoğlu, H.Mammadova, E.Mirbashirolu and others² paid consistent and systematic attention to the conceptual bases of AR foreign policy, Russia-Azerbaijan relations, South Caucasus policy of Russia, the documents adopted by international organizations on the settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and such issues as the status of the Caspian Sea.

A multi-volume collection of books covering the reports and speeches reflecting the foreign policy issues of the independent Azerbaijan Republic under the leadership of prominent statesman

¹ Араслы Дж., Армяно-Азербайджанский конфликт Военный аспект. Центр стратегических и международных исследований Баку-1995

² Qasımlı M., Azərbaycan Respublikasının diplomatiya tarixi (1991-2003). II hissəli. Bakı – 2015. Qasımlı M., SSRİ-Türkiyə münasibətləri. II cildə. Adiloğlu Bakı 2009 və b.; Abbasbəyli A.N., Dünya siyasəti (XX əsrin ikinci yarısı - XXI əsrin əvvəlləri). Dərslük . Bakı, 2011, Abbasbəyli A., Внешняя политика Российской Федерации в XXI веке. Баку, Элм, 2005; Дарабади П., Геоистория Каспийского региона и геополитика современности. Баку – «Элм»-2002; Дарабади П., Каспийский регион в современной геополитике. Əhmədəv E., Ermənistanın Azərbaycana qarşı ərazi iddiaları və işğalçılıq siyasətinin nəticələri. Qarabağ Azadlıq Təşkilatı “Qarabağ dünən, bu gün və sabah” Bakı – 2009.; Əhmədəv E., Ermənistanın Azərbaycana təcavüzü: Təhlili xronika (1987-2011) Ensiklopedik nəşr. Bakı, 2012, 912 s. və b.; Mirabdullayev A., Müstəqil Dövlətlər Birliyi müasir beynəlxalq münasibətlərdə. Bakı, Elm, 2012. Babaoğlu H., Azərbaycan Respublikasının müasir dünya siyasətində yeri və rolu . Monoqrafiya. Bakı 2009.; Məmmədova H., XOCALI: Şəhidlər, şahidlər. Bakı. 2003.; Mirbəşiroğlu E., Ermənistan-Azərbaycan, Dağlıq Qarabağ münaqişəsinin tənzimlənməsi istiqamətində Heydər Əliyevin fəaliyyəti // Tarix və onun problemləri, 2009, № 1-2.; Mirbəşiroğlu E., Siyasi münaqişələr: mahiyyəti, quruluşu, həlli. Bakı. Elm, 2009.

and politician Heydar Aliyev and the main points of the President's activity is of great importance for the analysis of the problem¹.

At the same time, in his book on the geopolitical and economic situation in the Caspian region, on the basis of a wide range of factual materials President İlham Aliyev showed that the region's domestic and foreign, political, economic, military-strategic, environmental and social problems are interrelated.²

Among the Azerbaijani authors who conducted significant research in the analysis of scientific-theoretical issues reflecting the foreign policy of Azerbaijan, regional and national security, the dynamics of development of Azerbaijan's relations with concrete countries and organizations we can name R.Mehdiyev, A.Hasanov, A.Pashayev, V.Guluzadeh and others³.

"The foreign policy of Azerbaijan. Collection of Documents" the series of edition of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan - the chronology of important documents of Azerbaijan's foreign policy is the main source of research⁴.

¹ Əliyev H. "Müstəqilliyimiz əbədidir", (46 cild-1 cild), Yazıçı Aleksandr Proxonovla müsahibə. ; Əliyev H. "Müstəqilliyimiz əbədidir", RF Prezidentinin Xəzərin statusunun tənzimlənməsi məsələləri üzrə xüsusi nümayəndəsi, XİN nazirinin müavini Viktor Kalyujny ilə görüşdə söhbət. 9 noyabr 2003-2017-ci il. (46 cild-31 cild) ; Əliyev H., Azərbaycanın istiqlal bayramı - Respublika gününə həsr olunmuş təntənəli yığıncaqdakı nitqindən. 27 may 1994 - //« Dirçəliş – XXI əsr» jurnalı, 1998, № 5.; Алиев Г., «Азербайджан на пороге XXI века и третьего тысячелетия». Газ. «Бакинский рабочий», от 30 декабря 2000 года.

² Алиев И., Каспийская нефть Азербайджана. Москва. Известия, 2003; Əliyev İlham "Sputnik" Beynəlxalq İnformasiya Agentliyinin suallarını cavablandırır. /17 oktyabr 2016-cı il/. Azərbaycan Respublikası Prezidentinin rəsmi internet sahifəsi: <http://president.az/articles/21409>; IV Bakı Beynəlxalq Humanitar Forumunun rəsmi açılış mərasimində İ.Əliyevin nitqi;

³ Mehdiyev R., "Azərbaycan Respublikası 1991-2001." Bakı 2001. Мехтиев Р.Э., Горис-2010: сезон театра абсурда. От Майендорфа до Астаны: принципиальные аспекты Армяно-Азербайджанского Нагорно-Карабахского конфликта. Информационно-аналитический центр по изучению постсоветского пространства. Москва 2010,

⁴ Azərbaycanın xarici siyasəti. Sənədlər məcmuəsi (2003-2008). AR XİN. Bakı. 2003, Azərbaycanın xarici siyasəti. Sənədlər məcmuəsi (2005). AR XİN. Bakı. 2009 – II hissə,

In the monographs of A.Piriyev and A.Rajabli wide space is given to the domestic and foreign policy strategy and national security problems of the Republic of Azerbaijan¹. L.F.Mirzazadeh² using normative-legal documents has analyzed the existing bilateral relations between Azerbaijan and Russia from the viewpoint of national security issues.³

The approach to the formation, functional activity and development processes of regional security systems, as well as the sustainable development of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the systematic analysis of security problems in the Caucasus are studied in the monographs of J.Eyvazov⁴.

In connection with the research on various issues covered by the study works of Russian researchers A.G.Dugin E.Gaydar, V.Sogrin, S.I.Chernyavskiy, A.Rajabli, A.A.Prokhoyeva and others⁵, researches on the study and analysis of the general picture of the current situation in the socio-political relations among the SC, Azerbaijan and Russia were taken into account.

¹ Piriyev A. M. Siyasi strategiya və milli təhlükəsizlik /A. Piriyev; Red.: F. Vahidov; B.: BDU, 2005.; Раджабли А., Теория национальной безопасности. Метод. пособие. Баку 2005

² Мирзаде Л.Ф. Нормативно-правовая основа двусторонних отношений Азербайджана и России . Серия: Юридические науки. 2012. №3(10)

³ Мирзаде Л.Ф. Нормативно-правовая основа двусторонних отношений Азербайджана и России . Серия: Юридические науки. 2012. №3(10)

⁴ Эйвазов Дж., Державы и регионы: системный анализ безопасности постсоветского пространства. Стокгольм: Издательский дом SA&CC Press®, 2015. Эйвазов Дж., “Безопасность Кавказа и стабильность развития Азербайджанской Республики”, Баку . 2004.

⁵ Дугин А., Евразийский ренанс России. Битва за Россию. Москва; 2014; Гайдар Е., Гибель Империи. Уроки для современной России. «Российская политическая энциклопедия» (РОССПЭН); М.; 2006; Согрин В. «Политическая история современной России 1985-1994. от Горбачева до Ельцина», Москва, 1994 г. ; Чернявский С., Возможные пути урегулирования Нагорно-Карабахского конфликта в пост-Майендорфский период, Информационно-аналитический центр по изучению постсоветского пространства. От Майендорфа до Астаны: принципиальные аспекты Армяно-Азербайджанского Нагорно-Карабахского конфликта. и др.; Общая теория национальной безопасности. Учебник. профессора А.А. Прохожева. Москва – Издательство РАКС. 2002,

On the whole, the analysis of the existing scientific literature on the subject shows that although the problem was studied from various aspects, no dissertation research has been conducted in this field, which determines the importance and value of the presented research.

The object and subject of the research. The **object** of the research is the independent, equal, balanced foreign and domestic policy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in its relations with the Russian Federation.

The **subject** of the research is the spheres and directions of the impact of the Azerbaijan Republic's relations with the Russian Federation on the national security of our state.

The goals and objectives of the research work arise from the relevance and nature of the research subject. The main purpose is to study the important aspects of the impact of Azerbaijani-Russian political relations on the national security of our country.

In order to achieve the goal of the research, the following tasks were identified and implemented:

- To analyze the sources and literature on the Azerbaijani-Russian political relations and to determine the main features;
- To substantiate the factor of national security in the formation of interstate relations;
- To determine the national security of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the factors and directions determining it;
- To investigate the impact of the Caucasus policy of Russia, including the causes and consequences of obstacles arising from the existing relations with RF;
- To analyze the conceptual, institutional (political, legal) bases of the new relations established with the Russian Federation in the process of formation of the national security strategy and system of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and the main conditions of political and economic stability in ensuring national security in the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- To investigate the place and importance of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the national security policy of the Russian Federation;

- To reveal the importance of mutual official visits between Azerbaijan and Russia in political, military and economic relations;
- To assess the activities of Azerbaijan in the interests of national security - cooperation with Russia in the political, economic, humanitarian, military, energy and information spheres, the joint fight against terrorism and transnational organized crime;
- To make scientific and theoretical generalizations on the problem, to show the prospects of the Azerbaijani-Russian relations.

Methods of research. Conceptual approaches arising from the speeches of national leader Heydar Aliyev and President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev on the main directions of cooperation with Russia in the context of national security of independent Azerbaijan, as well as fundamental scientific works form the theoretical basis of research.

In this scientific research work based on the general view on the national security strategy and foreign policy of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the concept of foreign policy of the Russian Federation in the study of the subject such methodological methods as objective approach to political events, transition from general to specific, making comparative and systematic political analysis, historiography, analysis, synthesis, logicity were applied.

The main provisions of the defense.

- Relations with the Russian Federation in the formation of the national security system in the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- The impact of Caucasus policy of Russia on the formation of the national security system of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- National security issues on the relations of Azerbaijan and Russia in international and regional organizations;
- Cooperation and prospects in military, information, economic and humanitarian spheres in relations with Russia in the context of Azerbaijan's national security.

The scientific novelty of the research work. Scientific novelty, taking into account the relevance and political significance of the subject, is also determined by the structure of the research problem:

- Based on extensive factual material is grounded the impact of relations with Russian Federation on the national security of Azerbaijan;

- The socio-political situation in independent Azerbaijan and the problems arising from Russia's interests in the stages of building the national security system were analyzed;

- The main directions of Azerbaijan's relations with RF, and the historical and political significance of the role of relations with Russia in the process of fulfilling the existing tasks before the national security system and the structure of activities were studied.

- The domestic and foreign policy strategy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in relations with Russia was studied extensively;

- The Azerbaijan factor and the essence of Azerbaijan's position in the Caucasus policy of RF was explained;

- The role and strategic interests of Russia in the process of settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict were analyzed;

- For the first time in modern times, an attempt has been made to study the main directions of Azerbaijani-Russian cooperation, political-economic, military and security problems in the context of national security issues.

- For the first time the Russian factor in the formation of the national security strategy and system of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the role of relations with the Russian Federation in the implementation of the tasks included in the concept of national security of Azerbaijan were systematized and studied as a complex.

Theoretical and practical significance of the research. The main provisions and results of the research can be useful in clarifying the nature of the impact of relations with the Russian Federation on the national security of the Republic of Azerbaijan and in the process of fulfilling the existing tasks before the national security system.

The studied results of the elements of the Azerbaijani-Russian relations affecting our national security can be tools for specialists working in the field of foreign policy.

The importance of relations with Russia in domestic and foreign policy strategy of Azerbaijan, relations and activities in international and regional organizations, the Azerbaijan factor in the Caucasus policy of the Russian Federation and the mechanisms of implementation of Azerbaijan's policy can be used as methodical tools in higher educational institutions.

In modern times in the context of national security, it can be useful to conduct future research, scientific studies, to hold scientific conferences on the political, military and security problems, prospects, main directions of Azerbaijani-Russian cooperation.

Approbation and application of research results. The main scientific provisions and results put forward in the dissertation are reflected in the scientific articles of the applicant, published in various scientific journals in Azerbaijan and abroad, in reports at scientific-theoretical conferences.

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

The dissertation was discussed at a joint meeting of the departments of "History", "International Relations and Foreign Policy" and "Political science and political management" of the Academy of State Administration under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and was recommended for defense.

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

MAIN CONTENT OF THE DISSERTATION

The first chapter entitled "**Relations with the Russian Federation in the formation of the national security system in the Republic of Azerbaijan**" consists of two paragraphs. In the first paragraph, entitled "**National security factor in the formation of interstate relations**", the essence, strategy, goals, ways of strengthening the national security system, its impact on stabilization of regional relations and strengthening international security, the

results of international research on this problem is analyzed conceptually.

The reasons that motivated the Russian leadership to control the South Caucasus in post-Soviet era, the results of Moscow's plans and the goals of foreign policy in the region, K.Strachota, S.Cornell, S.Chernyayevsky's analyzes on the goals of the foreign policy in relation with the region and the preventive actions carried out are being investigated in this paragraph.

The analysis of the geographical features of the South Caucasus is carried out, and within this framework, the geopolitical, geoeconomic and geostrategic aspects are distinguished. The ongoing processes reveal that the states of the region are interdependent for the fundamental interests of security, both among themselves and with neighboring countries, and is made an overview on the similarities and contradictions activated by the alliances and confrontations formed by the historical aspect of ethnic conflicts in the formation of security systems of the relations of the region states with the leading actors.

In the second paragraph of the first chapter entitled **“The impact of the Caucasus policy of Russia on the formation of the national security system of the Republic of Azerbaijan”**, the historical aspects of the political line pursued in relation to the Caucasus in general, the region and Baku in particular, from the perspective of Moscow's “state security and foreign policy doctrine”, as well as the modern period on the basis of the views of such strategists as Z.Brzezinski, A.Utkin are analyzed. Also the events in Azerbaijan in 1992-1998, government changes, the first steps of the new leadership, issues related to the country's participation in the CIS and the Collective Security Treaty, the establishment of a legal basis for relations between the two countries and processes till the signing of the first official documents are analyzed here. Also, the implementation of the requirements of the Tashkent Protocol, which is attached to the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE), which has long been important, the status of the Gabala Radiolocation Station, the status of the Caspian Sea, Azerbaijan-

OSCE relations and views on Moscow's position on the establishment of the "Minsk Group" format for the settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is presented.

As important issues considered in the paragraph, the traditional policy of Moscow towards Baku, the comparison of Russian-Azerbaijani and Russian-Armenian relations, the impact of this factor on the course of the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, the occupation of territories and the analysis of the process of chaos in the country should be noted.

The policy pursued by the new leadership in the example of national leader Heydar Aliyev, in particular, state building, formation of the national security system, measures taken to fight with separatism, strengthening the national army's combat capability, Moscow's initiative to start negotiations on a ceasefire, which could not fundamentally change the position of official Baku and other steps are among the important issues discussed in the paragraph.

The second chapter, **"The place of relations with Russia in the implementation of the concept of national security of Azerbaijan"**, consists of three paragraphs. In the first paragraph entitled **"The role of Heydar Aliyev in the formation of the national security strategy of the Republic of Azerbaijan"** were analyzed the consolidation of our independence and statehood during the years of Heydar Aliyev's rule, strengthening of Azerbaijan as a unitary, legal and democratic state, successful steps taken in the adoption of the new Constitution, relations with the Russian Federation in the process of establishing the national security concept and public administration system, measures to determine the political course and strategic priorities of Baku. H.Aliyev's return to power laid the foundation for the processes that changed the course of events not only in the republic, but in the whole region.

Also, the neutralization of military-political circles in the Russian authorities without compromising national interests, which took an aggressive position towards Azerbaijan, politically correct assessment of the Russian factor in the process of formation of the system of public administration, which is the basis of the concept of

national security that will ensure the protection of independence, the necessary steps taken to establish a strategic partnership, provided that Baku maintains its political, military and economic independence, were introduced to discussion.

The paragraph provides a detailed analysis and substantiation of the following important issues that should have been achieved in relations with the Russian Federation at that time:

To neutralize Russia's military support to Armenia in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone,

To maintain the ceasefire without concessions on issues limiting the state independence, such as the return of the RF military contingent to the republic, the control of the state borders of Azerbaijan,

To create conditions for the start of peace negotiations with the participation of international forces and at the same time to prevent the dominance of Russia and the participation of the Nagorno-Karabakh separatists as an independent party;

To make political decisions on the CIS and CSTO (The Collective Security Treaty Organization) that does not contradict national interests;

To prevent some military circles of the Russian Federation from realizing scenarios of coup d'état and separatism against Azerbaijan;

To take advantage of the processes taking place around the Gabala Radiolocation Station in the interests of Baku;

Despite the unresolved issue of the status of the Caspian Sea, to sign agreements on oil and gas exports and transportation with the involvement of Western partners and Russia, which will lay the foundation for Azerbaijan's economic independence, to neutralize political forces presenting these projects as an alternative and rival to Russia's energy resources;

To eliminate the economic and transport blockade of the RF;

To neutralize pressure on the Azerbaijani Diaspora, information propaganda in Russia;

To prepare the ground for future military cooperation with the RF;

To achieve the formation of an environment that will be the ground for the establishment of closer, strategic partnerships with Russia in the future and a political opinion in the Russian leadership that supports the fact that Azerbaijan is a reliable partner;

Not irritating Russia to realize the course of integration into NATO and the Euro-Atlantic space.

Such instances as Heydar Aliyev's skillful use of the power struggle between the two force centers - military and economic circles that could influence the new leadership of the RF, and the achievement of signing the "Oil Contract of the Century", which was of particular importance for Baku, are presented in the research with historical facts.

The paragraph of the second chapter "**The realization of the national security concept of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the context of relations with Russia**" provides a detailed analysis of the main contradictions in the process of political dialogue between official Baku and Moscow. The signing of the "Cooperation for Peace" program with NATO by the Azerbaijani leadership, constant accusation of Baku in the information war against Azerbaijan for "blowing up and destroying" the pipeline and communication lines connecting Russia with Armenia through Georgia, the pressure put by the factor of "threat of a new war" should be noted in particular.

One of the most important areas of pressure on Baku manifested itself in the start of negotiations with foreign partners on the pipelines laid for transportation of Azerbaijan's oil and gas resources.

Despite the pressures, Heydar Aliyev tirelessly was taking important steps in state building. The holding of the first parliamentary elections, which ensured the establishment of a multi-party system, created a legitimate legislature that would be used in many political decisions in the future.¹ In the same year, the adoption of the new Constitution, which was the next fundamental basis reflecting the democratic norms, gave a strong impetus to the process

¹ Əsədov O, Cəbrayılov R., Azərbaycan Respublikasının Parlamenti. Bakı 2008.

of laying the foundation for political stability and the formation of government structures in the republic.

After that, attention was focused on issues such as the restructuring of the economy, negotiations on the signing of agreements on oil and gas resources, which are the main economic wealth, the removal of all state regulatory mechanisms through the press and information. The positive results of these steps, along with accelerating national development, formed the country's democratic image in the world and encouraged the international community to cooperate more widely.

The political position of the President was that Azerbaijan should establish relations with all countries, including its northern neighbor Russia, on the basis of cooperation possessing equal rights;

Successful implementation of the decision made in Moscow on January 18, 1996 between the two countries to transport the country's oil through the Baku-Grozny-Tikhoresk-Novorossiysk route, along with the allocation of a suitable share to the Russian oil company "LUKOIL" in the "Contract of the Century" and subsequent oil contracts¹, the invitation of other Russian companies to cooperate was a manifestation of Azerbaijan's determination to expand good neighborly relations with this country on the basis of mutually beneficial principles.

It is provided to discussion Azerbaijan's loyalty to its political line as ever, along with increasing its military power, not allowing the region to become a battleground for the world's leading powers, although have expanded its cooperation with Turkey, Pakistan, the Ukraine and the NATO bloc along with Russia year by year, aiming to build its national army and increase its military power while being at war with Armenia, its ability to maintain the country's impartiality and neutrality in their struggle against Moscow, in addition to not joining the CIS and the CSTO, stated that it does not intend to join NATO, as some post-Soviet republics do.

¹ Чернявский Станислав. Россия и Азербайджан: Особенности и основные направления межгосударственного сотрудничества в постсоветский период. Кавказ глобализация. Том 4 выпуск 1-2, 2010. ст.33.

Also the success of official Baku's policy towards Russia on the status of the Caspian Sea is widely discussed in the paragraph.

The research provides a detailed analysis of the issue on ensuring stability and sustainable development in the North Caucasus region, inhabited by national minorities, as one of the important components of Russia's national security concept, and the status of the Gabala Radiolocation Station in the interests of Azerbaijan.

The second chapter, **“National Security Issues in Azerbaijani-Russian Relations in International and Regional Organizations”**, provides a factual analysis of the policy of Azerbaijan and Russia to demonstrate a similar approach to resolving many issues. These relations are considered through the prism of the “National Security Concept”, “Foreign Policy Concept” and “Military Doctrine” adopted by Putin. Also, the meeting of V.Putin and H.Aliyev dated January 8-12, 2001 and the Declaration of the Baku Summit, which played a decisive role in the relations between the two countries and gave a special impetus to their development, H.Aliyev's visit to Moscow on January 24-26, 2002 and the “Agreement on long-term economic cooperation between Azerbaijan and Russia till 2010”, which lays a solid foundation for bilateral relations is spoken there. Moreover, Russia's main priorities for the establishment of the Eurasian Economic Union and the Common Customs Union, as well as comprehensive integration goals that will allow Azerbaijan to achieve maximum economic and humanitarian rapprochement through important areas such as East-West transport and communication corridors, energy exports and transports are identified.

In the paragraph the following key factors that create divergence of opinion on different approaches of Baku and Moscow to strategic issues are examined in more detail:

1. Settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict;
2. The political line pursued by Azerbaijan on the integration into the political and military blocs of Russia and the Euro-Atlantic space;

3. Cooperation with neighbouring foreign countries (former Soviet republics), foreign policy in relation to the conflicts in Georgia, Moldova and the Ukraine.

In this paragraph is grounded that an agreement was reached on sustainable cooperation on issues of strategic importance for Russia and Azerbaijan and serving the security of the region, including ensuring military, socio-political and economic stability in the North Caucasus region, which is vital for Moscow.

This paragraph deals with the negotiations of Minsk Group on the settlement of the conflict, the joint statements of the co-chairs, the meetings of the Presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia on June 24, 2011 organized by Moscow, and the meeting and documents entitled “Kazan Principles”. Also, the results of the assessments of the international fact-finding mission of the OSCE from January 31 to February 5, 2005¹ and October 7-12, 2010 are estimated in terms of Azerbaijan’s national security concept.

From this viewpoint, the military, political and international consequences of the military clashes between Armenia and Azerbaijan were analyzed in detail.

Along with this, are presented some changes in Russia’s position on the settlement of the conflict that Azerbaijan could achieve in the talks with the participation of international observers.

In this paragraph the Russian-Georgian war and its consequences, as well as Azerbaijan’s political line on integration into Russia and Euro-Atlantic space, is analyzed separately and in terms of interests of Azerbaijan’s national security.

In the first paragraph entitled **“Relations with Russia in the military and information spheres in the context of national security of Azerbaijan”** of the Chapter III **“Perspectives in Azerbaijan-Russian relations”** are analyzed Baku’s military policy, overview of tasks and challenges facing Moscow and Baku military-political doctrines, new situations and Azerbaijan’s priority steps in

¹ Report of the OSCE Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) to the Occupied Territories of Azerbaijan Surrounding Nagorno-Karabakh (NK). Available at: http://www.partnership.am/res/General%20Publicat_Eng/050317_osce_report1.pdf

the settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, Baku's approach to the presence of military bases in the South Caucasus and the deployment of NATO bases in the former USSR, the reasons for Azerbaijan's membership in the Non-Aligned Movement, the RF-Armenia military alliance and Turkish-Azerbaijani military cooperation.

One of the important issues analyzed in the paragraph is the conclusion that the results achieved with Russia in connection with the status of the Caspian Sea and the final steps meet the concept of national security of Azerbaijan.

An important achievement in the military sphere, where Russian-Azerbaijani relations are on the rise, is Moscow's acceptance the growing military cooperation of Azerbaijan with Turkey, the US and NATO. The reason is that Azerbaijan has not taken steps in its relations with NATO that could harm Russia's security. Azerbaijan actively continues its cooperation with NATO within the framework of the Partnership for Peace.

One of the specially studied areas is the Azerbaijani-Russian cooperation in the fight against transnational threats. The geographical position of the Republic of Azerbaijan shows that transnational crime has become a serious threat to its national security. The research highlights the transnational threats that Azerbaijan is struggling in cooperation with Russia.

The second paragraph of Chapter III entitled **“The Azerbaijan-Russia economic and humanitarian cooperation as a guarantee of national security”**, demonstrates the fact that the dynamically developing economic potential of Azerbaijan forms the basis of relations with Russia and substantiates the importance of this cooperation for Azerbaijan's national security.

The volume of military-technical cooperation between the countries has already exceeded billions of US dollars, and this figure is actively growing. Azerbaijan is currently one of the world's leading buyers of Russian technical equipment.

One of the important directions is the development of relations in the humanitarian sphere. The organization of Humanitarian Forums,

an indicator of Azerbaijani-Russian cooperation in recent years, the necessary attention paid to the development and teaching of the Russian language in Azerbaijan, the activities of Russian-language schools and branches of Russian universities, the signing of humanitarian cooperation programs is stated there.

In the dissertation, the factors that make Azerbaijan a traditional and reliable economic partner for Russia in the Caucasus, the Caspian region, within the CIS framework and leading international organizations have been investigated in detail. The numerous agreements and treaties governing the economic, political, security, border, social, cultural and humanitarian relations between the two countries in recent years, the legal and regulatory acts established for regulation of joint activities and the legal framework have been analyzed in the paragraph. The fact that the documents signed between Russia and Azerbaijan on the development of relations in the economic, energy and humanitarian spheres are the result of mutual and broad cooperation proves that Azerbaijan has achieved the main goals of the national security concept.

Conclusion (Since the issues on the subject cover the period from the independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan up to 2018, the recent successful steps taken by Azerbaijan in the context of national security issues are reflected in the author's scientific articles)

The research was summarized and generalized. From the geopolitical viewpoint, the state interests of Azerbaijan are surrounded by states that do not coincide with the interests of national security. In particular, two of them - Russia and Iran have serious potential to influence Azerbaijan. Armenia, while not a fully independent state, is trying to use its Russian outpost status to secure its territorial claims, in keeping with its tradition.

Azerbaijan is at the center of East-West, North-South transport communications and corridors, as well as geostrategic competition in the Caspian Sea, which is important for Russia in this regard.

Azerbaijan plays an important role in ensuring energy security at the regional and international levels, and its strategy for gas transportation is based on ensuring its state and economic interests.

The fact that Armenia's destructive position in the process of negotiations to eliminate the consequences of military aggression against Azerbaijan's national security made it impossible to resolve the conflict peacefully, and Azerbaijan in large-scale and successful counter-offensive operations lasting 44 days starting from September 27, 2020, liberated Armenian-occupied lands by military-political means, is not only the restoration of the territorial integrity and historical justice of our country, but also an important geopolitical factor that forms new political and economic realities and provides important strategic prospects for both our republic and the region.

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

1. "Müasir Azərbaycan – Rusiya qarşılıqlı əlaqələrində Heydər Əliyevin rolu" // "H.Əliyevin dövlətçilik irsi və müstəqil Azərbaycanın inkişaf modeli" mövzusunda doktorant və dissertantların elmi konfransının materialları – 2012. Bakı. DİA Səh.165-171

2. "Müstəqil Azərbaycanın dövlət idarəçiliyinin ilkin mərhələsi. "Səmərəli dövlət idarəçiliyi: Zamanın çağırışları" mövzusunda Beynəlxalq elmi konfransının materialları 05-06 dekabr 2011. Bakı, "Elm və təhsil" nəşriyyatı, 2012. DİA Səh.274-277

3. Azərbaycan Cumhuriyyəti'nde Devlet Yönetiminin Oluşturulması Sürecinde Haydar Aliyev'in Rolü (Rusiya Federasyonu ile ilişkiler Bağlamında) // Asia Minor Studiens (Uluslararası Hakemli Sosyal Bilimler Dergisi). Haydar Aliyev Özel Sayısı, Mayıs 2013 Kilis. Səh.117-123

4. Azərbaycan Respublikasında milli təhlükəsizlik sisteminin qurulması prosesi Rusiya Federasiyası ilə münasibətlər kontekstində. DİA, "Dövlət idarəçiliyi" Nəzəriyyə və təcrübə (Xüsusi buraxılış) N4 (56), 2016. Səh.178-184

5. Azərbaycan Respublikasında hərbi-siyasi və iqtisadi sabitliyin əldə edilməsində Rusiya faktoru. Geostrategiya jurnalı. "Azərbaycan" nəşriyyatı, Beynəlxalq ictimai-siyasi, elmi-nəzəri jurnal, N-3 (51) , may-iyun 2019, Səh.56-59

6. Azərbaycan Respublikasının Milli Təhlükəsizlik Konsepsiyasının reallaşması Rusiya ilə münasibətlər kontekstində. Geostrategie

giya jurnalı. “Azərbaycan” nəşriyyatı, Beynəlxalq ictimai-siyasi, elmi-nəzəri jurnal, N-6 (54), noyabr-dekabr 2019, Səh.48-54

7. Rusiya Federasiyasının Azərbaycan Respublikasındakı sülhməramlılıq missiyasının siyasi – hüquqi aspektləri.

3.International Baku scientific research congress October 15-16, 2021. Baku Eurasia University and Institute of Economic Development and Social Research (IKSAD), səh. səh.1141-1148

8. Güney Kafkasya'da Önemli Bir Güvenlik Sorunu olarak Karabağ Çatışması. (Qarabağ münaqişəsi Cənubi Qafqazın mühüm təhlükəsizlik problemi kimi) Social science development journal SSD journal Open Access Refereed E-Journal & Refereed & Indexed, 2021 November Volume: 6 Issue: 28 pp: 64-71. <http://www.ssdjournal.org/journalssd@gmail.com> Səh.64-71

9. “Şuşa bəyannaməsinin Cənubi Qafqazın regional təhlükəsizliyi üçün əhəmiyyəti və Rusiyanın maraqları.” // Tarix və onun problemləri 2021.(oktyabr-dekabr) N 4.

10. “Фактор Азербайджана в российско-турецких отношениях” // Türkiyə-Rusiya ilişkilerinin 100. yılı. Uluslararası bilimler sempoziumu. 11-13 Kasım 2021.