

REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

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ABSTRACT

of the dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

**THE ROLE OF BORDER GUARDS IN ENSURING THE
NATIONAL SECURITY OF AZERBAIJAN
(1993-2013)**

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GENERAL CHARACTERISTIC OF THE DISSERTATION

Relevance of the topic and the degree of study. In modern global society, the protection of national interests in all spheres of public life and the provision of national security is the main goal of every state as a participant in international relations. The security of any state begins, first of all, with its borders. Today, it is impossible to protect the national security and national interests of the country without ensuring reliable protection of state borders.

In the modern world, terrorist activities against national development and security, illegal migration, smuggling, etc. The proliferation of cross-border threats such as

One of the main measures taken to ensure the national security of the Republic of Azerbaijan, located in a geopolitically complex geographical area in the South Caucasus, is to ensure reliable protection of state borders and the creation of a favorable balance of forces near state borders.¹

In the first years of independence, the creation of a highly intellectual and professional state mechanism, the formation of a development and security strategy was the main task for the country, but the socio-political processes and the war did not allow it. The current situation was aggravated by the fact that the essence of the national development and security policy, its main directions and implementation mechanisms were superficial in government agencies, as well as in society.²

Only after the return of national leader Heydar Aliyev to power in Azerbaijan for the second time in 1993, issues such as protection and strengthening of independence, ensuring national security, as well as building a democratic state were declared a priority.

¹Milli təhlükəsizlik haqqında Azərbaycan Respublikasının Qanunu.//29 iyun 2004-cü ildə qəbul edilmişdir. - Bakı:Qanun. -2004. -9 s

²Həsənov, Ə.M.Azərbaycan Respublikasının milli inkişaf və təhlükəsizlik siyasəti /Ə.M.Həsənov. - Bakı: Letterpress, - 2011.-440 s

As a result of the purposeful policy pursued, in a short period of time, Azerbaijan has become a state with its own political weight in international relations.

One of the main factors influencing the stable development of each state and its image in the world is the country's security environment. In this regard, Heydar Aliyev attached special importance to ensuring the national security of the country, especially border security.

Heydar Aliyev, who has always been sensitive to border security, said: "The border is one of the factors confirming the independence and sovereignty of each country. Norms of international law, interethnic, interstate relations, the principle of sovereignty, inviolability, territorial integrity of each country - all this is related to the borders of countries. The inviolability of the borders of each country is one of the basic principles for both the country and the norms of international law"³

As a result of purposeful measures taken by Heydar Aliyev to ensure border security, the national border strategy of the Republic of Azerbaijan has been fully formed. The establishment of the State Border Service as a separate entity on July 31, 2002, created favorable conditions for the effective implementation of this strategy.

After the election of Ilham Aliyev as President in 2003, the national border strategy, founded by national leader Heydar Aliyev, entered a qualitatively new stage in its development.

As a result of the policy pursued during the first decade of the new phase, covering the years 2003-2013, the security of the state borders was almost completely achieved.

Azerbaijan has also become one of the key players in ensuring regional and international security. However, the sharp level of regional interests in the South Caucasus, the existence of

³Əliyev, H.Ə. Müstəqilliyimiz əbədidir. çıxışlar, nitqlər, bəyanatlar, müsahibələr, məktublar, məruzələr, müraciətlər, fərmanlar: [46 cildə]/H.Əliyev. bur. məsul akademik R.Ə.Mehdiyev.- Bakı: Azər nəşr,- c.14,- 2005,- 520s.

unresolved regional conflicts, in particular Armenia's policy of aggression, incomplete determination of the legal status of the Caspian Sea, rich in natural resources, remained a major threat to national security, especially border security.

The current conditions make it necessary to conduct a scientific study of the border policy based on the experience gained, to study the directions of future development, as well as the possibility of applying existing international experience in this field. At the same time, the study of the history of the development of the border protection system of independent Azerbaijan is of great scientific, political and historical importance. Based on the need to perform these tasks, the problem was selected as the object of research. In addition, the relevance of the study is explained by a number of factors:

- the conceptual speeches of national leader Heydar Aliyev and President Ilham Aliyev, which reflect the importance of ensuring border security in terms of national security of the country and the instructions given in this direction, further actualize the study of national border policy on a scientific and methodological basis;

- the current geopolitical situation in the South Caucasus region, the sharp level of various interests in the region, especially the activity of non-regional countries make it necessary to study the border security of Azerbaijan in terms of national security and conduct various scientific and theoretical analyzes;

- effective protection of state borders in connection with the processes of globalization and the integration of world powers is important in terms of ensuring international and regional security. As a participant in international relations, one of the main factors influencing the security of the South Caucasus today is the existing military conflicts in the region and the "uncontrolled" territories created as a result of these conflicts. In this regard, it is necessary to study the national border policy in relation to regional security, as well as the possibility of the impact of existing conflicts on regional security along with national borders. This factor itself increases the relevance of the topic chosen for research purposes;

- the recent expansion of cross-border threats such as international terrorism, illegal migration, human trafficking, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, which are characterized by their dangerous nature, necessitates the formation of border security policy as a separate strategy. Given the impossibility of Azerbaijan as a subject of international relations to stay out of these processes, it is important to study the possibility of developing a national border policy in the form of a separate concept;

- in modern times, with the transparency of state borders, the transnationalization of trade, technology and information innovations has made it increasingly difficult for states to protect their geospatial space. Individual multinational companies, whose main purpose is to make a profit, exploit the country's natural resources and healthy ecological environment, disrupting their balanced development and turning them into a source of raw materials, exposing the population to future economic, social, environmental and other geopolitical, geostrategic and geoeconomic threats. Such a situation further raises the issue of scientific research of new approaches and opportunities for the application of international experience in ensuring the border security of Azerbaijan, rich in natural resources;

- one of the main factors urging the recent extensive study of border activities in Azerbaijan is the implementation of various projects related to the development of oil and gas fields owned by the country, as well as various transport projects of regional importance and ensuring their safety;

- the deepening of integration tendencies between the countries of the world and the transparency of state borders have led to the gradual loss of national traditions, moral values and the direct threat of national existence. In this regard, it is important to study the implementation of border policy in the Republic of Azerbaijan, where people of different religions, traditions and ethnic groups live together, and the possibility of gradually applying a differential border protection system based on the analysis of neighboring countries;

Various scientific works have been written by local and foreign researchers on issues of national security and border security,

Azerbaijan's national security strategy and border security as part of this strategy.

If we look at the history of political thought, we see that security issues have always been in the spotlight since ancient times. In particular, well-known philosophers such as Confucius, Plato, Aristotle, T. Campanelli, T. Hobbes expressed interesting views on security issues in their works. Recently, the problem of security has been widely studied in Western countries, especially in the United States, and various scientific studies have been conducted in this direction. From this point of view, Z. Brzezinski, H. Kissinger, E. Goldman, A. Smith, J. Locke, H. Morgentau, B. Buzen, U. Lippman and other researchers studied aspects of national security, national interests and so on. Special emphasis should be placed on research on such issues.

Well-known Russian researchers such as SV Golunov, VN Gubchenko, VA Dmitriyev, AV Kulakov, AA Nekrasov, YV Tikhonravrov have studied the issues of national security policy, border security, border threats and their assessment in their works.

Since the early 1990s, categories such as national security, national interests and national interests, which are part of Azerbaijani science, have been gradually studied as objects of research. Theoretical and practical problems of socio-political and humanitarian sciences, including national security in independent Azerbaijan are mostly R.Mehdiyev, A.Hasanov, A.Abdullayev, S.Gandilov, N.Nasibzade, J.Khalilov, A.Piriyev, A.Gulaliyeva In the works of A. Tagiyev and other authors, various aspects were studied, concepts and proposals of scientific interest were put forward in this direction.

The research work carried out by the Institute of History named after AABakikhanov of ANAS on the formation and historical borders of Azerbaijan, including the scientific researches of historians P.Darabadi, M.Suleymanov, F.Ahmadova, L.Shukuroglu and A.Gurbani in this field are special should be emphasized.

In these works, Azerbaijan's national security policy and its main directions, as well as threats to border security and border security, relations with neighboring countries in the field of border

activities, fundamental scientific views on security relations with geopolitical power centers of the world and region.

Although issues related to the national security of independent Azerbaijan have been studied by various researchers, the importance of border protection in ensuring national security and the study of the national border policy of independent Azerbaijan in relation to regional and national security issues have not been studied separately.

Object and subject of research; The main object of the research is issues related to the state borders and security of the state borders of Azerbaijan, the identification of threats to the border security of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the study of the impact of these threats on socio-political stability and national security. The subject of the research is the study of the importance of border protection in ensuring national security of Azerbaijan, the role of genius leader Heydar Aliyev in the formation of national border policy and the new border policy implemented by President Ilham Aliyev, as well as regional security. organizes the study of the application of methods and techniques.

The goals and objectives of the study. The main purpose of the dissertation is to study the border protection system and border security policy of independent Azerbaijan in terms of national security in different historical periods, to study the role of HeydarAliyev in the formation of national border policy, as well as to determine the impact of border security policy on national security, including regional security. make up. In order to achieve these goals, the following tasks have been set and fulfilled:

- scientific research of the role of national leader HeydarAliyev in the formation of national border policy;
- to study the main directions of the border security policy implemented by President IlhamAliyev in 2003-2013 in terms of the security of the country and the region;
- national security issues in the era of globalization, the study of the role of border protection in ensuring national security;
- study of modern border threats, especially cross-border threats in terms of national and regional security;

- scientific research of the border policy pursued by independent Azerbaijan in different historical periods from the point of view of national security;
- military and geostrategic assessment of the state borders of Azerbaijan, identification of real and potential border threats;
- investigation of the state border security of Azerbaijan in terms of regional security;
- study of the impact of the occupation policy pursued by Armenia on the state border security of Azerbaijan;
- study of the security of the maritime borders of the Republic of Azerbaijan in terms of the security of oil and gas and transport projects, as well as the security of the country and the region;

The methodology of the research. A number of theoretical methods were used to fulfill the main tasks of the dissertation. The methodological basis of the research is logical, comparative, dialectical, historical and systematic analysis methods. In order to organize the research more effectively, questionnaires were organized in the border areas with the participation of various social groups. The results of these surveys were finally analyzed by mathematical and statistical calculations and reflected in the dissertation in the form of graphs and diagrams.

The main provisions submitted to the Dissertation Council for its consideration. In accordance with the goals and objectives of the thesis, the main provisions for the dissertation defense are as follows:

- the formation of the state border policy of the Republic of Azerbaijan is connected with the name of national leader HeydarAliyev.
- the border security policy pursued by President IlhamAliyev has had a great impact on the stable and sustainable development of the country and the region.
- ensuring the state border security of the Republic of Azerbaijan is important in terms of national security of the country.
- the impact of the border security of the Republic of Azerbaijan on regional security is great.

- the development of the Border Security Concept is necessary for the reliable protection of the state borders of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The novelty of the researches.In contrast to the existing research, the dissertation substantiates the importance of border security of the Republic of Azerbaijan in terms of national security, the impact of independent Azerbaijan's border security on regional security, threats to the country's border security, the need for comprehensive border activities.

However, in this case:

- the services of Heydar Aliyev in the formation of the national border strategy, as well as the main directions of this policy successfully pursued by President Ilham Aliyev were studied for the first time at the dissertation level.

- the importance of Azerbaijan's border security in terms of national and regional security has been studied.

- threats to the state borders of the Republic of Azerbaijan were analyzed, bordering states were investigated in terms of border security.

- Armenia's policy of aggression has been studied as the biggest threat to Azerbaijan's state border security.

- the need for the formation of the national border policy in the form of a separate concept is scientifically substantiated.

- various border protection models have been put forward for the effective organization of Azerbaijan's border security.

- in order to ensure reliable border security, the development of mutual cooperation with neighboring countries, as well as international organizations, the improvement of the legislative system in the field of border activities is scientifically substantiated.

Various researches, surveys and questionnaires were conducted in the research work, and a number of proposals were made in order to better organize the border protection system.

Theoretical and practical significance of the study.Theoretical provisions and suggestions derived from the research are important both theoretically and practically. Thus, the scientific study of the national border strategy, founded by national

leader Heydar Aliyev, is important, first of all, in terms of determining the future directions of development of this strategy. The research can be used as a theoretical source in future scientific research, as well as for the preparation of various lectures and monographs in this field.

From a practical point of view, the results can be useful for border cadets and trainees studying at the State Border Service Academy, as well as students studying in the field of national security and researchers conducting research in this field.

Approbation and application of the dissertation. The main theoretical provisions and practical proposals of the dissertation are reflected in the list of the Supreme Attestation Commission under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, as well as in foreign scientific publications and theses of various scientific-practical conferences. A total of 24, including 13 conference materials of local and international importance and 11 scientific articles were published in scientific publications on the topic of the dissertation.

The obtained results can be used to identify new areas of research in the field of border activities, in the future in the process of developing the Concept of Border Security of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the formation of the science of Border Studies (Border Management) in Azerbaijan. In addition, the results of the research are used in the teaching of "Modern problems of border security" and "Fundamentals of Border Security" at the State Border Service Academy.

Name of the organization of the performance of the dissertation. The dissertation work was carried out at the Department of History of the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The structure and the volume of the dissertation. The dissertation consists of an introduction, three chapters, a conclusion, a bibliography and appendices. There are some 169 bibliographies and 20 appendices were used in the study. The introductory of the dissertation consists of 25178 characters, the first chapter contains 58460 characters, the second chapter contains 57454 characters, the

third chapter contains 65609 characters and the conclusion 14441 characters. In general the dissertation consists of 221152 characters.

MAIN CONTENT OF THE DISSERTATION

In the "**Introduction**" part of the dissertation the relevance of the topic is substantiated, the level of study of the problem and the source base are analyzed, the goals and objectives of the research are defined, the scientific novelty and practical significance of the work is indicated.

The first chapter of the dissertation is entitled "**National Security and Border Security Policy**". The first half of this chapter, entitled "**National Security and Areas of Ensuring It**", examines the concept of national security and its essence, as well as concepts such as national interest, threat, national security policy, which are the main categories of the national security system. This sub-chapter emphasizes that ensuring national security creates conditions for the comprehensive development of the country. Precise definition of national interests, which is the core of international politics, is important for the future development of any society and state in modern times.⁴

The second sub-chapter of Chapter I, entitled "**Border Security and its place in the national security system**", states that the border is a line separating the territory of each state from the neighboring state and defines the scope of its scope and sovereignty. Borders and territorial integrity are the attributes that form the basis of each country's independence.⁵ In this regard, the role of border protection in ensuring national security is substantiated in this subsection. In modern times, the security of state borders is an integral part of the national security policy of any country and is one of the main conditions for ensuring its external security, territorial integrity and political independence.

⁴ Бжезинский, З. Выбор: мировое господство или глобальное лидерство. /З.Бжезинский.-Москва:Международныеотношения.- 2007. -288 с.

⁵ Qurbani, A. Müqəddəs sərhədlərimizin keşiyində./A.Qurbani..- Bakı: Əbilov, Zeynalov və oğulları, - 2002, -352 s.

The third sub-chapter of the first chapter, entitled **"Issues of border protection in the formation of national security policy of the Republic of Azerbaijan"** states that its protection and strengthening after independence, security and border inviolability in all spheres of public life, including most geopolitical and geoeconomic processes in the region Ensuring national interests through active participation has become one of the main tasks facing the Republic of Azerbaijan.

From the second half of 1993, the understanding of the essence of such concepts as national self-consciousness, national interests gradually necessitated the development of the concept of national interests of the country.⁶ It was out of this necessity that Heydar Aliyev, who came to power in a short period of time, identified all available resources and mechanisms, took concrete steps to protect state independence and ensure its security.

Thanks to the state policy pursued after Ilham Aliyev came to power in 2003, Azerbaijan has become a country with a stable economy, a strong army, full self-sufficiency, respect for its position and opinion in the region and the world, and a completely independent policy based on national interests. An extensive legal framework has been created to ensure national security. Ensuring border security is reflected in the country's National Security Concept as a priority issue in terms of national security. Azerbaijan's active political activity in international relations has further expanded its opportunities to ensure international and regional security.⁷

The first half of the second chapter of the dissertation **"Formation of the border protection system of the Republic of Azerbaijan"** entitled **"Border protection in the period before the restoration of state independence of Azerbaijan"** states that the country's geographical position and socio-political situation, political changes in the region.

⁶Həsənov, Ə.M.Müasir beynəlxalq münasibətlər və Azərbaycanın xarici siyasəti. / Ə.M.Həsənov.- Bakı: Azərbaycan. - 2005. -631 s.

⁷Əhmədov,E. Azərbaycanın xarici siyasəti: beynəlxalq təhlükəsizlik və əməkdaşlıq institutları ilə münasibətlər./ E.Əhmədov. - Bakı: Litterpress, – 2013, -452 s.

The involvement of the states existing in its territory in conflicts and wars with other states during the period of the Great Patriotic War led to the loss of a large part of the historical lands

In the first half of the second chapter, the history of the ancient statehood of Azerbaijan was considered, and the study of border issues in the historical Azerbaijani states was given a special approach. It is noted that all historical states in the territory of Azerbaijan, one of the oldest centers of civilization in the world, have paid special attention to border security.

Ancient Azerbaijani states such as Manna, Atropotena and Albania, which covered the eastern part of the South Caucasus and the northwestern part of Iran, have always waged wars with the occupying powers for the inviolability of their borders and territories.

According to historical sources, during the Sassanid Empire and the Arab Caliphate, the western and northern borders of Azerbaijan were guarded by soldiers of both empires. In fact, several barriers have been built in the city of Derbent to protect against possible threats from the north.

The military-political weakness of the Azerbaijani feudal states in the IX-X centuries had a negative impact on the organization of border security. Even during the Seljuk Empire, which existed in the 11th century, a system of conditionally allotted share lands, called uch lands, was established in exchange for military service to protect state borders.

In the 15th century, the Shirvanshahs, Garagoyunlu and Aghgoyunlu states were divided into military units in exchange for patriarchal military service in order to protect their borders. During the Safavid period, which began in the first half of the 16th century and united the lands of Azerbaijan, the soldiers involved in the protection of the state borders were given patrimonial land.⁸

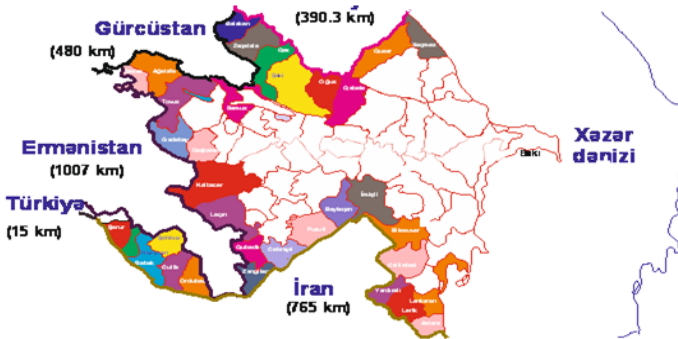
⁸Azərbaycan Xalq Cümhuriyyəti Ensiklopediyası. / Red.hey.sədri Y.Mahmudov.- Bakı: Lider nəşriyyat, -c.1. - 2004.-440 s.

Taking advantage of the weakening of the Safavid state in the 18th century, the Ottoman state seized a number of territories in the South Caucasus. One of the main tasks of Nadir Shah during this period was to remove the Ottoman troops from the borders of the Safavid state. As a result of his perseverance, the south-western borders of the Safavid state were restored in a short period of time and the authority of the state was restored.

In the 18th century, Tsarist Russia and the Gajar state, which took advantage of the emergence of rival khanates and tense relations between them, divided the historical territories of Azerbaijan into two parts with the Gulustan and Turkmenchay peace treaties.

The establishment of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic (ADR) on May 28, 1918 in the territories north of the Araz River again raised the issues of state borders and border security.

However, the disputed territory of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, with a total area of 113,895.97 km², was a key determinant of its security.⁹ Having regained its independence for the second time in the 20th century on October 18, 1991, with a total area of 86.6 thousand km², 2647 km of the state borders of the Republic of Azerbaijan were land borders and 713 km were sea borders.



⁹Azərbaycan Respublikası ərazisinin kvadrat vers və kvadrat kilometrərlə göstəriciləri. (Gəncə: 30 iyun 1918-ci il il) //Azərbaycan Respublikası Dövlət Arxivi, Fond № 970, siyahı №1, iş № 233, vərəq- 37.

Figure 2.1 Border administrative districts of Azerbaijan

The second half of the chapter, entitled "**Formation of the Border Protection System of the Republic of Azerbaijan (1991-1993)**", notes that the lack of necessary infrastructure in the border areas, the transition to a new stage of the legal status of the Caspian Sea, rich in oil and gas resources after the collapse of the USSR. Financial problems, a shortage of professional border guards, and the fact that a large part of the border is out of control as a result of the occupation have made it impossible to control state borders.

The current situation provided an opportunity for various transnational criminal groups and armed individuals to take advantage of the situation. Taking advantage of this situation, especially the state of war, transnational criminal groups, while pursuing their own interests under the auspices of some states, posed a direct threat to the security of the country and the region.

The third sub-chapter entitled "**Heydar Aliyev and the formation of the national border strategy of Azerbaijan (1993-2003)**" states that one of the main directions of the state policy pursued by Heydar Aliyev since 1993 is the formation of border guards directly involved in the protection of state borders was doing. Heydar Aliyev said: "Strengthening the Border Troops means strengthening our independence ... For the comprehensive development of Azerbaijan, for the further strengthening of peace, stability and security in Azerbaijan, border control must be at the highest level."¹⁰

On July 31, 2002, a decree was signed establishing the State Border Service as a separate entity.¹¹ This decree marked the beginning of a qualitatively new stage in the history of border protection and thus laid the foundation for Azerbaijan's national border strategy.

In order to restore historical traditions, an order was signed on August 16, 2000 to mark the day of establishment of the first border

¹⁰ Azərbaycan sərhəd mühafizəsi-90 il. Bakı: Şərq-Qərb, 2009. 444 s

¹¹ Dövlət Sərhəd Xidmətinin yaradılması haqqında Azərbaycan Respublikası Prezidentinin 2002 –ci il 31 iyul tarixli Fərmanı

guard of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic - August 18 as a professional holiday of Border Troops employees.¹²

As a result of the border policy implemented during 1993-2003, border infrastructure was restored in the border areas, new border posts were established, and the material and technical base was renewed. During this period, the establishment of the Khudat, Zagatala and Shamkir Border Detachments created a major qualitative change in the process of organizing border activities on the state borders. Negotiations with neighboring countries on the delimitation of borders and the legal status of the Caspian Sea have accelerated.

Bilateral cooperation has been established with international border organizations and other countries in the field of border activities, and border guards have been involved in various international trainings. Cooperation was established with all neighboring countries, except Armenia, in the field of border activities, and joint seminars were organized to exchange experiences.

The fourth half of the chapter, entitled "**A New Stage in the Development of Border Security Policy (2003-2013)**", notes that Azerbaijan's national border strategy, founded by national leader Heydar Aliyev, has entered a new stage of development since 2003 as a result of a policy successfully pursued by President Ilham Aliyev.

President Ilham Aliyev said: "The security of any country begins at its borders. In particular, the security of countries such as Azerbaijan, which are characterized by internal stability, depends primarily on the strength of borders."¹³

Given the security of state borders and its role in ensuring regional security, a number of concrete steps have been taken. As a result of the border policy pursued by President Ilham Aliyev during

2003-2013, a number of new border outposts were opened, the existing infrastructure was upgraded, and the use of modern technical means in the organization of border protection was further expanded.

¹²www.dsx.gov.az/arxiv_xeber/22

¹³Azərbaycan Respublikası Dövlət Sərhəd Xidməti. Bakı: Şərq-Qərb, 2007. 176 s.

The State Program on technical development of the state border protection system of the Republic of Azerbaijan was approved. Signed an order on the establishment of the State Border Service Academy in order to provide the State Border Service with professional staff.¹⁴

Bilateral and multilateral relations with various international organizations, especially in the field of border security, NATO, the European Union, the International Organization for Migration, and international border organizations established to manage Europe's external borders, have been further expanded.¹⁵

The first half of the third chapter, entitled "**The role of border security in the national security system of the Republic of Azerbaijan**", entitled "**Border security of the Republic of Azerbaijan and its provision**" states that the organization of security environment in the state border of the Republic of Azerbaijan is one of its main components. is one. Protection of Azerbaijan's state borders is one of the key determinants of its national security. In this section, the national interests of Azerbaijan in the border area are shown and studied separately.

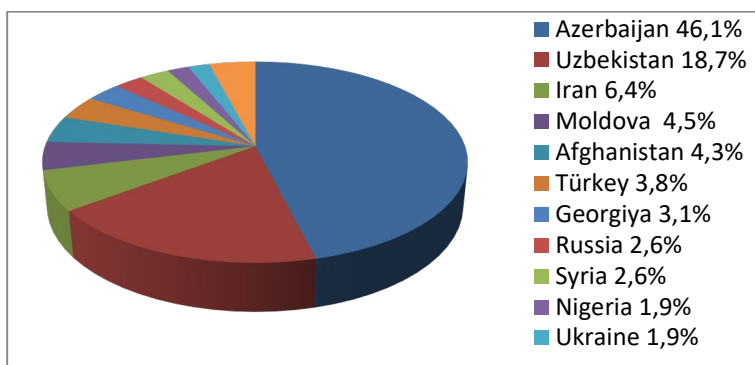
It is noted that factors such as the continuation of the aggressive policy of Armenia, the country's geopolitical position and transit importance, its location at the crossroads of different civilizations, the geopolitical and military situation in the neighboring countries, the regional political and economic situation and the expansion of migration flows are rich in natural resources. has a direct impact on the security of the state borders of Azerbaijan.

Based on the analysis, it was determined that the national composition of border violators violating the state borders is mainly citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran.¹⁶

¹⁴.Azeri defence hərbi texnoloji jurnal. İyul-Avqust.2016. № 04(24) Təhsil NP42
www.dsx.gov.az/beynelxalq_elaqe#

¹⁵www.dsx.gov.az/beynelxalq_elaqe#

¹⁶www.dsx.gov.az/arxiv_xeber/20



Graph .3.1. National composition of border violators:

Considered the geopolitical center of the South Caucasus, Azerbaijan has 3,463 kilometers of land and water borders with seven countries. In this subsection, the bordering states were assessed separately militarily and geopolitically, and the cases of border violations were compared on the basis of official figures, which also influenced the results of the study.

The second half of the chapter, entitled "**Impact of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict on the security of state borders**", notes that 198 kilometers of the Azerbaijani-Iranian and 360-kilometer Azerbaijani-Armenian borders, extending from the Horadiz settlement of the Fizuli region to the borders of the Zangilan region as a result of active conflict since 1988. 558 kilometers of state borders were occupied by the Armenian armed forces.

The exclusion of the occupied territories from any form of international control has created favorable conditions for the expansion of illegal activities in those territories, in particular for the widespread transportation of drugs and psychotropic substances along the appropriate route. At the same time, the accumulation of unregistered and uncontrolled weapons and military equipment in the occupied territories, as well as the establishment of bases for illegal armed groups and terrorists, posed a direct threat to Azerbaijan's border security in the historical period covered by the study. Trafficking in human beings, illicit production and trafficking of drugs and psychotropic substances, as well as transit routes for arms trade have been established in the occupied territories. The

uncontrolled use of these territories for transnational crimes had a negative impact on Azerbaijan's national security as well as on regional security.



Fig.3.5. Armenian-occupied and currently liberated parts of Azerbaijan

Analysis of the current situation shows that the resolution of this conflict is important for both national and regional security.

The third sub-chapter, entitled "**Impact of border protection of the Republic of Azerbaijan on regional security**", states that the security of the state borders of Azerbaijan is of great importance in terms of regional security. From the geopolitical and geoeconomic point of view, Azerbaijan's location at the crossroads of Eurasia, East-West transport-communication and energy corridors, as one of the main connecting countries in the Trans-Asian transport corridor, increases the importance of reliable protection of its borders in terms of regional security. .



Fig.3.6. Transit significance of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan, a participant in major transnational energy projects related to the transportation of regional and international

road transport infrastructure, including the rich hydrocarbon resources of the Caspian region to Europe, is very active in ensuring energy security in the region. However, in the period covered by the chronological framework of the study, the unresolved legal status of the Caspian Sea and the differences between the littoral states, in particular the lack of common interests with the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkmenistan, the involvement of outside forces in the Caspian region caused tension.

This situation has increased the importance of Azerbaijan's maritime border security in terms of national security as well as regional security.

In the **concluding** part, generalizations were made on the problem under study, the role of border protection in ensuring the national security of Azerbaijan in modern times was studied and scientific conclusions were drawn:

- development of the Border Security Concept in order to ensure reliable border security in terms of national security of the Republic of Azerbaijan:

- accelerate the process of delimitation and demarcation of the state borders of Azerbaijan, achieve the signing of final documents with neighboring countries on the precise definition of state borders;

- establishment of a legal framework for the development of information cooperation between the relevant authorities and citizens in order to ensure reliable border security in Azerbaijan;

- organization of joint projects for parallel improvement of technical capabilities in the border areas of bordering states;

- application of a differential approach to the protection of state borders;

- consideration of the possibility of full application of small unmanned aerial vehicles, GPS and navigation systems in the protection of state borders;

- organization of fully equipped mobile groups and establishment of a single command and control center in order to implement adequate intervention, depending on the terrain and operational conditions;

- the expansion of scientific research on border activities, especially the recent study of the national border strategy of the Republic of Azerbaijan, carried out by the Supreme Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev and based on the ideas of national leader Heydar Aliyev, is important for determining future development of border activities;

At present, as a leading state in the South Caucasus, Azerbaijan closely cooperates with regional countries, as well as non-regional countries and international organizations in the field of border security and implements a number of projects.

Under the leadership of Muzaffar Supreme Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev, our state borders were fully restored as a result of the 44-day Patriotic War, which began on September 27, 2020 and was prevented by the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan. For the first time in the history of independence, the state borders of the Republic of Azerbaijan with the Islamic Republic of Iran and Armenia were taken under full control. Despite the fact that the conflict is behind us, there are still a number of problems with the fair and accurate demarcation of the state border with Armenia. Nevertheless, the Azerbaijani side is ready for any cooperation with Armenia in the delimitation and demarcation of state borders. Because Azerbaijan considers cooperation not only with Armenia, but also with all neighboring countries as an important factor in maintaining peace and stability in the region.

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