

REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

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ABSTRACT

of the dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

**SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT OF GUBA-KHACHMAZ REGION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN (1991-2013)**

Speciality: **5503.02 – History of Motherland**

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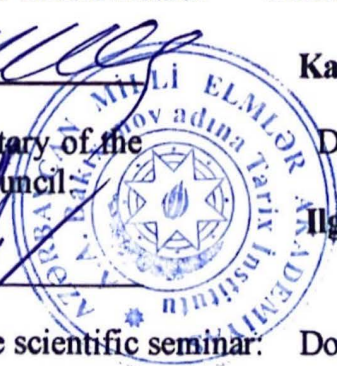
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I.GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DISSERTATION

Relevance and coverage of the topic. The period spanning from the restoration of state independence to 2013 is marked by significant events in the history of Azerbaijan. Regrettably, notwithstanding the attainment of freedom by our populace, the political and economic circumstances in the Republic of Azerbaijan were exceedingly challenging. The disintegration of the previous system and the subsequent disruption of long-standing economic links for over seven decades have led to a crisis scenario in the nation. Furthermore, the measures undertaken to enhance the autonomy of the republic encountered some impediments. Armenia's aggressive stance against Azerbaijan, together with the presence of over one million refugees and internally displaced individuals in the nation, and the occupation of more than 20% of our ancestral lands, have severely impacted all sectors of the republic, including the social and economic domains. Every individual in the nation experienced the effects of the material and moral setback. The Guba-Khachmaz area, which encompasses the northeastern regions of the republic, has been influenced socially, economically, and culturally by all of these national processes. During that period, the Guba-Khachmaz area included the Khachmaz, Guba, Gusar, and Davachi (now Shabran) administrative districts. In 1992, when Siyazan was separated from Davachi district, the region's number of districts increased to five. During the first years of independence restoration in this area, the primary concern was the disadvantaged socioeconomic condition of the people and the inability to fulfill the daily need for essential food items, which indicated a distressing scenario. A large number of the region's businesses have monopolized and others have ceased operations entirely as a result of the nation's scarcity of commodities. Consequently, these circumstances led to a rise in unemployment rates and a significant decline in the overall welfare of the populace. The labor collectives in the districts within the area were unable to meet

the state goals due to their significantly underutilized capacities. Similar to other areas of the country, these regions also experienced a scarcity of essential food items, particularly bread and wheat. All sectors were negatively impacted by the hard to locate replacement components in manufacturing, the lack of resources, the difficulties of transportation, and the sharp rise in pricing.

For the nation to achieve sustained economic growth, it was crucial to undertake and execute reforms while enhancing the overall welfare of the whole people of the republic. An unprecedented chapter in the history of Azerbaijan's statehood began with the ascension of Heydar Aliyev to power in June 1993. He took the required steps, and as a consequence, Azerbaijan's economic downturn, military setbacks, political loss in the international arena, and domestic civil disobedience were quickly curbed. Additionally, construction efforts geared toward advancement across all domains were initiated. Historical evidence further demonstrates that the region's economic growth occurred with the return to power of Heydar Alirza Aliyev, the national leader of the Azerbaijani people. Large-scale changes were initiated from the outset by the National Leader, who took office when the Republic of Azerbaijan was experiencing extreme hardship and the threat of dissolution. The Republic of Azerbaijan's economic reforms during this brief historical period guaranteed the restoration of economic stability in the Guba-Khachmaz region and markedly enhanced the quality of life for the populace by promoting the economy's sustainable and dynamic growth.

Ilham Aliyev, who became President in October 2003, aimed to continue Heydar Aliyev's legacy by prioritizing regional development, job creation, and improving the well-being of the populace. The Guba-Khachmaz region has entered a new phase of development with the implementation of the "State Program of Socio-Economic Development of the Regions of the Republic of Azerbaijan (2004-2008)" approved by President Ilham Aliyev on February 11, 2004 through Decree No. 24. Additionally, the adoption of the Regional Development Program for the period of 2009-2013 has facilitated significant progress and growth in the region.

Since the Guba-Khachmaz region of the Republic of Azerbaijan saw significant progress from the time of independence restoration until 2013, it is crucial to examine the current state of affairs in the area chronologically and to identify opportunities for future growth by tracing the social, economic, and cultural development process. Consequently, there is substantial scientific value to the examination of the social, economic, and cultural evolution of the Guba-Khachmaz area between 1991 and 2013.

Various works covered certain concerns, even though the development of the Guba-Khachmaz area was first tackled as the unique study object in this thesis throughout Azerbaijani history. It is crucial to mention that significant information on the researched subject can be found in the extensive works of the esteemed leader Heydar Aliyev titled "Our Sovereignty is Eternal"¹ and President İlham Aliyev's work titled "Development is Our Goal"².

In the book "Political struggle in Azerbaijan in the late 80s and early 90s," written by Professor Ogtay Sultanov³, a doctorate in historical sciences, the political climate of the country in the late 20th century was extensively explained, with special attention to economic and social issues. The author provided detailed explanations on the downfall of the Soviet political system, the formation of the independent Republic of Azerbaijan, and the influence of political events during that period on both the economic and social aspects. The book is crucial for understanding the republic's political climate and socioeconomic circumstances in the early years after its restoration of independence. The title of the article indicates that the socio-economic status of the Guba-Khachmaz area was not included in the study, since it was not chosen as a specific research focus.

¹ Heydər Əliyev. Elektron sənədlər toplusu. Müstəqilliyimiz əbədidir: [46 cildə]. <http://heydaraliyev.preslib.az>

² İlham Əliyev: elektron külliyyat. İnkişaf - məqsədimizdir: [104 cildə]. <http://ilhamaliyev.preslib.az>

³ Sultanov, O.B. 80-ci illərin sonu, 90-cı illərin əvvəllərində Azərbaycanda siyasi mübarizə. / O. Sultanov. – Bakı: Maarif, -1995. - 232 s.

The notable statesman, academician, philosopher, and scientist Ramiz Mehdiyev⁴ expounded on the implementation of socio-economic reforms in the republic in many of his writings, and he extensively documented the country's post-independence growth. These works have significant value in examining the history of the Republic of Azerbaijan, as well as monitoring the execution of development-focused actions in all areas.

The writings of the renowned historian Tahir Gaffarov⁵ include specific information pertaining to the topic under study. The political processes and the economic changes that Azerbaijan pursued in the 1990s are therefore thoroughly discussed from a historical perspective, and his writings provide in-depth explanations of these topics. The author emphasizes the crucial contribution of Heydar Aliyev in ensuring economic stability across all areas of the nation. These and other writings by historian Tahir Gaffarov, who extensively investigated and examined several issues pertaining to Azerbaijan's history in the 20th century, include significant information.

The two-volume book on the history of the Republic of Azerbaijan⁶, which was co-published by the ANAS Institute of History and the Public Union of Historians of Azerbaijan, includes several chapters that detail the orders and decrees of the historical figures Heydar Aliyev and İlham Aliyev regarding the socioeconomic

⁴ Mehdiyev, R.Ə. Azərbaycan: tarixi irs və müstəqillik fəlsəfəsi / R.Mehdiyev. – Bakı: Azərbaycan Milli Ensiklopediyası Nəşriyyatı, -2001. -276 s.; Azərbaycan qloballaşma dövrünün tələbləri: keçmişin dərsləri, bu günün reallıqları və gələcəyin perspektivləri / R.Mehdiyev. –Bakı: XXI-Yeni Nəşrlər Evi, - 2005. - 464 s.; Gələcəyin strategiyasını düşünərkən: modernləşmə xətti / R.Mehdiyev. – Bakı: Şərq-Qərb, -2008. - 215 s.

⁵ Qaffarov, T.B. Azərbaycanın ən yeni tarixi / T.Qaffarov. – Bakı: Ciso Enterprise, -2005. -275s.

Yenə onun. Azərbaycan Respublikası 1991-2001. Əsrə bərabər on il / T.Qaffarov. – Bakı: Turan, - 2001. - 325s.

⁶Azərbaycan Respublikasının tarixi (1991-2003). 1-ci cild. Heydər Əliyev dövrü / - Bakı: AMEA-nın A.A.Bakıxanov adına Tarix İnstitutu və Azərbaycan Tarixçiləri İctimai Birliyi, -2016. - 704 s.; 2-ci cild. (2003-2016). İlham Əliyev dövrü / -Bakı: AMEA-nın A.A.Bakıxanov adına Tarix İnstitutu və Azərbaycan Tarixçiləri İctimai Birliyi, 2016. - 716 s.

development of the nation. These publications are very significant in terms of showcasing the extensive reforms, diverse Development Programs launched, and development-focused outcomes accomplished in the nation from 1993 to 2013. Nevertheless, these publications do not provide any precise information about the locations, especially Guba-Khachmaz.

The 26th to 28th chapters of the book on the history of Azerbaijan⁷, written by historians Gafar Jabiyev and Sattar Allahverdiyev, are particularly intriguing. These chapters delve into the restoration of independence in the country, its subsequent consolidation, the economic development of the state, and the analysis of the socio-economic dynamics of Azerbaijan in the early 21st century. While the book provides a comprehensive account of Azerbaijan's history spanning from ancient times to the current day, it does not specifically address the socio-economic status of the Guba-Khachmaz area.

Dr. of Philosophy in History Ali Balayev's "Socio-economic and political situation in Azerbaijan (1985-1995)" delves deeply into the challenging circumstances faced by the state in the initial years following the restoration of independence, as well as the actions and policies put in place to advance the nation's economy. In this study, the author examines the socio-economic processes throughout the whole country and provides a comprehensive explanation. Nevertheless, the effects of those activities on the country's northeast have not been investigated since the author's objectives are different there as well.

In this context, the work "Northern Gate of Azerbaijan-Khachmaz" by Doctor of Science in History professor Fakhraddin Narimanoghlu⁸ is quite intriguing. One section of this book focuses on Khachmaz and discusses the progress made in infrastructure

⁷ Cəbiyev, Q.C., Allahverdiyev, S.Ş. Azərbaycan tarixi /Q.Cəbiyev. – Bakı: Elm və Təhsil, -2017. - 621 s.

⁸ Nərimanoğlu, F.M. Azərbaycanın şimal qapısı-Xaçmaz / F. Məmmədov. - Bakı:,Nurlan, - 2006. - 128 s.

development due to recent building projects. The study focuses only on Khachmaz, without include any other areas within the region.

In his thesis "Development strategy of the regions in the Republic of Azerbaijan," doctorate candidate in philosophy in history Zaur Salimov addresses a few points pertaining to the topic at hand. While the first State Program on regional development has been extensively examined, there is a lack of detailed information on the Guba-Khachmaz area.

The work "Heydar Aliyev personality in the history of Azerbaijan" by academician and associate member of ANAS Yagub Mahmudov⁹ is very significant for its abundance of information on the years of Heydar Aliyev's leadership in the nation. In this book, the author considers Heydar Aliyev's ascent to power as a rescuer at the most challenging and crucial times for the nation, and he provides in-depth explanations of the main points of the reforms he carried out from a historical perspective.

The contributions of Heydar Aliyev towards improving the socio-economic conditions of the nation and implementing a sustainable development plan have been thoroughly examined in the scholarly works of Dr. Irada Huseynova¹⁰, a Professor of History. The chronology of the research projects has not assessed the socio-economic conditions in the areas and in the years that followed, primarily because it is centered on the time frame of Heydar Aliyev's activities. While I. Huseynova has mentioned the regional development strategy in her works, it is not the main focus of her study, and so, there is a lack of detailed information regarding regional development in those works.

⁹ Mahmudov, Y. M. Azərbaycan tarixində Heydər Əliyev şəxsiyyəti /Y.Mahmudov. – Bakı: Təhsil, -2003.- 322s.

¹⁰ Hüseynova, İ.M. Dövlətçilik naminə / İ. Hüseynova, - Bakı: BDU, -2001. - 300s.; Müstəqil Azərbaycan dövlətinin qurucusu / İ.Hüseynova, - Bakı: Təhsil, - 2004. - 472s.; Müstəqilliyimizin təminatçısı / İ.Hüseynova, - Bakı: Təhsil, -2003. -504s.; Гейдар Алиев – от политического руководителя к общенациональному лидеру/ И.Гусейнова,- Баку: Тахсил, -2005. - 501с.

The works of the cited writers demonstrate that both key figures in Azerbaijani history and individual historians have thoroughly analyzed Heydar Aliyev's significant role in enhancing the country's economic and social status, attaining achievements, and generating crucial contribution.

The seventh chapter of the seven-volume book¹¹ on the history of Azerbaijan provides a concise overview of the socio-economic condition of the nation after it restored independence.

The topic we are studying has been addressed in various works by prominent figures such as Dr. of economic sciences Ziyad Samadzadeh¹², Professor Hidayat Orujov¹³, a poet-playwright and artist, and researcher Nizami Rahmanli¹⁴. Additionally, books such as *The Great Economic Encyclopedia*¹⁵, *Heydar Aliyev, and the State's Agrarian Policy*¹⁶ have also discussed certain aspects of this topic.

Upon analyzing the literature about the conducted research, it becomes evident that while some authors touch upon certain aspects of the problem under investigation, the overall research on the subject is lacking in systematic and comprehensive examination. Therefore, it is scientifically important to thoroughly examine the issue of social, economic, and cultural development of the Guba-Khachmaz area in the Republic of Azerbaijan from 1991 to 2013, focusing on its historical context.

¹¹ Azərbaycan tarixi [7 cilddə] / Məs.red. T.Qaffarov.- Bakı: Elm, -c.7: - 2008. -608 s.

¹² Самедзаде, З. А. Этапы большого пути. Экономика Азербайджана за полвека, ее реалии и перспективы / З. Самедзаде, - Баку: Нурлар, - 2004. - 932 с.

¹³ Orucov, H.X. Azərbaycanca din: ən qədim dövrdən bu günədək / H.Orucov, - Bakı:İdrak İB, -2012. – 428 s.

¹⁴ Rəhmanlı, N. Çıraqqala yurdunun övladları / N.Rəhmanlı, - Bakı: Şuşa, - 2002. - 352s.

¹⁵ Böyük İqtisadi Ensiklopediya [5 cilddə] // Baş red. Z.Səmədzaadə, - Bakı: Şərqlər, - 2012. – c.2, - 632 s.

¹⁶ Heydər Əliyev və dövlətin aqrar siyasəti / Baş red. D.Lətifov, - Bakı: Gənclik, - 2003. -776 s.

The thesis draws on a wide range of sources. The materials used include the speeches, interviews, decrees, and directives of National Leader Heydar Aliyev and President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev about the socio-economic development of the area. These sources aid in examining the issue from a legal and normative perspective. A significant amount of pertinent material on the researched issue has been documented in the publications of the esteemed leader Heydar Aliyev and President Ilham Aliyev, which has considerable significance in the study.

Archival documents predominate among the sources. The thesis is primarily based on archive materials from the National Archives Department of the Republic of Azerbaijan, as well as the regional branches in Guba, Khachmaz, Gusar, Shabran, and Siyazan. Additionally, the annual reports of the respective regional executive authorities on socio-economic and cultural development were also utilized.

The thesis made extensive use of data from the State Statistics Committee, regional statistics offices, and the Regional Development Center, as well as from approved State programs for the development of regions and the Action Plans created for each area under these programs.

The research process utilized various newspapers and magazines released in the republic and the Guba-Khachmaz region. These publications included magazines such as "Guba-Khachmaz economic region: Results of successful regional policy", "People's custody", "Time", "Khachmaz 2003-2013: Goals, Development, Results", "Guba 2003-2013: Goals, Development, Results", "Gusar 2003-2013: Goals, Development, Results", "Siyazan 2003-2013: Goals, Development, Results", "Shabran 2003-2013: Goals, Developments, Results", as well as newspapers like "Azerbaijan", "Shafaq", "Chirag", "Shabran", "Quba", and "Taraqqi.

The aforementioned sources are particularly significant for guaranteeing the accomplishment of the objectives established in the research project and for acquiring precise information regarding the execution of the policies intended for the Guba-Khachmaz region in

the State Programs about the socioeconomic development of the regions.

Research object and subject. The focus of the study is the Guba-Khachmaz area. The subject matter pertains to the development of the area in terms of social, economic, and cultural aspects. The thesis covers the period from 1991 to 2013. The start of the thesis's chronological framework occurs in 1991 since the Republic of Azerbaijan began operating as an independent state at that time.

The reasons for the Guba-Khachmaz region's current economic downturn and collapse, as well as the elements influencing the social climate there and the living circumstances of its citizens during the early years of independence restoration, have all been determined. An analysis has been conducted on the impact of Heydar Aliyev's efforts to promote social, economic, and cultural development in the region. The study also examined the measures taken in this area, including the implementation of specific State Programs for regional socioeconomic development from 2004 to 2008 and from 2009 to 2013. The conclusion of the research's chronological framework was regarded as 2013 since I began working on the thesis subject in 2014.

Research purpose and scope. The research aims to comprehensively examine the socio-economic development process of the Guba-Khachmaz area in the Republic of Azerbaijan from the time of regaining independence until 2013, with a focus on its historical perspective. To accomplish the established objective, it is important to address a series of tasks. They're listed below:

1. To ascertain the reason behind the tense socio-economic circumstances in the Guba-Khachmaz area of the Azerbaijani Republic during the first years of the 1900s;
2. to highlight the need of establishing legal foundations for the socioeconomic reforms that were carried out during the nation's shift to a market economy, the significance of implementing the reforms in the Guba Khachmaz region, the regulatory role that state protection plays in the growth of new economic models, the private sector, and entrepreneurship, as well as the establishment of new industrial enterprises;

3. to ascertain how the growth of the area interacts with the reforms carried out and the development policies put in place by Mr. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and Heydar Aliyev, National Leader of the Azerbaijani people;
4. To uncover and assess the correlation between the authorized State Programs on regional development and the equitable development of the Guba-Khachmaz area;
5. demonstrate that the Guba-Khachmaz region's present state is a direct outcome of Heydar Aliyev's policies being implemented;
6. To provide recommendations for the future development of this area, based on a review of the region's socio-economic progress;

Research methods. The thesis used research methodologies including comparison, historical overview, objectivity, categorization, analysis, and summarizing. Hence, the issue has been meticulously, thoroughly, and systematically examined. The thesis also used the statistical approach to analyze a multitude of information about the socio-economic aspects of the area. This process aids in summarizing the overall growth patterns of the area by analyzing statistical indicators of individual regions on the examined issue.

The main provisions of defense. The following measures have been implemented for defense:

- Guba-Khachmaz, an area of the Republic of Azerbaijan living with revenue, is primarily specialized in the sectors of fruit and vegetable industry, agriculture, and tourism;
- From 1991 to 1993, the aggressiveness of Armenia, internal instability, power struggles, and administrative ineptitude not only hindered socio-economic progress but also stopped it;
- The reinstatement of Heydar Aliyev as the leader in June 1993, together with the execution of a viable socio-economic strategy, fostered growth in the northern and eastern regions of the nation and enhanced the well-being of the populace;

- The region's free economy was established with the shift from state-owned to privately owned farms, and the proportion of output from both types of farms shifted in favor of the former;
- The privatization plans implemented in Azerbaijan were especially evident in the northeastern parts of the country. The agriculture and industries of the area underwent reconstruction, resulting in a rise in productivity. The influx of both domestic and international investors to the area resulted in the creation of many job opportunities via the revitalization of existing businesses and the establishment of new ones. This, in turn, led to an increase in employment rates and improved the overall welfare of the local populace.
- The path for dynamic growth here was paved with the decrees on regional development issued by President Ilham Aliyev of the Republic of Azerbaijan and his trips to the regions to personally monitor the execution of these regulations. All infrastructure in the region was modified to align with globally acknowledged development plans, and the growth of the non-oil industry was further expedited;
- Significant progress was made in the cultural sector within the regions of the area. Efforts were made to safeguard national and moral values, preserve traditions, and enhance the planning and execution of large-scale cultural events. Additionally, there was an increased focus on the conservation and repair of historical sites;
- The successful execution of State Programs pertaining to regional development, which establish the forthcoming development priorities of the republic, has guaranteed the achievement of sustainable growth in this area.
- The growth of international tourism in the area contributes to the advancement of Azerbaijan's international relations.

Scientific novelty of the research. The thesis introduces scientific innovation by being the first to study the subject of social and economic growth of the Guba-Khachmaz area of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the years 1991-2013 as an independent research topic,

which has not been before explored in history. Simultaneously, the initial study yielded many scientific breakthroughs on the issue. These may be enumerated as follows:

1. Many fresh sources, including archive documents, were thoroughly investigated and included in scientific circulation;
2. Between 1991 and 2013, the agricultural and industrial sectors in the Guba-Khachmaz area had a sequence of decrease, followed by stagnation, and finally active growth;
3. A study was conducted on the correlation between the execution of various reforms (such as privatization, land reform, and entrepreneurship development) in the area and the population's ability to adjust to actual market circumstances, as well as the emergence of a class of farmers and entrepreneurs;
4. The significance of private farms was highlighted, and the distinction between state and private farms established in the area was noted;
5. The implementation of socio-economic reforms and State Programs on socio-economic development of the regions has resulted in the rapid growth of the Guba-Khachmaz area. The history of Azerbaijan recognized and contains a particular historical perspective on the influence of the reforms implemented by historical leaders Heydar Aliyev and Ilham Aliyev on the country's path of sustained growth in this area;
6. The present condition in the northeastern areas of Azerbaijan is attributed to Heydar Aliyev's strategy;
7. In light of the state's objectives, the regional socioeconomic development strategy's execution in the form of action plans for each of the region's constituent regions was evaluated;
8. A study was carried out to examine the individual socio-economic progress of the areas within this region. It was observed that the infrastructure of each of the 5 regions underwent a complete renewal due to the implementation of measures outlined in the state programs for the socioeconomic development of the regions;

Theoretical and practical importance of the thesis. The thesis incorporates factual information, scientific advancements, and generalizations that may be used in the composition of works on the contemporary history of Azerbaijan, regional history, and specifically the Guba-Khachmaz area. The thesis materials might serve as teaching resources for the History of Azerbaijan course at universities. The study conducted on individual chapters of the thesis has yielded scientifically significant generalizations that have practical implications. The suggestions outlined in the thesis may be used in future development initiatives. Individuals interested in history and economics may get advantages from engaging in the research work. This research study, which integrates the developmental attributes of the districts included within the area, may be used in investigations on state policy. This research may provide valuable insights into the progress of other areas in Azerbaijan.

Approbation and application of the research. The research's primary scientific findings and scientific innovations are represented in the author's published works. Furthermore, the author has delivered presentations on several topics related to the thesis work at both national and international conferences.

Name of the organization in which thesis work is performed. The thesis research was conducted and deliberated at the Department of "History and its Pedagogical Approaches" of Lankaran State University.

Structure and volume of the thesis. The structure of the thesis work includes an introduction, three chapters, a summary, and a bibliography.

Thesis's title page consists of 372 characters, Table of Contents – 1,696 characters, Introduction – 27,862 characters, Chapter I – 49,174 characters, Chapter II – 81,376 characters, Chapter III – 95,932 characters, Conclusion – 23,595 characters, Bibliography – 32,479 characters, total volume is 166 pages and about 280,007 characters (with tables and bibliography).

II. MAIN CONTENT OF THE DISSERTATION

The "Introduction" section of the thesis discusses the importance of the topic, examines the level of development, explains the object and subject, outlines the goals and functions of the research, specifies the research methods used, justifies the main provisions and scientific novelty of the study, provides information on the theoretical and practical significance, validation and application, mentions the name of the organization where the work is conducted, its structural units, and states the total volume of the thesis.

The first chapter of the thesis is headed "**Socio-economic conditions in the Guba-Khachmaz Region during the Early Years of independence restoration.**" The (1.1) sub-chapter titled "**Severe impact of the processes in Azerbaijan following the collapse of the USSR on the socio-economic situation of Guba-Khachmaz region**" examines the disruption of economic relations that had been in place for over 70 years due to the collapse of the USSR and analyzes the consequences of these processes on the Guba-Khachmaz region. The republics inside the Soviet Union were economically interdependent, functioning as a unified entity. Therefore, the economy of one cannot grow adequately without the active involvement of the other. The present challenges of the transitional period, resulting from the disintegration of the Soviet political system, have impacted the social and economic conditions in the Republic of Azerbaijan, particularly in the northeastern regions, and have persisted for a considerable duration. The region's economy experienced significant setbacks across all sectors. Agricultural establishments in the areas, such as apple orchards, vineyards, and diverse fruit and vegetable fields, were together on the brink of annihilation. Budget deficits in the regions were caused by reduced output volume and failure to meet financial targets. This was one of the elements that had a detrimental impact on the population's quality of life. In this instance, an examination was conducted to analyze and consolidate the effects of the events occurring inside the

country on the Guba-Khachmaz area, leading to the formulation of findings.¹⁷

The II (1.2) subchapter of the I chapter titled "**National leader Heydar Aliyev's efforts for the socio-economic and cultural development of the region**" examines the impact of the reforms on the Guba-Khachmaz region implemented by the renowned statesman Heydar Aliyev Alirza, who returned to power due to the will and insistence of the people, during a challenging and dire situation in the Republic of Azerbaijan, when the country faced the threat of losing its independence and was experiencing national and civil conflict. One of the primary objectives of the head of state was to address the crisis in the agricultural sector, promote the growth of farms in the regions, and stimulate economic recovery.¹⁸ The swift execution of this program has resulted in significant transformative changes in the northeastern areas of the nation. The accomplishments obtained served as the foundation for the state's development plan and sparked a resurgence in all areas of the northeastern region. Factors such as the augmentation of benefits provided to low-income families, the handicapped, and the elderly, encouragement for entrepreneurship, the establishment of new farms, and the provision of job opportunities were evaluated as evident manifestations of state policy.¹⁹ The head of state directly oversaw and controlled the country's development in the market economy and the resulting influence on this area. The transition to a market economy was summarized and judgments were made.²⁰

¹⁷ Nərimanlı, Ə.E. SSRİ-nin dağılmasının Quba-Xaçmaz regionunun iqtisadi vəziyyətinə təsiri // - Bakı: AMEA Tarix İnstitutu, Elmi əsərlər, - 2018. -c. 69, - s.70-79.

¹⁸ Heydər Əliyev və dövlətin aqrar siyasəti: /tərt.ed. D.Lətifov – Bakı: Gənclik, - 2003.- s.7.

¹⁹ Nərimanlı, Ə.E. Ümummilli lider Heydər Əliyevin Quba-Xaçmaz regionunun sosial-iqtisadi inkişafına göstərdiyi qayğı // - Bakı: AMEA Tarix İnstitutu, Elmi əsərlər, - 2018. –c. 73, - s.146-154.

²⁰ Nərimanlı, Ə. E., Ümummilli lider Heydər Əliyevin Azərbaycan Respublikasının Quba-Xaçmaz regionunun sosial-iqtisadi inkişafına göstərdiyi qayğı // "Strateji iqtisadi islahatlar: qabaqlayıcı vergi siyasəti" mövzusunda keçirilmiş beynəlxalq

The II chapter of the thesis is entitled **“Measures aimed at the improvement of socio-economic situation in the region at the end of the XX century and the beginning of the XXI century”**. It comprehensively analyzes the measures aimed at improving the social and economic situation in Guba-Khachmaz region from 1993 to 2003, and explains the purpose and essence of the work done in the industrial, agricultural, social and cultural fields.²¹

The subchapter (2.1) of Chapter II, headed **“Implementation of privatization programs adopted in Azerbaijan in the region and its results,”** examined the actions carried out in the region as part of privatization programs and their outcomes. Under the leadership of Heydar Aliyev, the primary focus of the strategy was on the growth of the independent Republic of Azerbaijan, enhancing its position in the global market, improving the socioeconomic conditions of the people, and creating a wealth of material resources. At the period, a significant concern was the transition from current ownership structures to new ones, which included the implementation of market relations that were self-regulating and founded on the principles of free competition and private property. This is evident in the policies and choices made on the implementation of agricultural reforms and the privatization of state property in the republic. Privatization in the region led to the establishment of a market economy that is based on private property for economic entities and free competition. Additionally, the restructuring of the national economy was carried out to align with the demands of the market economy. It is evident from this subchapter that a substantial quantity of untapped resources in the region were used and incorporated into the economic system, resulting in a greater abundance of goods and an improvement in the overall living standards of the people.²²

elmi konfransın materialları. – Bakı: AMEA İqtisadiyyat İnstitutu. – 2017. – s. 187-191.

²¹Yenə orada.

²² Nərimanlı, Ə.E. Quba-Xaçmaz regionunda Aqrar İslahatlar və özəlləşdirmənin həyata keçirilməsi // “Müasir dünyada inteqrasiya və elmin aktual problemləri”

The subchapter (2.2) of that chapter, titled "**Creation and development of farms in Guba-Khachmaz region**," examines the establishment of a legal framework for agrarian reforms in the republic²³, the implementation of these reforms in the region through the creation of farms, and evaluates their effectiveness and challenges. In this area, farms, which operate as a legal economy and represent a kind of new entrepreneurship, have not yet shown their full potential due to the prevalence of small and many existing farms. In my opinion, the consolidation of several farms into larger ones has the potential to stimulate progress, not just within the small and big agricultural sectors. In the area, there weren't many big farms.

Subchapter III (2.3) of Chapter II, titled "**Development of Infrastructure, Industrial Enterprises, Transport, and Culture in the Districts of the Region**," examines the progress of infrastructure, industry, transport, and culture in each district within the region and highlights that the region's rapid growth can be attributed to the attentive and caring approach of the esteemed historical figure, Heydar Aliyev.²⁴ It is a fact that, following Heydar Aliyev's return to power in late XX century Azerbaijan, the north-eastern region underwent a new phase of development as part of an independent republic. This was made possible by the numerous reforms implemented throughout the nation, which led to the restoration and expansion of production facilities, utilizing the potential already present in the Guba-Khachmaz region. Additional manufacturing facilities were constructed, leading to a substantial expansion in the variety of goods. Significant progress has been made in promoting the manufacturing of goods for export, enhancing the quality of life for the population by fostering local

mövzusunda respublika elmi konfransının materialları. -Lənkəran: Lənkəran Dövlət Universiteti. – 2017. – s.84-85.

²³ Azərbaycan Respublikasının Ədliyyə Nazirliyi-Normativ hüquqi aktların vahid internet elektron bazası. Torpaq İslahatı haqqında Azərbaycan Respublikasında Qanunu, 155-IQ. <https://e-qanun.az/framework/4207>

²⁴ Нариманлы, А. Е. Об особенностях политики Азербайджанского руководства по развитию регионов страны // -Киев: Национальна Академія Наук України. Інститут сходознавства ім. Фюкримського XXII сходознавчи читання А.Кримського -2018. Зм.62-63.

business initiatives, boosting employment rates, and ensuring the rapid growth of the economy in all districts within the region. The establishment of a free entrepreneurial environment in the area led to the growth of individual entrepreneurship, which in turn contributed to the development of the economic sector and a rise in the private sector's role in industry. As commercial activity in the industry grew, the quantity of specific industrial items likewise rose. Progress was achieved in the establishment of general education institutions as well as cultural institutions because of the steps implemented for the region's cultural development.

The third chapter of the thesis, titled "**Socio-economic and cultural development of the Guba-Khachmaz region from 2004 to 2013,**" emphasizes the significance of government support in the region's socio-economic and cultural progress over the specified period.²⁵

In the first subchapter (3.1) of this chapter, titled "**The impact of President Ilham Aliyev's decrees on the sustainable development of the Guba-Khachmaz region,**"²⁶ it was determined that the decrees issued by President Ilham Aliyev have facilitated extensive growth in the Guba-Khachmaz region²⁷. The head of state continuously approved State Programs²⁸ and issued decrees to guarantee the sustainable socioeconomic development of the regions, guided by the ideals of balanced development of all regions, the

²⁵ Нариманлы, А. Е. Рекреация и туризм в контексте развития несырьевой экономики Азербайджана: по материалам Губа-Хачмазского региона 2004-2012 гг // - Москва: -2019, Современная научная мысль (1),- с.164-169.

²⁶ “Azərbaycan Respublikasında sosial-iqtisadi inkişafın sürətləndirilməsi tədbirləri” haqqında Azərbaycan Respublikası Prezidentinin Fərmanı. <https://e-qanun.az/framework/1392>

²⁷ Nərimanlı, Ə.E. Azərbaycan Respublikasının Prezidenti İ.H.Əliyevin Quba rayonunun inkişafına göstərdiyi qayğı // Doktorantların və gənc tədqiqatçıların XX respublika elmi konfransının materialları. -Bakı:Azərbaycan Dövlət Neft və Sənaye Universiteti. -2016. –s.503-505.

²⁸ “Azərbaycan Respublikası regionlarının sosial-iqtisadi inkişafı Dövlət Proqramının(2004-2008-ci illər)” təsdiq edilməsi haqqında Azərbaycan Respublikası Prezidentinin Fərmanı. <https://e-qanun.az/framework/4797>

creation of new jobs, raising population standards, and reducing poverty. President Ilham Aliyev often visits the administrative regions within the area to familiarize himself with the progress of State Programs. During these trips, he provides on-site orders to address the problems of the populace²⁹. The President's frequent trips to the provinces not only enhanced the bond between the head of state and the public but also provided a significant boost to the swift execution of projects.

The study findings indicate that the State Programs on regional development, implemented by President Ilham Aliyev between 2004 and 2013, together with the decrees aimed at accelerating socio-economic growth in the five regions of Guba-Khachmaz, have had favorable outcomes. Due to the implemented policies, new production firms have been founded, infrastructure has been expanded, and growth has been achieved across all sectors of the economy. The establishment of new manufacturing companies, expansion of building and renovation projects, establishment of recreational facilities, and other factors have resulted in the development of many job opportunities in the area. This has led to an increase in employment rates and improved circumstances for the local people to secure employment. Therefore, all of these have provided a stimulus for enhancing the quality of life for the people.

The thesis's second (3.2) subchapter, **"Adoption of state programs on the socioeconomic growth of the regions and the impact of these programs on the socioeconomic growth of the region,"** summarizes the President's attention to detail and the actions taken in this region within the framework of regional development programs.³⁰³¹

“Azərbaycan Respublikası regionlarının 2009-2013-cü illərdə sosial-iqtisadi inkişafı Dövlət Proqramı”nın təsdiq edilməsi haqqında Azərbaycan Respublikası Prezidentinin Fərmanı. <https://e-qanun.az/framework/16721>

³⁰ Uğurlu regional siyasətin nəticələri. Quba-Xaçmaz iqtisadi rayonu / Azərbaycan Respublikası İqtisadi İnkişaf nazirliyi / - 2013. - s.27-31.

³¹ Nərimanlı, Ə.E. “Regionların İnkişafı Proqramı” çərçivəsində Quba-Xaçmaz regionunun sosial-iqtisadi inkişafı // “Müasir elmin aktual problemləri” respublika

The III (3.3) subsection of the last chapter, titled "**Cultural development of the region in 2004-2013**," discusses the efforts³² and measures³³ made towards cultural production and growth in the region throughout this period.

The purposeful and sequential implementation of measures and initiatives by President Ilham Aliyev and President of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation Mehriban Aliyeva in the growth of culture in the Guba-Khachmaz region from 2004 to 2013, which are grounded in practical reality and align with the national interests of the country, have instilled a strong sense of confidence in the future. The repair and restoration of cultural centers and important historical structures in the Guba-Khachmaz area, in line with contemporary standards, serves as a prominent illustration of governmental strategy. The emergence of our national music, traditional musical instruments, and mugham art has provided more opportunities for cultural advancement in the area. These factors indicate that the cultural development in the area will continue to grow and remain sustainable.

The "**Summary**" section of the thesis provides a concise overview of the themes discussed in each of the three chapters. It also presents ideas and recommendations based on the research conducted.

After a thorough analysis of the data, it can be said that Head of State Ilham Aliyev effectively carried out the strategy laid out by the late Heydar Aliyev, the national leader of the Azerbaijani people and the state's founder, to ensure sustainable development throughout the entire republic, not just in the Guba-Khachmaz region. The expansion of infrastructure and the creation of new jobs in northern parts of Azerbaijan has resulted in better living circumstances, more

elmi-praktik konfransının materialları.- Lənkəran: Lənkəran Dövlət Universiteti. - 2016.- s.168-169.

³² Nərimanlı, Ə.E. 2003-2013-cü illərdə Quba rayonunda sosial-iqtisadi inkişaf // - Bakı: Pedaqoji Universitet Xəbərləri, - 2015. № 3, - s. 70-72.

³³ Nərimanlı, Ə.E. Quba-Xaçmaz regionunda "Regionların İnkişafı Dövlət Proqramı" çərçivəsində sosial-iqtisadi inkişafın sürətləndirilməsi(2004-2008) // - Bakı: Bakı Dövlət Universiteti, Tarix və onun problemləri, -2018. № 3, -s.206-209.

employment opportunities, and overall enhanced living standards in this area. The examination of the events occurring in the area between 1991 and 2013, the extensive reforms implemented, and the innovative approaches used provide a solid basis to assert that the Guba-Khachmaz region has seen fast development as a consequence of the implemented measures. Being an affluent area of Azerbaijan, it continues to progress steadily towards sustainable development.

Several significant findings are achieved throughout the generalization of the thesis, which are outlined below:

- ✓ To get through the political and economic crises in the early years of Azerbaijan's independence, crucial choices had to be made. The many developments occurring throughout the republic had a significant influence on the north-eastern area;
- ✓ Since agriculture predominated in the Guba-Khachmaz area, it was essential to create unique agricultural laws and implement them in the Siyazan, Gusar, Khachmaz, Davachi (Shabran), and Guba regions during the formation of market relations;
- ✓ The emergence of novel economic models in the region averted the decrease in agriculture, leading to a gradual but consistent growth in this sector throughout time. Nevertheless, the establishment of extensive agricultural operations did not occur, and attaining the anticipated outcome on small-scale farms proved very challenging, resulting in the failure to fulfill these expectations;
- ✓ The execution of privatization in the north-eastern areas of the country, as part of the comprehensive reforms nationwide, led to the emergence of a class of entrepreneurs and the development of infrastructure;
- ✓ The implementation of a number of projects focused on regional development has significantly contributed to the dynamic growth of the Guba-Khachmaz area;
- ✓ Regional development projects are progressively improving and ongoing, with noticeable outcomes seen in

the northeastern area. Nevertheless, the area continues to experience the lingering issue of unemployment. Owing to this issue, a lot of individuals sometimes relocate to work in nearby nations;

- ✓ The reforms launched by national leader Heydar Aliyev and successfully maintained by President Ilham Aliyev aim to enhance the living circumstances and socio-cultural standards of the populace. In the area, reforms have been implemented consistently, and significant progress has been accomplished.

The topics investigated in this thesis may serve as a significant reference for future individuals who have an interest in this subject, such as historians, economists, and sociologists. Furthermore, businesses seeking to develop their company based on the opportunities offered by the area, as well as organizations concerned with the socio-economic conditions in the region, may also use the recommendations put forward in the thesis.

THE CONTENT OF THE THESIS IS COVERED IN THE FOLLOWING PUBLISHED WORKS:

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