

REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

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ABSTRACT

of the dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

**INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF
AZERBAIJAN IN THE MILITARY FIELD**

Specialty: 5507.01 – History of international relations

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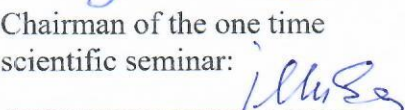
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I. GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DISSERTATION

Relevance of the topic and degree of development. The events taking place in the modern era show that the world is not stable and safe. The continuation of military conflicts, expansion of international terrorism, formation of geopolitical power centers accompanied by the struggle for economic and natural resources are becoming a serious threat to the whole world. In such a situation, every country is interested in strengthening its defense capabilities to ensure its military and national security. The work carried out in this area in the Republic of Azerbaijan is one of the priorities of both the domestic and foreign policy of the state. The main criteria that constitute these priorities are the formation of a strong army, maintaining its combat capability at a high level, providing it with the most modern weapons and equipment, and at the same time establishing military cooperation, partnership or alliance relations with neighboring and other states and international organizations in order to learn from foreign technical and military experience. As the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev noted, *“Today there are new challenges and threats in the world. Therefore, expanding cooperation between our countries in areas such as security, defense, and defense industry, along with other areas, is of great importance”*.¹ In this regard, the study of state policy in Azerbaijan in the current direction is one of the main factors determining the relevance of the research work.

After Azerbaijan regained its independence in 1991, the creation of a national army to ensure the protection of the security, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the state was one of the priorities. The importance of this issue became evident in early 1988 when Armenia made unfounded territorial claims against Azerbaijan and began its armed attacks on Azerbaijani lands.

In the first years of independence, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev, who began to implement reforms in the

¹ Azərbaycan, Türkiyə və Türkmənistan prezidentlərinin geniş tərkibdə görüşü keçirilib: [Elektron resurs] - 14 dekabr, 2022. /URL: <https://president.az/az/articles/view/58192>

direction of a regular army building, attached great importance to the study of international experience in the existing field, cooperation with military structures of foreign states and international organizations. In 1994, President Heydar Aliyev, who signed the framework document on “Partnership for Peace” (PfP) program of NATO, touched upon the importance of cooperation with the North Atlantic bloc, emphasizing the importance of benefiting from NATO experience in the process of building an army and that this factor is the most important stage of Azerbaijan-NATO cooperation². Thus, the study of the current state and development prospects of military partnership of Azerbaijan with the North Atlantic Alliance in the field of army building attracts attention with its relevance and scientific significance.

One of the priorities of foreign policy of Azerbaijan is, first of all, to establish friendly, equal, mutually beneficial relations with neighboring states and countries which cooperation can yield concrete practical results with. The establishment of cooperation and alliance relations in the military sphere with these countries is very important in terms of ensuring regional security. The analysis of the aspects of bilateral and multilateral military cooperation of Azerbaijan with Turkiye, Russia, Georgia, Pakistan, Israel, Ukraine, the Republic of Belarus, and Central Asian countries in the military-political and military-technical spheres that are important for Azerbaijan is also one of the factors determining the relevance of the topic.

[Emphasizing the relevance of military-technical cooperation has increased due to the fact that states are facing new security challenges in the modern world, President of Azerbaijan İlham Aliyev noted that our country has shown great interest in cooperation with partner states in the current direction within the framework of the Military Doctrine³. As a result of military-technical cooperation carried out within the framework of mutual interests, the arsenal of the Azerbaijani army has included the most modern weapons and

² General Ç.Makkenzi ilə görüşdə // Azərbaycan. - 1995, 8 iyun

³ Prezident İlham Əliyev: Dövlətlərin yeni təhlükəsizlik çağırışları ilə üzlaşməsi hərbi-texniki əməkdaşlığın aktuallığını daha da artırıb: [Elektron resurs] - 11 sentyabr, 2014. /URL: <http://az.trend.az/news/politics/2310453.html>

equipment produced in many countries of the world. Cooperation of Azerbaijan with many countries of the world has played a major role in the creation of the military-industrial complex. The International Defense Industry Exhibitions held in Azerbaijan since 2014 have also become a successful platform for cooperation with foreign states in the military-technical field. The study of the dynamics of the development of cooperation of our country with foreign states in the current direction is also of interest.

It is a fact that as a result of successive reforms implemented in the field of military construction, today the Azerbaijani Armed Forces have become the strongest army in the South Caucasus. The 44-day Patriotic War proved this once again. The combat tactics applied by the Azerbaijani Army on the battlefield are considered an innovation in the history of world warfare and great interest is shown in their study.

Today, Azerbaijani military personnel conduct joint military exercises with the Armed Forces of foreign states. The number of Azerbaijani-Turkish tactical exercises covering all types of troops is increasing year by year. These exercises are also successfully implemented in a trilateral format (Azerbaijan-Georgia-Turkiye, Azerbaijan-Turkiye-Pakistan military exercises). At the same time, the military personnel of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces contribute to the process of ensuring peace and international security by participating in UN peacekeeping operations. Moreover, Azerbaijan has extensive cooperation relations with regional states in the field of ensuring peace and security in the South Caucasus, as well as the security of energy and transport projects, which it is the initiator of. The Azerbaijan-Turkiye-Georgia trilateral strategic military cooperation is a clear example of this. The study of the policy pursued by the Azerbaijani state in this direction is also of great scientific importance and relevance.

So, the above said factors make a more detailed study of the issues of cooperation of the Republic of Azerbaijan with foreign states and international organizations in the military field relevant.

Although there is no separate work in the scientific literature on the topic of the study, its individual aspects have been investigated to some extent by Azerbaijani and foreign researchers. These works were used during the writing of the dissertation.

It should be noted that the foundation of the relations of the Republic of Azerbaijan in military cooperation was laid during the period of its predecessor, the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic. In this regard, the research work primarily studies the issues of military construction carried out in the country at the time, as well as the military cooperation relations between Azerbaijan and Türkiye, and Azerbaijan and Georgia. The military cooperation with Ottoman Türkiye, which was of particular importance for the defense of the country at the time, and the activities of the Caucasian Islamic Army (CIA) created as a result of this for the independence of Azerbaijan, were studied in the works of M.Süleymanov⁴, N.Yaqublu⁵, N.Nəsibzadə⁶, V.Qafarov⁷, referring to historical facts. The military-political relations between Azerbaijan and Georgia during the Republic were studied in the article by researcher Z.Abdullayev⁸.

After restoring state independence at the end of the 20th century, the Azerbaijani state carried out internal reforms in the process of army building in parallel with the establishment of cooperative relations in the military field with foreign states and international organizations. Researchers studying the foreign policy of Azerbaijan in their works, while studying the relations of our republic with regional and non-regional countries, as well as with international organizations in political, economic, cultural, etc. fields, also touched upon the issues of cooperation in the military field. In this regard, one can mention M.Gasimli's two-volume monograph

⁴ Süleymanov, M. Azərbaycan Xalq Cümhuriyyətinin hərbi tarixi: [2 cildə] / M.Süleymanov. – Tehran: Firuzan, - c. 1 - 2014, - 761s.; Süleymanov, M. Azərbaycan Xalq Cümhuriyyətinin hərbi tarixi (1917-1918): [2 cildə] / M.Süleymanov. – Tehran: Firuzan, - c. 2 - 2014, - 696 s.; Süleymanov, M. Azərbaycan Ordusunun tarixi / M.Süleymanov, - Bakı: Maarif, - c. 1 – 2018, - 736 s.; Süleymanov, M. Nuri paşa və silahdaşları. /M.Süleymanov. - Bakı: Nurlar, - 2014, - 536 s.

⁵ Yaqublu, N. Cümhuriyyət qurucuları / N.Yaqublu. – Bakı: Nurlar, - 2018. – 504 s.

⁶ Nəsibzadə, N. Azərbaycanın xarici siyasəti (1918-1920). / N.Nəsibzadə. – Bakı: Ay-Ulduz, - 1996. – 304s.

⁷ Qafarov, V. Türkiyə-Rusiya münasibətlərində Azərbaycan məsələsi (1917-1922) / V.Qafarov. - Bakı: Azər nəşr, - 2011. - 474 s.

⁸ Abdullayev Z. Azərbaycan Xalq Cümhuriyyəti və Gürcüstan Demokratik Respublikası arasında hərbi-siyasi əlaqələr (1918-1920) //- Bakı: Hərbi bilik, - 2016. N 5 , s.3-10

“Foreign Policy of the Republic of Azerbaijan (1991-2003)” and the collection of articles “Main Directions of Foreign Policy of the Republic of Azerbaijan (1991-2016)” published in 2017. Along with it, in the collection of articles “25 Years of Independent Azerbaijan through the Eyes of Ambassadors” published on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the restoration of state independence, the ambassadors of foreign countries accredited to our republic also gave some space to the issues of cooperation between the countries they represent and Azerbaijan in the military field. The issues of Azerbaijan-US military cooperation in the first years of independence were illuminated in the work of E.Nasirov⁹, the bilateral and multilateral cooperation with the Republic of Türkiye, which is Azerbaijan’s military-political ally, was examined by the Turkish researcher Ahmet Yucen¹⁰, the Russian researcher Y.F.Parubochaya¹¹, and the military cooperation relations with the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, which is Azerbaijan’s other military-political ally, during 1994-2010, were examined in the article of researcher N.Niyazov¹².

During the study of relations with NATO, which plays an important role in international military cooperation of Azerbaijan, the studies of H.Hüseynova¹³, E.Ahmadov¹⁴, A.Aliyeva¹⁵, and military

⁹Nəsirov, E. Azərbaycan-ABŞ münasibətləri (1991-1997-ci illər) / E.Nəsirov. - Bakı: Qanun,- 1998. -136 s.

¹⁰ Ahmet Yüce. Azərbaycan-Türkiyə hərbi əməkdaşlığı (2003-2015) // - Bakı: Hərbi bilik, - 2016. N 1, s.79-104

¹¹ Парубочая Е.Ф. Сотрудничество Турции и Азербайджана в военной сфере на рубеже XX-XXI веков //Вестник Волгоградского государственного университета, - 2015. № 6 (36), - с. 24-37: [Электронный ресурс] / - URL:<https://hfrir.jvolsu.com/index.php/ru/component/attachments/download/1048>

¹² Ниязов, Н.С. Развитие азербайджано-пакистанских связей в военной области в 1994-2010 годах. // - Вестник Волгоградского государственного университета, - 2011. № 1 (19), - с. 104-112

¹³ Hüseynova, H. Azərbaycan Avropa inteqrasiya prosesləri sistemində / H.Hüseynova. - Bakı: Hərbi Nəşriyyat, - 1998. - 280 s.

¹⁴ Əhmədov, E. Azərbaycanın Avroatlantik institutlara inteqrasiyası NATO ilə əməkdaşlıq kontekstində uğurla davam edir // Xalq qəzeti. – 2009, 12 iyul. – s. 4; Əhmədov, E. Azərbaycanın xarici siyasəti: beynəlxalq təhlükəsizlik və əməkdaşlıq institutları ilə münasibətlər /E.Əhmədov. - Bakı: Letterpress, - 2013, - 452 s.

expert J.Sumerinli¹⁶ were referred to. H.Huseynova's book "Azerbaijan in the System of European Integration Processes" describes the first direct relations of Azerbaijan with NATO, the essence of the Alliance's PfP program, the provisions of the "Framework Document" of the program, the "Presentation Document" prepared and presented by the Azerbaijani leadership, the obligations and duties of our republic, and the role of Turkiye in establishing Azerbaijan-NATO relations. E.Ahmadov's research "Azerbaijan's Foreign Policy: Relations with International Security and Cooperation Institutions" shows the goals of the PfP program and analyzes the importance of Azerbaijan's accession to this program. The essence of various programs, which are the main mechanisms of Azerbaijan-NATO military cooperation, is highlighted in the book "Forward, towards NATO!" by J.Sumerinli. The issues of military cooperation of our republic with NATO are also reflected in the book "Azerbaijan-NATO 15-year partnership" published by the Representation of the Republic of Azerbaijan to NATO. In his article¹⁷, the Minister of Defense of Azerbaijan Z.Hasanov evaluated the PfP program as one of the most successful mechanisms of effective military cooperation between NATO and the Azerbaijani Armed Forces, and emphasized the importance of participation in various programs of the Alliance. At the same time, the article noted that these programs play an important role in implementing defense reforms based on the foundations of modern army building, ensuring the necessary operational readiness, and transforming the Armed Forces.

During the writing of the dissertation, primary sources, official state documents, signed interstate agreements and other international documents were referred to. Among the sources, the speeches and statements of the national leader Heydar Aliyev and the President of

¹⁵ Əliyeva, A.M. NATO-da hərbi-siyasi islahatlar və Azərbaycan Respublikası / A.M.Əliyeva. – Bakı: Yeni Poliqrafist, - 2012, - 280 s.

¹⁶ Sümərinli, C. İrəliyə, NATO-ya doğru! / C.Sümərinli. – Bakı: Əbilov, Zeynalov və oğulları, - 2007. – 232 s.

¹⁷ Azərbaycan Respublikasının müdafiə naziri general-polkovnik Zakir Həsənov: "Azərbaycan ilə NATO arasında 25 illik dayanıqlı tərəfdaşlıq mövcuddur" // Azərbaycan Ordusu. – 2019, 4 may. – s. 2

Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, agreements, contracts and memoranda concluded with relevant organizations of various countries of the world on military and military-technical cooperation, and signed interstate declarations occupy a special place.

The sources involved in the research process also included electronic resources and press materials obtained from the official websites of state structures, international organizations, representations of foreign states in Azerbaijan, and foreign companies producing weapons and military equipment.

Object and subject of the research. The object of the research work is the international cooperation of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the military field, and the subject is the study of the formation, development dynamics and prospects of bilateral and multilateral relations of Azerbaijan with foreign states, as well as with international and regional organizations in the above-said field.

Goals and objectives of the research. The main goal of the dissertation work is to study the cooperation relations of the Republic of Azerbaijan with foreign states and international organizations in the military field. The following tasks have been defined to achieve this goal:

- Analysis of military cooperation relations of Azerbaijan during the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- Investigation of the stages of development of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan, domestic reforms carried out in the field of military construction and the implemented military cooperation relations;
- Determination of the main directions of international military cooperation:
 - Analysis of the dynamics of development, current state and development prospects of bilateral and multilateral cooperation relations between Azerbaijan and neighboring states, the United States and European, Asian and African countries;
 - Study of Azerbaijan-NATO military cooperation relations, including the participation of Azerbaijani military personnel in peacekeeping operations of the UN;
 - Assessment of military cooperation relations of Azerbaijan within the CIS.

Research methods. During the writing of the research, individual conclusions were reached by collecting, systematizing, analyzing and generalizing facts. For a comprehensive study of the issues raised, scientific and theoretical methods such as analysis, synthesis, generalization, historical approach and induction were used.

Main provisions of the defense. The following provisions are put forward for defense in the research work:

- International military cooperation constitutes one of the main directions of both foreign and defense policy of the Republic of Azerbaijan;

- The foundation of the international military cooperation relations of the Republic of Azerbaijan was laid with the beginning of the army-building process carried out in the country in the first years of independence and was implemented in parallel with this process;

- the acquisition of military-political allies is of great importance in ensuring the military security of the country and the region;

- cooperation with foreign states in the military-technical field and joint projects implemented with defense industry enterprises of foreign states play an important role in supplying the Azerbaijani Army with weapons and equipment, and in the development of the military-industrial complex of the country;

- The main goal of the cooperation of the Republic of Azerbaijan with the North Atlantic Alliance in the field of defense is to improve the process of army building, modernize the Armed Forces and bring them into line with world standards;

- The participation of Azerbaijani military personnel in peacekeeping operations of the UN in order to ensure peace and security in the world is appreciated in the international community;

- A study of the dynamics of the development of bilateral and multilateral military cooperation relations between the Republic of Azerbaijan and foreign states shows that these relations will continue successfully in the coming years.

Scientific novelty of the research. Although there are some studies by local and foreign researchers dedicated to individual aspects of international cooperation in the field of military and army building of the Republic of Azerbaijan, to date there has been no separate research work on the problem posed in the field of history or

political science. The dissertation is the first research work both in terms of its chronological framework and its complex approach to the problem. From this viewpoint, the scientific novelty of the dissertation can be generalized as follows:

- For the first time, Azerbaijan's military cooperation relations were analyzed separately for the region and countries outside the region, and the current and near future dynamics and development prospects of these relations were determined;
- For the first time, international military cooperation relations of Azerbaijan were studied in parallel with the internal reforms carried out in the country in the direction of army building;
- International military cooperation relations of Azerbaijan were analyzed extensively in all directions (military, military-political, military education, military-technical, military medicine, military sports, etc.);
- The development dynamics of Azerbaijan-Turkiye military cooperation, which has risen to the level of military-strategic alliance, were studied in detail from the first years of independence to the present day, and the importance of the future development and deepening of these relations in terms of regional security was explained, and at the same time, the role of Azerbaijan-Turkiye-Georgia trilateral military cooperation and joint exercises in ensuring the security of energy and transport projects implemented in the region was examined.

Theoretical and practical significance of the research. The theoretical significance of the dissertation work is that the results of the research can be taken into account in the process of determining the essence and goals of international cooperation of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the military field, as well as the place and role of these relations in the foreign and defense policy of the country, the current level of development and future prospects.

As for the practical significance of the research work, its materials can be used in conducting new research on the topic, in the preparation of monographs, scientific and journalistic articles, textbooks for special schools, subject programs, lecture texts, etc., as well as in the educational process.

Approbation and application. The dissertation work was discussed at a joint meeting of the "History" and "International

Relations and Foreign Policy” departments of the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The main provisions and conclusions put forward in the research work were reflected in scientific articles published in the country and abroad and in scientific conference materials.

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

Structure of the dissertation. The dissertation work consists of an introduction, three chapters, ten sub-chapters, conclusion, a list of references and abbreviations. The total volume of the dissertation is 279.391 characters (except the list of references and abbreviations). Introduction-18.119, Chapter I-67.646, Chapter II-135.009, Chapter III-49.279, Conclusion-9.338 characters.

II. MAIN CONTENT OF THE DISSERTATION

The **Introduction** to the dissertation justifies the relevance of the topic, analyzes the level of study of the problem, indicates the object and subject of the research, goals and objectives, main provisions, scientific novelty, theoretical and practical significance of the dissertation work.

Chapter 1 of the dissertation is entitled “**Establishment of international military relations of the Republic of Azerbaijan**” and consists of three subchapters. In the first paragraph, entitled “**Military cooperation of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic with foreign states**”, is studied the cooperation relations with foreign states aimed at ensuring the territorial integrity of the first democratic republic established in the East, army building, and acquiring military-political allies in the complex historical circumstances. The most striking example of this cooperation is the relations of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, the predecessor of independent Azerbaijan, with the Ottoman state in the military field at the beginning of the 20th century. In very complex historical conditions, it was precisely as a result of the military assistance of Ottoman Turkiye that the young Azerbaijani state strengthened its

independence declared on May 28, 1918, and carried out the construction of a national army. The relations between the two peoples, which existed at different periods of history, had already become the basis for interstate cooperation and laid the foundation for military-political relations at the beginning of the 20th century. The friendship treaty signed between the APR and Ottoman Turkiye on June 4, 1918, further strengthened the legal basis of this cooperation.

The military-defense agreement signed between the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic and the Republic of Georgia in June 1919 laid the foundation for Azerbaijani-Georgian military cooperation. Besides the agreement, the material and technical capabilities of Azerbaijani military units were improved on the basis of a military-technical agreement signed between the two countries. It should be noted that the first Military Attaché of Azerbaijan was also established in Georgia.

Thus, the implementation of military cooperation relations with foreign states during the Republic demonstrates that the international military cooperation relations of the modern Republic of Azerbaijan have historical roots.

In the second paragraph of **Chapter I**, entitled “**Development Stages of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan: Domestic Reforms and Military Cooperation**”, the process of army building in the Republic of Azerbaijan, which regained its independence in 1991, was divided into three periods (the first period from 1991 to June 1993; the second period covering the years of Heydar Aliyev’s rule (1993-October 2003); the third period from October 2003, when the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev was elected president, to the present day) and studied. Besides domestic reforms, the current direction of cooperation in the military field with regional and non-regional states, international and regional organizations was extensively analyzed. In the first period of army building, the fragmentation of the work carried out in the direction of military building and the removal of professional military personnel from these processes made it difficult to carry out reforms in the direction of army building. The lack of professional military personnel remained the main problem during this period, and negotiations were held to solve the existing problem with the

assistance of the Republic of Türkiye. As a result of the negotiations, the foundation of cooperation of the Republic of Azerbaijan with foreign states in the military field was laid with the signing of the “Agreement on Mutual Military Training and Education between the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Government of the Republic of Türkiye” on August 11, 1992. Under the agreement, officers and warrant officers of the Turkish Armed Forces were sent to Azerbaijan, and at the same time, two hundred Azerbaijani youth were sent to Türkiye to study at military schools¹⁸. However, despite all these, the decline of the country’s economy, the unstable socio-political situation in the republic, mistakes in the field of foreign policy, the appointment of people who did not have knowledge and skills in army building to high positions created conditions for the occupation of Azerbaijani lands by Armenian separatists.

Heydar Aliyev’s second return to power in Azerbaijan in June 1993 was a turning point in the army building, as in all areas. Heydar Aliyev, who repeatedly emphasized in his speeches the need for cooperation with foreign states in the field of military construction, took important steps in the current direction. Thus, the establishment of bilateral military cooperation relations between Azerbaijan and many foreign states, the acquisition of military-political allies, and joining Partnership for Peace program of NATO are among Heydar Aliyev’s historical services. So, during this period of army building, a regular army subordinated to a single command was formed in Azerbaijan. On the other hand, the head of state recommended to continuously develop the army¹⁹.

The strategy laid down by Heydar Aliyev in the field of army building was successfully continued by İlham Aliyev, who was elected President of the Republic of Azerbaijan in October 2003. The strengthening of the army, increasing its combat capability, modernization and equipping it with the most modern military weapons and equipment constituted the main directions of state

¹⁸ Aslanlı A. Türkiye-Azərbaycan askeri ilişkileri – 2. [Elektron resurs] / - 22 aprel, 2011. URL: <http://www.qafsam.org/page/244/az>

¹⁹ Azərbaycan Milli Ordusunun yaradılmasının 80 illiyinə həsr olunmuş təntənəli yubiley mərasimində Azərbaycan Prezidenti, Silahlı Qüvvələrin Ali Baş Komandanı Heydər Əliyevin nitqi – 25 iyun 1998-ci il // Azərbaycan. – 1998, 26 iyun

policy in the field of military building. Along with the domestic reforms implemented in the field of military construction, cooperation with foreign states and international organizations continued. The main directions of international military cooperation were military-technical cooperation with foreign states in order to adapt the Azerbaijani military education system to NATO standards, train officer cadres in foreign states, provide the army with the most modern weapons and ammunition, and implement joint projects with foreign companies in the existing field.

The third paragraph of **Chapter I**, entitled “**Main directions of international military cooperation**”, examines in detail the cooperation of Azerbaijan with foreign states and international organizations in the fields of military, military-political, military education, military-technical, military medicine, and military sports. At the same time, it highlights the issues of cooperation relations of the Republic of Azerbaijan within the framework of international organizations in the field of border security, as well as in a bilateral format, its contribution to the maintenance of international peace and stability, and its participation in relevant international treaties in the field of arms control and non-proliferation.

Chapter II of the dissertation, entitled “**Military Cooperation of the Republic of Azerbaijan with Foreign States**”, consists of 4 paragraphs and 3 sub-chapters. In the first sub-chapter entitled “**Azerbaijan-Turkiye Military Alliance**”, of the paragraph entitled “**Military Cooperation with Neighboring States**”, is examined the military cooperation relations between Azerbaijan and the Republic of Turkiye, and the legal basis, development dynamics and future prospects of this cooperation. It is noted here that the Republic of Turkiye occupies an important place in the military cooperation carried out by Azerbaijan with neighboring states, and in general in the international military cooperation. It should be noted that first of all, connection of the existing cooperation relations with deep historical roots are among the main factors that determine this. On the other hand, status of Turkiye as a powerful state in the region, both economically and militarily, increases Azerbaijan’s interest in cooperation with this country. One of the most important points is that the Republic of Turkiye has always supported position of Azerbaijan in resolving the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict, which has

lasted for nearly 30 years, and has acted as its military-political ally. At the same time, Azerbaijan also occupies an exceptional place in Caucasus policy of Turkiye and is considered a strategically important country by it²⁰. The signing of the Shusha Declaration between the two countries on June 15, 2021, reaffirmed that Turkiye is military-strategic ally of Azerbaijan.

Turkiye is in the first place among the countries providing assistance in training military personnel for the Azerbaijani Armed Forces. It should be noted that more than 7.000 Azerbaijani officers have studied²¹ and are studying at Turkish military schools.

Another main direction of Azerbaijani-Turkish military relations is military-technical cooperation. Military-technical cooperation, which meets the interests of both countries, includes the implementation of joint projects on the production of military weapons and ammunition, the establishment of joint ventures, the import and export of military products, etc. It should be noted that unmanned aerial vehicles manufactured by the “Baykar” company of the Turkish defense industry, played a special role in the destruction of enemy equipment during the liberation of our lands.

Since 2013, joint military exercises between the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan and Turkiye have been of great importance in terms of increasing the combat capability of the armies of both countries, exchanging experience between the armed forces, and achieving interoperability between different types of troops. In order to increase the effectiveness of state border protection, Azerbaijan attaches great importance to cooperation with the relevant structures of neighboring states. One of the directions of Azerbaijani-Turkish military relations is cooperation in the field of strengthening border security.

It should be noted that the cooperation between the two countries in the field of military medicine is also at a very high level. The Republic of Turkiye is at the forefront among the countries supporting Azerbaijan in the field of training military medical

²⁰Qasımlı, M.C. Azərbaycan Respublikasının xarici siyasəti (1991-2003): [2 hissədə] / M.Qasımlı. - Bakı: Mütərcim, - h. 1. - 2015, - s.428-429

²¹ Müstəqil Azərbaycanın 25 ili səfirlərin gözü ilə (məqalələr toplusu) /: Bakı: BEST-TMS MMC, - 2016. – s. 290

specialists. Turkiye has also provided great assistance to Azerbaijan in the treatment of veterans of the Second Karabakh War, and this process is currently ongoing.

Cooperation relations in the military and military-technical fields with the Russian Federation, largest regional neighbor of Azerbaijan, were examined in the 2nd sub-chapter of the 1st paragraph, entitled “**Azerbaijani-Russian military cooperation**”. Cooperation in the field of defense is one of the main directions of Azerbaijan-Russia relations, which have passed through a complex path of development and risen from distrust to strategic partnership and good neighborliness. Cooperation between the two countries in the military-technical sphere is developing successfully. Cooperation with the Russian Federation in the field of military education is of great importance for Azerbaijan in terms of training qualified specialists who can operate military equipment and weapons purchased from this country. It should be noted that Azerbaijani servicemen receive free education in a number of specialties in Russian military schools. Mutual relations between the Naval Forces and border services of the two countries are also expanding.

On February 22, 2022, the signing of the Declaration of Alliance between Azerbaijan and Russia, and the inclusion of provisions on military, military-political and military-technical cooperation between the two countries in that document, not only creates the basis for further expansion and upward development of cooperative relations in the existing field, but also creates confidence that it will once again contribute to ensuring regional peace, stability and security.

The 3rd sub-chapter of the 1st paragraph of Chapter II is entitled “**Military cooperation of Azerbaijan with the Islamic Republic of Iran, Georgia, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan**”. Here, the cooperation relations in the field of defense with other neighboring countries of Azerbaijan – Iran, Georgia, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan – were examined, and at the same time, the main directions of multilateral cooperation with neighboring states were studied.

Despite the signing of agreement on the military cooperation between Azerbaijan and the Islamic Republic of Iran in Tehran in May 2005, the cold and tension experienced in inter-country

relations for a certain period of time also affected the development of these cooperative relations. The official visit of Azerbaijani President İlham Aliyev to Iran on April 9, 2014, and of Iranian President Hassan Rouhani to Azerbaijan in November, and the signing of the Joint Declaration on friendship and cooperation between the two countries within the framework of the visit, melted the ice of coldness between the two countries. The turning point in Azerbaijani-Iranian political relations also gave impetus to the development of military cooperative relations between the two countries. The results of the discussions held during the mutual visits of the military missions showed that both sides are interested in cooperation in the field of defense industry. As military experts noted, the use of Iranian-made weapons (D-30 cannons, 107-millimeter multiple rocket launcher systems) in the Azerbaijani Army indicates the existence of military trade between the two countries²². The implementation of mutual friendly visits of warships of the Azerbaijani and Iranian Navy (MNF) also has a positive impact on the development of bilateral cooperation in the field of defense. As is known, the longest state border of Azerbaijan is with Iran. In this regard, the development of cooperation between the border services of the two countries is also in the interest of both sides. However, it should be noted that despite the great potential for mutually beneficial military cooperation between the two countries, the tension that has arisen in Azerbaijani-Iranian relations in recent years (the presidency of Seyyed Ibrahim Raisi (2021-May 2024)) has had an impact on the dynamics of inter-country relations in the current sphere. As Azerbaijani President İlham Aliyev said: *"I have worked with the three previous presidents of Iran - President Hatami, President Ahmadinejad and President Rouhani. In all these years, there has never been anything like the situation we are in now. There have never been any hateful or threatening words against Azerbaijan, no military exercises have been held on our border... We*

²² Azərbaycan İrandan dağıdıcı silah alır?: [Elektron resurs] / - 21 avqust, 2017. URL: <https://ordu.az/az/news/122167/azerbaycan-irandan-dagidici-silahlar-alir->

want this situation to end as soon as possible. We want peaceful and friendly relations with all our neighbors”²³.

One of closest allies of Azerbaijan among neighboring states is the Republic of Georgia. Since the signing of the agreement on military cooperation between the defense ministries of Azerbaijan and Georgia on December 16, 2002, mutual visits and meetings of the heads of state and heads of military structures of both countries have had a positive impact on the expansion of existing relations. Expanding military cooperation between the two countries is of great importance for ensuring regional security.

One of the areas of cooperation implemented on the basis of mutual interests in the Azerbaijan-Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan-Turkmenistan relationships is relations in the military field. Mutual visits of military delegations have a positive impact on the development of cooperation relations in the field of defense between the countries, creating a good basis for further expansion of these relations.

Azerbaijan also has cooperation relations in the military field with neighboring states in a multilateral format. The Azerbaijan-Georgia-Turkiye trilateral military cooperation is one of such cooperation formats. As experts have noted, the formation of the existing trilateral cooperation is based on historical and cultural ties, geographical proximity, and being part of a single transit corridor²⁴. The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the field of defense in March 2018 gives grounds to say that these countries are military-strategic allies. Conducting military exercises between the armed forces of the three countries in order to ensure the security of internationally important energy and transport projects is of great importance.

In the second paragraph of **Chapter II, entitled “Azerbaijan-US Military Relations”**, the main directions and dynamics of

²³ İlham Əliyev Bakıda keçirilən “Orta Dəhliz boyunca: geopolitika, təhlükəsizlik və iqtisadiyyat” mövzusunda beynəlxalq konfransda iştirak edib: [Elektron resurs]/ - 25 noyabr, 2022.URL:<https://president.az/az/articles/view/57968>

²⁴ Həbibbəyli, Ə. “Azərbaycan-Gürcüstan-Türkiyə” – uğurlu üçtərəfli əməkdaşlığın 25 ili: [Elektron resurs] / - 8 iyun, 2017.URL:<http://newtimes.az/az/processes/trends/5174/>

military cooperation between the two countries were examined. It is noted here that after the events of September 11, 2001, joining of Azerbaijan the anti-terror coalition announced by the United States gave a new impetus to military cooperation between the two states and led to the expansion of existing relations. From this perspective, Azerbaijani-US military cooperation was studied by dividing it into two periods - before the terror events of September 11, 2001 and after these events. It was after the September 11 terror attacks that the US Congress, by its resolution, gave the president the opportunity to suspend the amendment to Section 907 of the “Defending Freedom Act” law (according to which the US government was prohibited from providing assistance to official structures of Azerbaijan). After the US began military operations in Afghanistan on October 7, 2001, Azerbaijan placed its airspace and other important facilities at the disposal of the United States. Thus, Azerbaijan provided significant support for the supply of the NATO military contingent deployed in Afghanistan and ensured 40 percent of the transit of non-lethal goods for the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF).

However, the existence of factors hindering relations between the two countries (the failure to repeal the “907th Amendment”, the failure of the United States, as one of the co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group, to take decisive steps towards resolving the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict for many years, and the unprincipled and dual approach of the United States to this issue in general) has manifested and it manifests itself from time to time, which has had a negative impact on interstate relations in the military sphere, among other areas.

The dynamically developing cooperation between the Azerbaijani Armed Forces and the Oklahoma National Guard of the United States was also extensively examined here.

The **third paragraph, entitled “Military cooperation of Azerbaijan with European countries”**, analyzes the cooperation relations in the field of defense with these countries and examines the legal basis, development dynamics and prospects of cooperation. Azerbaijan has both bilateral and multilateral cooperation relations with European countries in the military field, the legal basis of which

is formed by agreements and contracts concluded between the parties.

Cooperation with these countries in the field of military education plays an important role in bringing military education system of Azerbaijan into line with NATO standards, while the organization of various training courses for the servicemen of the Azerbaijani Army by European countries plays an important role in mastering foreign languages and increasing the professionalism of our servicemen. The definition of roadmaps for cooperation between Azerbaijan and the largest arms manufacturers in Europe, Italian and French companies, negotiations on the implementation of joint production, and the implementation of existing cooperation with some companies will play an important role in equipping the Azerbaijani Army with the most modern weapons and equipment.

Another direction of cooperation with European countries is cooperation in the field of clearing the territories liberated from occupation after the Second Karabakh War from mines and unexploded ordnance. An example of this is the support of the United Kingdom for clearing and neutralizing these territories from mines and unexploded ordnance.

In the **4th paragraph of Chapter II**, entitled “**Military relations of Azerbaijan with Asian and African countries**”, the cooperation relations of the Republic of Azerbaijan with Asian and African countries in the military field were examined. The study of cooperation relations with the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, one of the most influential and militarily strong states of South Asia, gives grounds to say that this country is a military-strategic ally of Azerbaijan. Even in the early years of independence, Heydar Aliyev, who saw the result of the failures in the Karabakh war precisely in the lack of real political and military allies of Azerbaijan, highly appreciated the acquisition of an ally in the person of Pakistan, which provided assistance to our country in the political and military fields along with Turkiye, at such a difficult time of statehood²⁵. This was once again confirmed by the statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan during the Second Karabakh War that the

²⁵ Əliyev, H.Ə. Müstəqilliyimiz əbədidir: [46 cilddə] / H.Əliyev. – Bakı: Azərneşr, – c. 4. – 1997. – s.346-347

Islamic Republic stands by the people of Azerbaijan and supports the territorial integrity of our country. Pakistan is also among the countries that provide support for the Azerbaijani Armed Forces in the field of personnel training. The dynamics and prospects of development of cooperation in the military education and military-technical fields between the two countries are being studied here. Azerbaijani-Pakistani relations are also being studied in a trilateral format (Azerbaijan-Pakistan-Turkiye). Stressing that trilateral cooperation will play an important role in ensuring the security of the region, President İlham Aliyev said: *“We have already witnessed the good results of the trilateral cooperation format between Azerbaijan, Turkiye and Pakistan... in the field of defense. I believe that by joining our efforts, we will strengthen our positions and contribute to peace”* ²⁶.

Azerbaijan also has reliable military partnership relations with another country on the Asian continent - the state of Israel. Israel, which has advanced technologies, plays an important role as an important ally in the formation of defense industry of Azerbaijan and in equipping the army with modern weapons. The issues of cooperation between the two countries in the military-technical field, the implementation of joint projects in the field of production of drones are widely studied here. At the same time, the importance of military cooperation relations of Azerbaijan with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, the People’s Republic of China, the Republic of Korea, the Central Asian states - Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, and joint projects implemented in the field of defense industry with the Republic of South Africa are illuminated here.

Chapter III of the dissertation is entitled **“Military Cooperation of the Republic of Azerbaijan with International and Regional Organizations”** and consists of 3 paragraphs. The first paragraph, entitled **“Azerbaijan-NATO Military Cooperation”**, elucidates the main directions of Azerbaijan’s cooperation with the

²⁶ İlham Əliyev Pakistanın Birləşmiş Qərargah Rəisləri Komitəsi sədrinin başçılıq etdiyi nümayəndə heyətini videoformatda qəbul edib: [Elektron resurs] / - 3 mart, 2021. URL:<https://president.az/articles/50785>

Alliance in the field of defense, which began in 1994 with its joining the NATO PfP Program. Here, the essence of various programs, which are considered the main mechanism of Azerbaijan-NATO military cooperation, is explained, and the activities of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces, as well as the State Border Service and the State Security Service, in the implementation of the goals they have undertaken within the framework of these programs are investigated. It should be noted that Azerbaijan-NATO military cooperation has created favorable conditions for the application of modern educational standards in military training and education, the study of foreign languages and the improvement of teaching in this field, as well as the expansion of relations with relevant institutions of the Alliance member states. During the nearly 30-year historical period of Azerbaijan-NATO relations cooperation in the military field has expanded year by year and significant results have been achieved in this field.

The second paragraph is entitled “**Participation of Azerbaijani military personnel in UN peacekeeping operations**”. It explains the essence of the peacekeeping mission of the International Organization of the United Nations and elucidates the activities of Azerbaijani military personnel in peacekeeping operations conducted under the mandate of the UN in various regions of the world. According to the National Security Concept of Azerbaijan, participation in relevant peacekeeping operations together with the forces of NATO countries in order to resolve crises is considered one of the main directions of the defense policy of the Republic of Azerbaijan²⁷.

In order to participate in peacekeeping operations, a peacekeeping division of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces was established in 1997, and a peacekeeping battalion in 2001. Since 1999, Azerbaijani servicemen have participated in peacekeeping missions under the UN mandate (KFOR - Kosovo, ISAF - Afghanistan, Multinational Force - Iraq, UNMISS - Republic of South Sudan) and are currently participating. This, in turn,

²⁷Azərbaycan Respublikasının Milli Təhlükəsizlik Konsepsiyası. [Elektron resurs]/URL:http://www.mns.gov.az/img/3766779_5me02.%20Milli_Tehlukesizlik_Konsepsiyasi.pdf

demonstrates the high level of activity of the Azerbaijani peacekeeping contingent and its contribution to ensuring peace in the world. On the other hand, the exemplary service of Azerbaijani military personnel in peacekeeping missions increases the country's prestige in the international community.

The third paragraph, entitled “**Military Relations of Azerbaijan within the CIS,**” investigates the main directions of military cooperation of Azerbaijan within the Commonwealth of Independent States. This includes discussions on military and defense issues directly at the level of the Defense Ministers of the CIS member states, cooperation in the field of border service, terrorism and extremism, as well as combating crime.

President of Azerbaijan İlham Aliyev, who emphasized that cooperation in the military field is of great importance at the modern stage, taking into account the existing and potential threats in the region, has repeatedly noted in his speeches that the stability and sustainable development of the CIS member states largely depend on the mutual activities of the bodies ensuring the security of these states²⁸. At the same time, the development of military-political cooperation between the CIS countries serves to strengthen interstate relations, develop integration processes, and form a common foreign policy course that meets the national interests of each of the member states of the Commonwealth.

The **Conclusion** section of the dissertation summarizes and notes that the main goals of international military cooperation of Azerbaijan include studying international experience in ensuring the territorial integrity and inviolability of the borders of the country and acquiring military-political partners and allies, transforming the armed forces of the country into a professional army that meets modern standards and equipping them with the most modern weapons and equipment, implementing joint projects with defense industry complexes of foreign countries, and developing mutually beneficial military-technical cooperation.

Further, it is noted that having a military-strategic ally like Turkey is of great importance for Azerbaijan, first of all, in terms of

²⁸ İlham Əliyev MDB Müdafiə Nazirləri Şurasının iclasının iştirakçılarını qəbul edib: [Elektron resurs] / - 30 oktyabr, 2019.URL:<https://president.az/articles/34654>

ensuring its military security. With the signing of the Shusha Declaration between the two countries in June 2021, this alliance strengthened its legal basis. Acting as a joint defense mechanism, the Declaration will be a good basis for further expansion and dynamic development of military, military-political, military-technical cooperation between the two countries in the near future. Moreover, it is emphasized that the successful continuation of the Azerbaijan-Georgia-Turkiye trilateral cooperation and the holding of joint military exercises play an important role in ensuring the security of internationally important transport and energy projects.

So, the dynamics of international military cooperation relations of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the modern era give grounds to say that these relations will develop and expand on an upward trend. Observations of recent years show that the number of countries interested in cooperating with Azerbaijan in the field of defense is increasing. The factors that led to this include the fact that Azerbaijan has the strongest army and a developed defense industrial complex in the South Caucasian region. At the same time, the Victory achieved by Azerbaijan in the Second Karabakh War is one of the main factors that conditioned this. Moreover, specific proposals and recommendations have been put forward here for the further expansion of bilateral and multilateral cooperation relations of Azerbaijan with foreign states in the military field in the near future and for this cooperation to yield more effective results.

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

1. Heydər Əliyev və Azərbaycanın ordu quruculuğu //“Heydər Əliyev müstəqil Azərbaycan Respublikasının banisidir” mövzusunda doktorant və dissertantların elmi konfransının materialları, Azərbaycan Respublikasının Prezidenti yanında Dövlət İdarəçilik Akademiyası, Bakı,- 2013,- s. 56-62
2. Azərbaycan-NATO hərbi əməkdaşlığı // AR Təhsil Nazirliyi, Doktorantların və gənc tədqiqatçıların XVIII Respublika elmi konfransının materialları, Bakı,- 2013,- c.II,- s. 264-266

3. Azərbaycan Respublikasının xarici dövlətlərlə hərbi-texniki əməkdaşlığı // -Bakı: “Milli təhlükəsizlik və hərbi elmlər” adlı jurnal, - 2015. № 1,- s. 30-33
4. Azərbaycan Respublikasının hərbi sahədə beynəlxalq əməkdaşlığının əsas istiqamətləri // -Bakı: Azərbaycan Respublikasının Prezidenti yanında Dövlət İdarəçilik Akademiyasının “Dövlət idarəçiliyi: nəzəriyyə və təcrübə” jurnalı.- 2015. № 3 (51),- s.235-246
5. Azərbaycan Respublikası Silahlı Qüvvələrinin inkişaf mərhələləri: ölkədaxili islahatlar, beynəlxalq hərbi əməkdaşlıq // -Bakı: “Hərbi bilik” adlı jurnal.-2017. № 3 (147),- s. 3-20
6. Azərbaycan Xalq Cümhuriyyətinin hərbi sahədə beynəlxalq əməkdaşlıq əlaqələri //“Azərbaycan Cümhuriyyəti-100” İçərişəhər Dövlət Tarix-Memarlıq Qoruğu İdarəsinin hazırladığı kitab. Bakı,- 2018,- s. 367-386
7. Azərbaycan-Gürcüstan-Türkiyə üçtərəfli hərbi əməkdaşlığı // -Bakı: Azərbaycan Respublikasının Prezidenti yanında Dövlət İdarəçilik Akademiyasının “Dövlət idarəçiliyi: nəzəriyyə və təcrübə” jurnalı. -2019. № 2 (66),- s. 265-270
8. Azərbaycan-Türkiyə hərbi əməkdaşlığının inkişaf dinamikası // -Bakı: “Geostrategiya” jurnalı.- 2019. № 4 (52),- s. 37-43
9. Военное сотрудничество Азербайджанской Республики с Исламской Республикой Пакистан // -Türkiyə: “Akademik Tarih ve Düşünce Dergisi”.- 2019. № 6 (4), -s. 2077-2092
10. Военное сотрудничество Азербайджана с Россией: динамика развития отношений // “Приоритетные направления развития науки и образования” Сборник статей XIV Международной научно-практической конференции, - Пенза, -2020- s.45-49
11. Postmüharibə dövründə Azərbaycan Respublikasının hərbi sahədə beynəlxalq əməkdaşlıq əlaqələrinin inkişafı // -Bakı: Azərbaycan Respublikasının Prezidenti yanında Dövlət İdarəçilik Akademiyasının “Dövlət idarəçiliyi: nəzəriyyə və təcrübə” jurnalı. -2023. № 1 (83),- s.231-240



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