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ABSTRACT

of the dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

**OIL FACTOR IN AZERBAIJAN POLICY
OF GREAT BRITAIN (1991-2013)**

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF DISSERTATION

Relevance and degree of studying of the problem. The relevance of this study is conditioned by several factors. As is known, the history of relations between Azerbaijan and England has deep roots. Rich natural resources, favorable geopolitical and geo-economic position of Azerbaijan have always attracted foreign states, including Great Britain. Following its traditional foreign policy in the East, England for many decades has always shown interest in Azerbaijan, as a country rich in huge oil reserves and a convenient geographical location. So, from the late 19th - early 20th centuries, British capital began to actively participate in the exploitation of Baku oil.

During the First World War, Great Britain in its foreign policy paid special attention to Azerbaijan, which was primarily linked with its oil wealth. In a short period of time, Baku was twice occupied by British troops.

As is known, in the situation during the First World War, the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic was formed. And after the defeat of the Ottoman Empire and the signing of the Mudros Truce on October 30, 1918, Great Britain received a second opportunity to send its troops to Azerbaijan. In November 1918, on behalf of the Entente states, the British army entered Baku. In a short time, Great Britain established contacts with the government of Azerbaijan. But in the middle of 1919, due to the prevailing international circumstances, Great Britain refused to actively participate in Caucasian affairs and withdrew its troops from Azerbaijan.

With assistance from the British government in January 1920, the state independence of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic was recognized in Paris.

Along with geopolitical factors, Azerbaijan's oil played an important role here.

In April 1920, Azerbaijan was occupied by the Bolshevik Russia and was put an end to the existence of the Democratic Republic. The oil industry of Azerbaijan was nationalized by the Soviet government. All foreign companies were forced to leave Azerbaijan. Despite this, British companies continued to show a special interest in Azerbaijani

oil, trying to enter the oil sphere, both in the early years of Soviet rule and during the London, Genoa and Hague conferences. But within the framework of these conferences it was not possible to reach an agreement, they were not granted a concession, and was declared boycott to buy Soviet and Azerbaijani oil.

At the beginning of World War II, England, together with France, planned to bomb the oil fields of Baku, taking into account the fact that the USSR is highly dependent on the supply of oil from Azerbaijan in the conduct of the war. But the powerful attack of the German army at that moment on the Western Front, forced the Allies to postpone their plans.

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, after the end of the Cold War and the outbreak of crises in the USSR, the great powers, including Great Britain, revived their former interests in Azerbaijani oil. And after the collapse of the Soviet Union, negotiations in this area became more intense.

It is known that oil is the national treasure of the Azerbaijani people, in addition, a powerful instrument in the foreign policy of the Republic of Azerbaijan, thanks to which relations are built with a significant number of states and which helps Azerbaijan maintain its importance in the region and helps to resolve many internal and international issues.

Since the first days of the restoration of state independence, Great Britain took certain steps to create bilateral relations with the Republic of Azerbaijan. British companies made the first attempts to sign agreements on the development of oil fields. As a nuclear power and a permanent member of the UN Security Council, as well as one of the leading states in the world, Great Britain has a special authority in solving the most important international problems, has the power to influence their status. All these factors lead to the establishment and development of relations between two countries, created the need for the implementation of specific measures to strengthen them.

It should be noted that the first attempts by the Azerbaijani government to establish relations were incomplete for a number of reasons. Only after the National Leader Heydar Aliyev came to

power, a new level was reached in relations between two states, as well as in the field of oil cooperation. Evaluating the establishment of relations between Great Britain and the Republic of Azerbaijan, Heydar Aliyev noted: *"To make close ties between the Republic of Azerbaijan and England, first of all, is very important for the national interests of our country"*¹.

As a result of the gigantic efforts of Heydar Aliyev, the "Contract of the Century" was signed, in which BP also participated. Such large oil projects as the "Contract of the Century", MEP BTC contributed to the transformation of the Republic of Azerbaijan into a leading energy actor in Europe.

After the signing of the "Contract of the Century", cooperation between Great Britain and the Republic of Azerbaijan in the energy sector has become widespread and has yielded positive results. In turn, this had a beneficial effect on the development of bilateral relations in various spheres of political, cultural, humanitarian and scientific life.

One of the goals of the oil strategy, developed by Heydar Aliyev, was to attract investments from well-known international companies. Certainly, a huge role in this area belonged to the British company BP, which has been successfully operating for years, being the operator of the largest oil and gas projects in Azerbaijan. These large investments made by British companies have played a decisive role in the socio-economic development of Azerbaijan. In this regard, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan İlham Aliyev said: *"Our goal is not only to extract oil, transport it and raise funds. Our goal is to direct all income from oil - political, economic, and other resources for the benefit of the future of the Azerbaijani people, for increasing their well-being"*².

Therefore, the study of the oil factor role in establishment and development of bilateral relations between Great Britain and the Republic of Azerbaijan is relevant. It is necessary to study the

¹ Əliyev, H.Ə. Müstəqilliyimiz əbədidir: [46 cilddə] / H.Əliyev. – Bakı: Azərnaşr, - c. 1. – 1997. – s. 414

² Əliyev, İ.H. İnkişaf məqsədimizdir: [101 cilddə] / İ.H.Əliyev. – Bakı: Azərnaşr, c.18. – 2014. – s. 262

experience of cooperation in the field of energy and draw necessary conclusions for the further development of relations between two countries.

It should be noted that in Azerbaijani historiography there are some works devoted to the relations between Azerbaijan and Great Britain. However, a comprehensive and systematic study of relations within the framework of oil cooperation for 1991-2013 has not been carried out and the influence of the energy factor on bilateral relations insufficiently considered.

It is known that the energy factor influences international relations in many aspects. This process is quite complex in its structure and is considered important for the development of cooperation or rivalry between states. Based on this, it becomes necessary to study comprehensively the place and role of the oil factor in the relationship between the Republic of Azerbaijan and Great Britain.

The relevance of the study is conditioned also by the fact that a deep study of relations between Azerbaijan and Great Britain in the history of international relations is important since the effectiveness of the development and implementation of energy projects directly depends on political circumstances, and above all, on the nature of British-Azerbaijani relations. The study of the oil factor in the relationship between Great Britain and the Republic of Azerbaijan for the specified period, both from a scientific-historical, and from a political and economic point of view, is relevant.

Although individual issues of the problem were considered it should be noted that in the historiography of Azerbaijan, a comprehensive and sufficiently in-depth study was not carried out. The dissertation work presented for defense in this direction is the first step. In order to study historical traditions in relations between Azerbaijan and Great Britain, to analyze key issues within the framework of bilateral political and economic cooperation, in order to define the main factors leading the current situation and future prospects for relations are referred to many fundamental works on the history of the two countries.

First of all, it is necessary to note the works of Azerbaijani authors. As is known, Anglo-Azerbaijani relations have a rich history, the study of which helps to deeply analyze the current state of relations. In order to study the historical traditions in the relations between Azerbaijan and England during the Middle Ages and the years of existence of the ADR, also to study the state of the oil industry in Azerbaijan, the works of Azerbaijani authors were used. Thus, in the work of Y.Mahmudov, the history of relations between the Safavid state and European powers, including England, is studied³.

D.G.Hasanzadeh⁴ investigated the issues of trade and diplomatic relations between England and the Safavi state during the Ottoman-Safavi wars.

M.Mehtizadeh's book⁵ reveals the place of Azerbaijani oil in world politics and the position of Great Britain at the beginning of the 20th century.

M.Ibrahimov and M.Ismailov, on the basis of archival materials, investigated the development problems of the oil industry in Azerbaijan, studied the activities of foreign, including British oil companies in the production of oil in Azerbaijan in the late 19th and early 20th centuries⁶.

The book by M.Mirbabayev gives a brief history of Azerbaijani oil and the participation of foreign capital in the oil industry⁷.

In the works of M.J.Gasimov on the basis of reliable historical documents are comprehensively analyzed the main economic, political and geostrategic factors that determined British interests in Azerbaijan during the years of the First World War. The author notes

³ Махмудов, Я.М. Взаимоотношения государств Аккоюнлу и Сэфэвидов с западноевропейскими странами / Я.М.Махмудов. – Баку: БГУ, – 1991. – 264 с.

⁴ Гасан-заде, Д.Г. Некоторые проблемы торгово-дипломатических отношений Англии с государством Сэфэвидов в период Осmano-Сефевидских войн // – Баку: Bakı Universitetinin Xəbərləri. Humanitar elmlər, – 2002, №2, – s. 43-48.

⁵ Mehdizadə, M. Beynəlmiləl siyasətdə petrol / M.Mehdizadə. – Bakı: Azərənəşr, – 1994. – 60 s.

⁶ Ибрагимов, М. Нефтяная промышленность Азербайджана в период империализма / М.Ибрагимов. – Баку: ЭЛМ, – 1984. – 240 с.

⁷ Mirbabayev, M. Azərbaycan neftinin qısa tarixi / M.Mirbabayev. – Bakı: İTRİ ARDNŞ, – 2008. – 335 s.

that at the last stage of the First World War, hostilities were fought for the possession of Mosul and Baku oil, and the oil factor had a decisive impact on the formation of the Azerbaijani policy of Great Britain⁸.

In the book of S.Z.Yusifzadeh⁹, the establishment of relationships between two states during the existence of the ADR was widely considered. The author devotes a separate chapter of the monograph to the establishment and development of political relations between the two states. In addition, the work is devoted to the study of the penetration of English capital into the oil-industrial region of Azerbaijan at the end of the 19th - beginning of the 20th century.

The work of G.Rizayeva¹⁰ examines the place of Azerbaijan in the eastern policy of Great Britain, including the essence of its Caucasian policy during and after the First World War.

As is known, after the First World War the Azerbaijani oil took a special place in international and interstate relations. The issue of the place and role of Azerbaijani oil in international relations after the occupation of Azerbaijan by the Bolsheviks is studied in the monographs of M.Gasimov¹¹ and Sh.Salimov¹². Based on archival materials, they examine the policy of Great Britain, its position at the

⁸ Qasimov, M. Birinci dünya müharibəsi illərində böyük dövlətlərin Azərbaycan siyasəti (1914-1918-ci illər) [3 cilddə] / M.Qasimov. – Bakı: Qanun, – c.1. – 2000. – 299 s.; Qasimov, M. Birinci dünya müharibəsi illərində böyük dövlətlərin Azərbaycan siyasəti (1914-1918-ci illər) [3 cilddə] / M.Qasimov. – Bakı: Adiloğlu, – c.2. – 2001. – 405 s.; Qasimov, M. Birinci dünya müharibəsi illərində böyük dövlətlərin Azərbaycan siyasəti (1914-1918-ci illər) [3 cilddə] / M.Qasimov. – Bakı: Adiloğlu, – c.3. – 2001. – 532 s.

⁹ Юсифзаде, С. З. Азербайджано-британские отношения в начале XX века / С.З.Юсифзаде. – Баку: ТПП Тахсил, - 2008. – 128 с.; Юсиф-заде, С.З. Первая Азербайджанская Республика: история, события, факты англо-азербайджанских отношений / С.З.Юсиф-заде. - Баку: Маариф, - 1998. – 208 с.

¹⁰ Ризаева, Г.А. Азербайджанская политика Великобритании в начале XX века: / автореферат дис. на соискание ученой степени доктора философии по истории / Баку, 2009. – 27 с.

¹¹ Qasimov, M. Xarici dövlətlər və Azərbaycan / M.Qasimov. – Bakı: Qanun, - 1998. – 356 s.

¹² Səlimov, Ş. Azərbaycan nefti beynəlxalq münasibətlərdə (1920-1922-ci illər) / Ş.Səlimov. – Bakı: Bakı Universiteti, - 2005. – 160 s.

London, Genoa and Hague conferences, during which issues of cooperation in the oil sector were also discussed. These monographs note that at international conferences, British diplomatic, political and oil circles tried to obtain oil concessions in Baku, but they failed to achieve this.

Separate books are devoted to the issues of Azerbaijan's oil strategy, the establishment and development of relations between the two countries. Thus, the book "Heydar Aliyev's Oil Strategy", which consists of two volumes, provides information on all SOCAR agreements signed with foreign companies until 2001, and the process of implementing an oil strategy. The second volume also contains materials on Heydar Aliyev's meetings with representatives of foreign companies, during which, along with energy issues, international issues were also discussed.

Foreign policy issues of the Republic of Azerbaijan in 1991-2003 studied in the first volume of M.Gasimly's monograph¹³, which analyzes the new energy policy, signed contracts with foreign companies, and the construction of the main BTC export pipeline. And in the second volume, using archival documents introduced into scientific circulation for the first time, the issues of establishing and developing bilateral relations between Great Britain and the Republic of Azerbaijan were studied.

In the works of A.M.Hasanov,¹⁴ the relations between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the European states, as well as with Great Britain, were studied and scientific generalizations were given.

¹³ Гасымлы, М.Внешняя политика Азербайджана (1993-2003): [в 2 томах] / М.Гасымлы. – Москва: Инсан, - т.1. – 2016. – 704 с.; Гасымлы, М.Внешняя политика Азербайджана (1993-2003): [в 2 томах] / М.Гасымлы. – Москва: Инсан, - т.2. – 2016. – 720 с.

¹⁴ Həsənov, Ə.M. Azərbaycanın xarici siyasəti: Avropa dövlətləri və ABŞ (1991-1996) / Ə.Həsənov. - Bakı: Azər nəşr, - 1998. – 315 s.; Həsənov, Ə.M. Müasir beynəlxalq münasibətlər və Azərbaycanın xarici siyasəti / Ə.M. Həsənov. - Bakı: Azərbaycan nəşriyyatı, - 2005. – 752 s.; Həsənov, Ə.M. Azərbaycanın geoiqtisadiyyatı. Dərslük. / Ə.M.Həsənov. - Bakı: Zərdabi LTD MMC, - 2015.- 1056 s.; Həsənov Ə.M. Xəzər-Qara dəniz hövzəsi və Cənubi Qafqazın geoiqtisadiyyatı: Azərbaycanın enerji siyasəti.Bakı: Zərdabi LTD MMC, 2016. – 296 s.

The monographs also studied the exploitation of the energy resources of the Caspian Sea, and getting them to the world market, etc.

In E.Mammadli's book¹⁵, although the establishment and development of relations between the two states for 1991-2003 was studied, this work is not devoted to the role of the oil factor in the Azerbaijani policy of Great Britain.

In I.Mirzabeyli's book is given information about relations between the Republic of Azerbaijan and Great Britain, covering 1991-2003¹⁶. But the influence of the oil factor on the relationship was not the object of study.

A.Habibbeyli, referring to extensive statistical materials, studied the issues of economic cooperation between two countries and observed the existence of prospects¹⁷. However, in the work are not considered the influence of the oil factor on the development of relationships.

E.Nasirov in his work¹⁸ studied the oil contracts signed with foreign companies.

In the book by A.Sh.Yagubova were studied individual stages of prolonged diplomatic struggle under the leadership of the National Leader Heydar Aliyev on the way to preparation and implementation of an oil strategy of the Republic of Azerbaijan¹⁹. Although in the monograph is devoted a certain place to relations with Great Britain, the role of oil factor in the Azerbaijani policy of Great Britain is not considered separately.

¹⁵ Məmmədli, E. Azərbaycan-Böyük Britaniya münasibətləri 1991-2003 / E. Məmmədli. – Bakı: Adiloğlu, - 2003. - 173 s.

¹⁶ Azərbaycan-Böyük Britaniya: əməkdaşlıq və tərəfdaşlıq (1991-2001). Tarixi xronika / tərt. ed. İ. Mirzəbəyli – Bakı: Azərbaycan-Böyük Britaniya Gənclər Cəmiyyəti, - 2001. – 449 s.

¹⁷ Həbibbəyli, Ə. Azərbaycan Respublikasının Böyük Britaniya və Şimali İrlandiya Birləşmiş Krallığı ilə iqtisadi əlaqələri / Ə.Həbibbəyli. – Bakı: Nurlan, - 2007. - 215 s.

¹⁸ Nəsirov, E. Azərbaycan nefti və beynəlxalq müqavilələr (1991-1999) / E. Nəsirov. – Bakı: Respublika, - 1999. – 104 s.

¹⁹Yaqubova, A.Ş. Azərbaycanın neft diplomatiyası: əfsanələr gerçəkləşir / A.Ş.Yaqubova. – Bakı: Azər nəşr, – 2004. – 162 s.

In the monographs of A.Mehdiyev²⁰ are systematically studied and analyzed the state of the oil industry in Azerbaijan at the last quarter of the 19th century, issues of impact of foreign capital, including British capital, the factors that led to the signing of the "Contract of the Century", the difficulties that arose during the stage by stage negotiations between the government of Azerbaijan and foreign companies, the main provisions of the contract, the balance of various geopolitical interests of Azerbaijan in the region and the efforts made to protect its positions. Increased capital inflows into the oil and gas industry of Azerbaijan after the "Contract of the Century" and other production sharing agreements, their economic and political nature, the creation of modern infrastructure and an extensive oil export system as a result of the application of new technologies, steps taken by the government to overcome obstacles and pressures from outside, assessment of the positive impact of the measures taken on the socio-economic development of the country, on its international position and other issues for the first time were comprehensively studied as a separate research object.

I.Musa's textbook for higher educational institutions, consisting of three parts, explores the issues of oil and gas diplomacy, achievements and prospects, relations with the UK, and the main areas of cooperation²¹. The author's work is important in the study of the problem.

J. Alakbarov researched the relations between Great Britain and the Republic of Azerbaijan in the political, economic and cultural spheres in 1991-2008²². In the work, oil cooperation is considered in the context of economic relations, but the influence of

²⁰ Mehdiyev, Ə. B. Azərbaycan neft sənayesi XIX yüzilin son rübündə / Ə.B.Mehdiyev. - Bakı: Altay, - 2000. – 128 s.; Mehdiyev, Ə.B. Əsrin müqaviləsi: Azərbaycan neft strategiyasının təməl daşı / Ə.B.Mehdiyev. – Bakı: Turxan NPB, - 2014. - 248 s.

²¹ İsmayıl, M. Azərbaycanın xarici siyasəti [3 cildə] / Çağdaş beynəlxalq münasibətlər və Azərbaycanın xarici siyasəti. – Bakı: Bakı Universiteti Nəşriyyatı, – c.3. – 2011. – 776 s.

²² Ələkbərov, C.M. Azərbaycan-Böyük Britaniya əlaqələri (1991-2008-ci illər) / C.M.Ələkbərov: / tarix üzrə fəlsəfə doktoru dis.avtoreferatı. / Bakı, 2018. – 25 s.

the oil factor on the development of relations between the two states is not studied separately.

The works of J.Bahramov²³ in terms of studying the issues of the exploitation of Azerbaijani oil and international cooperation in this area also generate interest, although they are not devoted to the topic the influence of the oil factor on British-Azerbaijani relations.

In the works of G.Musayeva²⁴, the author of this dissertation, place and role of the oil factor in the Azerbaijani policy of Great

²³ Bəhramov, C.Ə. Azərbaycan nefti / C.Ə.Bəhrəmov. - Bakı: ARDNŞ, - 2010. - 352 s.; Bəhramov, C.Ə. Azərbaycan Respublikasının milli neft sənayesi dövlət müstəqilliyinin bərpasının ilk illərində (1991-1994-cü illər) // Bakı: Strateji təhlil, - 2016, № 3 (17), - s.45-50; Бахрамов, Дж.А. Из истории создания морской нефтяной промышленности в Азербайджане и за рубежом // -Bakı: Azərbaycan tarixinin problemləri. Məqalələr toplusu. Bakı, - 1993. - s. 274-279; Бахрамов, Дж.А. Британо-азербайджанские экономические связи и нефтяной фактор // - Bakı: AMEA A.A.Bakıxanov adına Tarix İnstitutunun Elmi əsərlər, - 2016. 59-cu cild, - s.100-117; Bahramov J.A. The oil strategy of the republic of Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation's policy on the south Caucasus (1994 - 2004) // . The Caucasus and the world. International Scientific journal, - 2014. № 17, - p. 36 – 42

²⁴ Мусаева, Г.М. Нефтяные интересы Великобритании на Южном Кавказе (1991-2013 гг.) // Qafqazşünasların I Beynəlxalq Forumunun materialları, - Bakı: - 17 aprel-18 aprel, - 2017, - s.1- s.224-229; Мусаева, Г.М.Азербайджан-Великобритания: первые шаги сотрудничества\ - Bakı: Geostrategiya, - 2017.№04(40) iyul-avqust, - s.55-57; Мусаева, Г.М. Деятельность компании ВР в нефтяном секторе Азербайджана (90-е гг. XX века) \ Azərbaycan Xalq Cümhuriyyətinin 100 illiyinə həsr olunmuş “Qafqazda dövlətlərarası münasibətlər: 100 il əvvəl və müasir dövr” mövzusunda beynəlxalq elmi konfrans, - Bakı: - 23-24 may, - 2018, s. 241-247.; Мусаева, Г.М. Нефтяные интересы Великобритании в Азербайджане: история и современность \ - Самара: Научный аспект, 2019. № 2, т.8, - с.1011-1024; Мусаева, Г.М. Нефтяной фактор в политике Великобритании в Азербайджане: история и современность // - Москва: Вопросы национальных и федеративных отношений, 2019. № 10(55), - с. 1767-1774; Мусаева, Г.М. Политика Великобритании на Южном Кавказе (1917-1918 гг.)// Материалы Всероссийской научной конференции «Юг России в условиях потрясений, вооруженных конфликтов и социально-политических кризисов, 1917-2017 гг», - Ростов-на-Дону: - 5 – 6 октября, - 2017, - с. 41-46.; Мусаева, Г.М. Проект Баку-Тбилиси-Джейхан и страны Большого Кавказа // Материалы V Международного форума историков-кавказоведов «Большой Кавказ: пространство взаимодействия цивилизаций и народов», - Ростов-на-Дону: - 15-16 ноября, - 2017, с. 319-325

Britain in 1991–2013 were comprehensively studied, using archival documents and other reliable sources.

In writing the dissertation, the works of foreign authors also were used. The works of such authors from Russia, Great Britain, USA, Canada as A.Sivkov²⁵, A.Rayeovsky²⁶, A.A.Fursenko²⁷, D.Yergin²⁸, T.Weingard²⁹, M.Baskhanov³⁰, etc. were also valuable in terms of factual material.

So, A.Sivkov studied the fierce struggle in the world for oil sources at the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th centuries.

A.Rayeovsky studied the British policy towards Azerbaijan in 1918-1920 and noted the important role of the oil factor.

A.A.Fursenko studied the struggle in the world for oil sources in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and also brought to the attention the interests of English companies.

D.Yergin in his work studied the influence of oil on world politics, also wrote about the impact of the oil factor on the events taking place in Azerbaijan at the beginning of the 20th century.

T.Weingard in his monograph touches on British interests in the East, analyzes the main factors predisposing the penetration of British capital and companies into the Azerbaijani oil industry during the First World War. The author also points out that the First World War was waged for the acquisition of oil sources.

²⁵ Сивков, А. Мировая борьба за нефть / А.Сивков. - Ленинград: Редакционно-Издательский отдел морских сил РККФ, - 1926. - 120 с.

²⁶ Раевский, А. Английская интервенция и мусаватское правительство / А. Раевский.-Баку, - 1927. –192 с.

²⁷ Фурсенко, А.А. Нефтяные тресты и мировая политика (1880-е годы-1918 г.) / А.А. Фурсенко. - Москва: Наука, - 1965. - 496 с.

²⁸ Ергин, Д. Добыча: всемирная история борьбы за нефть, деньги и власть \ Д.Ергин. – Москва: Альпина Паблицер, - 2019. - 944 с

²⁹ Winegard, T.C. The first world oil war / T.C.Winegard. – London: University of Toronto Press, - 2016. – 285 p.

³⁰ Басханов, М. Между хаосом и созиданием: Азербайджан в 1918-1920 гг. по материалам британских архивов // Qafqazşünaşların birinci beynəlxalq forumunun materialları, - Bakı: - 17-18 aprel, - 2017, - s. 47-53

M.Baskhanov studied the occupation of Baku twice by the British Expeditionary Force in 1918-1920, studied its impact on ongoing events and processes.

Thus, as it is clear from the review of scientific literature, to some extent related to the problem under study, the role of the oil factor in the Azerbaijani policy of Great Britain separately and within the given chronological framework (1991-2013) has not been studied either in native or in foreign historiography. And the presented dissertation work is an important step in this direction.

During the study, various sources were introduced into scientific circulation. They can be classified in the following order: the works of the national leader of the Azerbaijani people Heydar Aliyev³¹; the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan İlham Aliyev's works, archival materials of the Milli Məjlis; documents of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijan Republic³²; texts of signed oil contracts; annual reports of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Azerbaijan Republic; BP's annual reports; information posted on the official websites of the UK government, documents on the websites of international organizations; periodical materials. The multi-volume work of Heydar Aliyev is a fundamental source for the study

³¹ Əliyev, H.Ə. Müstəqilliyimiz əbədidir: [46 cilddə] / H.Əliyev. – Bakı: Azərənəşr, - c. 1. – 1997. – 612 s.; Əliyev, H.Ə. Müstəqilliyimiz əbədidir: [46 cilddə] / H.Əliyev. – Bakı: Azərənəşr, - c. 2. – 1997. – 604 s.; Əliyev, H.Ə. Müstəqilliyimiz əbədidir: [46 cilddə] / H.Əliyev. – Bakı: Azərənəşr, - c. 5. – 1998. – 500 s.; Əliyev, H.Ə. Müstəqilliyimiz əbədidir: [46 cilddə] / H.Əliyev. – Bakı: Azərənəşr, - c. 6. – 1998. – 512 s.; Əliyev, H.Ə. Müstəqilliyimiz əbədidir: [46 cilddə] / H.Əliyev. – Bakı: Azərənəşr, - c. 16. – 2005. – 552 s.

³² Azərbaycanın xarici siyasəti: Sənədlər məcmuəsi 2004 [2 cilddə] / Azərbaycan Respublikası Xarici İşlər Nazirliyi. – Bakı: “GARİSMA” MMC, - c. 1. – 2009. – 798 s.; Azərbaycanın xarici siyasəti: Sənədlər məcmuəsi 2005 [2 cilddə] / Azərbaycan Respublikası Xarici İşlər Nazirliyi. – Bakı: “GARİSMA” MMC, - c. 1. – 2009. – 648 s.; Azərbaycanın xarici siyasəti: Sənədlər məcmuəsi 2007 [2 cilddə] / Azərbaycan Respublikası Xarici İşlər Nazirliyi. – Bakı: “GARİSMA” MMC, - c. 1. – 2009. – 703 s.; Azərbaycanın xarici siyasəti: Sənədlər məcmuəsi 2008 [2 cilddə] / Azərbaycan Respublikası Xarici İşlər Nazirliyi. – Bakı: “GARİSMA” MMC, - c. 1. – 2009. – 655 s.; Azərbaycanın xarici siyasəti: Sənədlər məcmuəsi 2008 [2 cilddə] / Azərbaycan Respublikası Xarici İşlər Nazirliyi. – Bakı: “GARİSMA” MMC, - c. 2. – 2009. – 440 s.

of Azerbaijani-British relations, as well as the oil sector. These books comprehensively set out the fundamental foundations and directions, the place and role of the oil factor in the relationship between the two countries, the essence of the energy policy of Azerbaijan, the signed oil contracts, their significance, cooperation with foreign companies, as well as the factors that determine the development of relations between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the UK.

Ilham Aliyev's book "Caspian Oil of Azerbaijan"³³ and multi-volume work³⁴ are important sources in the study of this problem. In these works, the basic principles, directions of relations between two states, goals and objectives were determined, which were taken as the basis for signing oil contracts. The period of new structure of the oil industry was also deeply analyzed, the issues of oil produced in the Azeri-Chirag-Guneshli fields, the activities of SOCAR and AIOC, Baku-Novorossiysk, Baku-Supsa, Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipelines were comprehensively considered.

The annual reports of the Cabinet of Ministers in the Republic of Azerbaijan are reliable sources for studying the role of the oil factor in the Azerbaijani policy of Great Britain. It also gives the main directions and development dynamics of cooperation between the two states.

As is known, the signed oil contracts were ratified in the parliament, therefore, in dissertation work for the first time archival materials of the Milli Majlis were introduced into scientific circulation. In these documents are given the speeches and positions of the parliamentarians at the time of approving the oil agreements.

³³ Алиев, И.Г. Каспийская нефть Азербайджана / И.Г.Алиев. – Москва: Известия, - 2003. – 712 с.

³⁴ Əliyev, İ.H. İnkişaf məqsədimizdir: [101 cilddə] / İ.H.Əliyev. – Bakı: Azər nəşr, c.5. – 2010. – 392 s.; Əliyev, İ.H. İnkişaf məqsədimizdir: [101 cilddə] / İ.H.Əliyev. – Bakı: Azər nəşr, c.14. – 2013. – 400 s.; Əliyev, İ.H. İnkişaf məqsədimizdir: [101 cilddə] / İ.H.Əliyev. – Bakı: Azər nəşr, c.18. – 2014. – 424 s.; Əliyev, İ.H. İnkişaf məqsədimizdir: [101 cilddə] / İ.H.Əliyev. – Bakı: Azər nəşr, c.47. – 2017. – 400 s.; Əliyev, İ.H. İnkişaf məqsədimizdir: [101 cilddə] / İ.H.Əliyev. – Bakı: Azər nəşr, c.64. – 2018. – 396 s.; Əliyev, İ.H. İnkişaf məqsədimizdir: [101 cilddə] / İ.H.Əliyev. – Bakı: Azər nəşr, c.83. – 2019. – 392 s.

Documents of the MFA of the Republic of Azerbaijan are the main source in the study of this problem. Treaties, agreements, declarations, communiqués and other documents signed between the governments of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Great Britain in the years under study were used.

In the dissertation, documents and materials containing information about activities of the BP Company in Azerbaijan for 2001-2013 were used. BP's annual reports gave a complete picture of the company's work in Azerbaijan, both in the oil and non-oil sectors, and participation in certain programs of social, humanitarian and regional development.

It should be noted that the information posted on the official websites of the British government served as an important source for studying the main directions of the British policy in Azerbaijan, studying the position of its official circles.

To study the position of Great Britain in the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, which arose as a result of the military aggression of Armenia against the Republic of Azerbaijan, documents of some international organizations were used.

Materials from periodicals, which contain valuable information concerning the main aspects of bilateral relations were also used in the dissertation.

The study and comprehensive analysis of documentary sources shows that a deep study of the oil factor role in the establishment and development of relations between the Republic of Azerbaijan and Great Britain is important and relevant.

Object and subject of the research. The object of the research is to study the role of oil factor in the Azerbaijan policy of Great Britain in 1991-2013. The subject of the study is the factors that determine the establishment and development of relations, the place and role of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the Great Britain's energy policy, signed oil contracts of British companies with the government of Azerbaijan, the activities of BP in Azerbaijan, the expansion of political and economic relations between two states, the position of Great Britain in the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Aim and tasks of the research. The main aim of the dissertation work is to study the role of the oil factor in the Azerbaijani policy of Great Britain in 1991-2013. This study, being the first step towards a comprehensive study of the above problem, at the same time is the first attempt to consider the oil factor against the backdrop of bilateral and multilateral cooperation between the two countries. Based on this aim, attempts were made to solve the following tasks:

- to study, classify and analyze literature, sources and materials in different languages, dedicated to the relationship between the UK and Azerbaijan;

- consider the historical experience of bilateral relations and the place of Azerbaijani oil in the policy of England in the East;

- outline the factors that determine the creation of relations between two states after the state independence restoration of the Republic of Azerbaijan;

- identify the place and role of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the energy policy of the UK

- analyze the essence of the signed oil contracts and their political and economic aspects;

- identify the essence of BP's activities in the Republic of Azerbaijan in the oil and non-oil sector

- determine the influence of the oil factor on the development of political and economic relations between two states;

- reveal the British government position in the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and the influence of the oil factor on this issue.

Research methods. In the dissertation work were applied generally recognized, complex scientific approaches to historical research. The following methods were used: historical-chronological, historical-genetic, historical-comparative, content analysis, critical analysis, generalization of the obtained results, forecasting.

Basic provisions for defense:

- The end of the Cold War and collapse of the USSR, creation of new independent states again intensified the policy of Great Britain in the South Caucasus. Azerbaijan, with its rich energy resources, as in

1918-1920, began to attract the attention of the British government. Oil interests have become the most important factor influencing the formation of British policy towards Azerbaijan.

- The development of Azerbaijan's oil and gas fields has become one of the most important areas of cooperation between the two states. Large contracts were signed by the Azerbaijani government with British companies, in particular with BP. BP has acted with a high proportion of investments in the largest oil and gas projects and was selected as the operator. Along with the oil sector, the company actively participated in the implementation of social and humanitarian programs in Azerbaijan, supported the government's line of combating unemployment, contributed to improving the quality of refugees life and internally displaced persons.

- Cooperation in the energy sector played an important role in the participation of the two states on different platforms within the framework of international organizations, the supporting by Great Britain the fair position of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Great Britain unequivocally supported the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Scientific novelty of research. The scientific novelty of the dissertation work, first of all, lies in the formulation of problem. In this dissertation, for the first time in Azerbaijani historiography, the issue of the place and role of the oil factor in the Azerbaijani policy of Great Britain in 1991-2013 is comprehensively studied. In the work, along with the positive, the dubious moments in cooperation of states are also considered. For the first time in the dissertation:

- based on the study and analysis of reliable sources and literature, it is concluded that the oil wealth of Azerbaijan was the main predisposing factor in establishing relations between two countries;

- it is shown that, while remaining committed to its traditional policy, Great Britain, even after the restoration of the state independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan, put oil cooperation as the basis of bilateral relations;

- the oil contracts signed before 2013 between British companies and the Azerbaijani government are being studied, and for the first time their impact on the foreign policy of the Republic of Azerbaijan, strengthening its international position, reviving the country's economic potential, and solving many social problems is determined, including the role of these contracts in adoption of resolutions in international organizations on the settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, in which the UK was directly involved;

- the activities of BP in the Republic of Azerbaijan, not only in the oil, but also in the non-oil sector is highlighted. It is concluded that the implementation of a wide range of social and humanitarian programs by BP in the Republic of Azerbaijan also had an impact on the strengthening of interstate relations;

- the influence of oil factor on the cooperation between two states on a bilateral and multilateral basis is revealed.

Theoretical value and the practical significance of the study.

The main provisions, as well as the conclusions and generalizations of the dissertation work can be used in further scientific research, in the preparation of generalizing works, lectures and seminars on the history of international relations in higher educational institutions, in the preparation of textbooks and teaching aids. The materials of the dissertation can be used in the system of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Diaspora Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan, parliamentary diplomacy, in the propaganda work of the media and in the activities of various public, non-governmental organizations.

Approbation and application. The main provisions and conclusions of the dissertation work are set out in 21 scientific articles and thesis. 8 articles have been published in scientific journals of Russia, Ukraine and Azerbaijan. In the materials of international conferences held in Turkey, Russia, Ukraine and Azerbaijan, 8 articles and 5 theses were published.

The name of organization where the dissertation work was carried out. The dissertation work was performed at the Department of International Relations and Foreign Policy of the Academy of Management under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The total volume of the dissertation. The work consists of an introduction, 3 chapters, a conclusion and a list of references. The total volume of the dissertation (excluding the list of references, list of abbreviations and tables) is 236 763 symbols. Introduction – 26 631, Chapter I – 84 878, Chapter II – 61 295, Chapter III – 47 256, Conclusion – 16 703 symbols.

THE MAIN CONTENT OF DISSERTATION

In the introduction, the relevance of the topic is substantiated, the state and degree of study are analyzed, a review of sources and literature is given, aims and tasks, methods, main provisions for defense, the degree of novelty, theoretical and practical significance of the study are defined.

The first chapter is **“Azerbaijan in the foreign policy of Great Britain”** and consists of two paragraphs. The first paragraph, titled **“Historical aspects of bilateral ties”** examines the historical ties of Great Britain with Azerbaijan since the Middle Ages, the formation of England's oil interests in Azerbaijan since the end of the 19th century, the participation of British companies in the oil industry of Azerbaijan, the place and role of Azerbaijan in the plans of England during the First World War and the struggle for the oil sources of Baku after the Bolshevik occupation. It is noted that Anglo-Azerbaijani relations have a deep history and rich tradition. At the end of the 19th - beginning of the 20th centuries England continued its attempt to realize its policy of grab in the South Caucasus. It is noted that during the beginning of the First World War, Azerbaijan was included in the plans of great powers. At the beginning of 1918, Azerbaijan turned out to be an arena of struggle between two groups: Anglo-French and Austro-German-Turkish, where the interests of Bolshevik Russia also intersected. It is emphasized that at the beginning of the 20th century, the British policy towards Azerbaijan was based on the following factors: oil interests and the acquisition of Baku oil sources in order to finance troops in Persia, Mesopotamia; the strategic importance of Azerbaijan for the defense of India on distant frontiers; suspension of

Bolshevik and Turkish influence in the Caucasus. Having captured Baku, the British troops sought to gain access to oil reserves and get out to Central Asia. After the British troops left Azerbaijan in the summer of 1919, they tried in every possible way to foothold in the oil industry of Baku and prevent other states from seizing Baku oil.

After the Bolshevik occupation in April 1920, the Baku oil industry was nationalized. In the 1920s, the issue of Azerbaijani oil became the subject of discussion at international conferences held in London, Genoa and The Hague, in which the British delegation also participated.

It is noted that in general, during the 70 years of Soviet rule, Baku oil was isolated and was under the control of the center. Under the new international conditions that emerged after the end of the Cold War, Azerbaijan's oil sources again became at the center of British interests.

The second paragraph of this chapter, titled **“Establishment and first steps of interstate relations between the UK and the Republic of Azerbaijan”**, examines the establishment and development of relations between the UK and the Republic of Azerbaijan after the restoration of state independence, analyzes the factors that determine the formation of relations between the two states in the 90s years. It is noted that after the state independence restoration of the Republic of Azerbaijan, prerequisites were created for the establishment of relations. The main step in the formation of relations between the countries was taken on December 31, 1991, when Great Britain, together with other countries of the European Union, recognized the state independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

After that, British companies also made the first attempts to sign cooperation agreements. Thus, in September 1992, former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Margaret Thatcher made a visit to Baku³⁵. She was present at the signing ceremony of agreements between the Azerbaijani government and BP of Great Britain and

³⁵ Azərbaycan-Böyük Britaniya: əməkdaşlıq və tərəfdaşlıq (1991-2001). Tarixi xronika / tərt. ed. İ. Mirzəbəyli – Bakı: Azərbaycan-Böyük Britaniya Gənclər Cəmiyyəti, - 2001. – s. 10-11

Statoil of Norway on specification of reserves in the Chirag field and in the promising “Shahdeniz” field.

The return to power of national leader Heydar Aliyev opened a new page in relations between Great Britain and the Republic of Azerbaijan. On February 22-25, 1994, the first official visit of the President Heydar Aliyev to Great Britain took place. Speaking about the purpose of the visit, Heydar Aliyev noted: “...*the visit of the President of Azerbaijan to Great Britain aims to establish and develop relations between our republic and Great Britain... England is one of the major states of the world. It is one of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, one of the seven most developed countries in the world. England, both in its past history and in its present state, has a very strong influence on world politics and economics. Therefore, the establishment of close ties between the Republic of Azerbaijan and England, first of all, is very important for the national interests of our country*”³⁶.

During the visit, documents were signed which laid treaty and legal basis for relations between the two states. Particularly important was the “Joint Declaration of Friendship and Cooperation between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland”. All these documents are analyzed.

The work analyzes the visit of Heydar Aliyev to London from November 28 to December 3, 1995. Heydar Aliyev spoke about the purpose of the visit: “*This event was organized with the aim of integrating Azerbaijan into the world economy, as well as determining the interests of investors from all over the world to Azerbaijan ... I believe that the London conference will provide good opportunities to raise this issue to a higher level. And I hope that the meetings held there will give good results*”³⁷.

³⁶ Əliyev, H.Ə. Müstəqilliyimiz əbədidir: [46 cilddə] / H.Əliyev. – Bakı: Azərneşr, - c. 1. – 1997. – s. 414

³⁷ Əliyev, H.Ə. Müstəqilliyimiz əbədidir: [46 cilddə] / H.Əliyev. – Bakı: Azərneşr, - c. 5. – 1998. – s. 15

It is noted that Heydar Aliyev's second official visit to Great Britain, which took place on July 19-24, 1998, opened a new page in relations between the two states³⁸.

The conducted research show that the interests of Great Britain in these years in Azerbaijan were determined by several factors: firstly, Azerbaijan is a country rich in huge oil reserves, but at the same time did not have sufficient financial resources and technical capabilities for the development of the oil industry, as well as to get it to the world market. The British government, represented by British companies, was interested in financing and supporting the development of the oil industry in order to acquire economic profit. Secondly, the restoration of the state independence of Azerbaijan opened new opportunities for Great Britain. Azerbaijan, which was in a state of war with Armenia, also internal political chaos and pressure from outside, needed the support of the West.

The second chapter of the dissertation is called **“The place of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the UK’s oil policy”** and consists of two paragraphs. The first paragraph, titled **“Oil contracts of British companies with the government of Azerbaijan”**, analyzes the signed oil contracts and their political and economic aspects over the years under study. It is noted that in the late 80s - early 90s, the oil industry of Azerbaijan experienced a deep crisis. Foreign experts who visited Baku in the meantime noted that Azerbaijan was 50 years behind the oil and gas countries in equipping the oil industry with modern equipment. Taken into account these factors, the solution from situation was in attracting foreign capital to the oil industry of Azerbaijan, increasing the production and processing of oil to enter the world market.

It is noted that the oil policy of the Republic of Azerbaijan, created by President Heydar Aliyev, was based on the following: the possibility of making the necessary investments from well-known international companies for the purpose of mutually beneficial partnership and gaining experience; creation of transportation to

³⁸ Əliyev, H.Ə. Müstəqilliyimiz əbədidir: [46 cilddə] / H.Əliyev. – Bakı: Azərneşr, - c. 16. – 2005. – s. 121

deliver Azerbaijani oil to the world market; creation of a new body responsible for the management of the country's oil revenues.

On September 20, 1994, a contract was signed at the Gulistan Palace, which later became known as the “Contract of the Century”. On December 2, 1994, the contract was ratified by the government of the Republic of Azerbaijan, after which it entered into force.

According to the “Joint Operations Agreement” signed between the members of the consortium, in February 1995, the Azerbaijan International Operating Company (AIOC) was established, which began its activities in January 1995³⁹. For the first time foreign companies have created a consortium.

During the following years, Production Sharing Agreements were signed with other foreign companies regarding various deposits. So, on June 4, 1996, an agreement was signed between 5 companies on the production sharing of the promising “Shahdeniz” structure, including the BP \ Statoil alliance (51%), SOCAR (10%), Lukoil (10%), Total FinaElf (10%), OIEC (10%), TPAO (9%)⁴⁰. According to the contract, the “Shahdeniz” field was supposed to have reserves of 190 million tons of oil and 500 billion cubic meters of gas.

Three agreements that were signed during the visit of Heydar Aliyev to the UK in July 1998 are analyzed. It is noted that after this visit, on August 25, 1998, Heydar Aliyev issued an order "On measures to expand partnership relations between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland"⁴¹.

British companies actively participated in the signing of contracts for the largest oil fields in Azerbaijan, and were in first place in terms of the amount of investments in portfolios. The

³⁹ Heydər Əliyevin neft strategiyası: Azərbaycanın müstəqilliyi və rifahı naminə [2 cildə] / tərt.ed. Azərbaycan Respublikası Prezidentinin Katibliyi. – Bakı: Nurlol, - c.1. – 2001. – s. 26

⁴⁰ Şahdəniz layihəsi (SD): [Elektron resurs] / URL: <https://www.sgc.az/az/layihe/sd>

⁴¹ Azərbaycan Respublikası ilə Böyük Britaniya və Şimali İrlandiya Birləşmiş Krallığı arasında partnyorluq münasibətlərinin genişləndirilməsi tədbirləri haqqında Azərbaycan Respublikası Prezidentinin Sərəncamı // Respublika. – 1998, 26 avqust. – s. 2.

English company Ramco was also a co-founder of AIOC, a consortium which established to implement the terms of the “Agreement on joint development and production sharing for the “Azeri” and “Chirag” fields and the deepwater section of the “Guneshli” field in the Azerbaijani sector of the Caspian Sea”.

One of the directions of the energy strategy of Azerbaijan was transportation its oil to the world market. The dissertation examines the obstacles to the implementation of the project.

The second paragraph of this chapter, titled **“BP’s activities in Azerbaijan”**, examines the main activities of the British company BP in the Republic of Azerbaijan, its oil and gas projects, and explores the company's social and humanitarian programs in the country. It is noted that the activities of the BP Company, besides participating in major projects in the oil and gas industry in Azerbaijan, are also implemented in the following areas: interaction with the government; striving for transparency of oil revenues; social investments; national and regional development; local business development.

The activities of BP played a significant role in the development of relations between the UK and the Republic of Azerbaijan. Over the years under study, Azerbaijan's relations with BP have been built on the basis of mutual support, trust, interests, and this has also had a beneficial effect on relations in other areas. The funds invested by the company, investments in Azerbaijan brought a large income. Both parties benefit, and this factor is the basis of successful cooperation. It is noted that BP was the largest investor in the oil sector and ranked second in the investment portfolio in the non-oil sector.

The funds invested by the company to Azerbaijan brought a large income. Both parties benefit, which is an important factor in successful cooperation. It is noted that BP was the largest investor in the oil sector and ranked second in the investment portfolio in the non-oil sector.

It is emphasized that the BP Company began to play an active role in the leading projects, the operator of which it was elected. In major projects such as ACG, “Shahdeniz”, BTC, BTE, the South

Caucasus gas pipeline, BP has successfully fulfilled its obligations. In general, over the years the consortium has produced about 400 million tons of oil. In addition, large investments have been made jointly with the consortium in social programs, regional development, environmental protection, etc. The activities of BP have shown that the material foundations of relations between Great Britain and the Republic of Azerbaijan are strong and there are great potentials for their further development.

The third chapter is called **“The influence of the oil factor on the development of British-Azerbaijani relations”** and consists of two paragraphs. The first paragraph, entitled **“Expansion of political and economic relations between the two states”** examines the influence of the oil factor on cooperation between the two states, both on a bilateral and multilateral basis. It is noted that oil was a key factor in the development of relations between the UK and the Republic of Azerbaijan in the years under study. Azerbaijan's favorable geographic location served as a transit corridor for supplying oil to Western markets and an alternative to reducing the West's dependence on Middle Eastern oil. Great Britain had a strategic interest in the development of oil and gas resources in Azerbaijan and in ensuring their access to European markets, bypassing the territories of Russia and Iran.

From 2004 to 2013, the official and business visits of the President Ilham Aliyev had great importance in terms of strengthening cooperation between the two countries. The visits of President Ilham Aliyev to the UK in 2004, 2009 and 2012, which played an important role in strengthening mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries, are analyzed.

The analysis shows that in the years under study, special attention was paid to cooperation in the field of energy security in relations between the two states. Both countries had common interests also at the international level.

Cooperation in various spheres of the economy, energy, trade, and industry with the United Kingdom, a country known throughout the world as a pillar of free trade, had particular importance for Azerbaijan. Thus, in 2011, the United Kingdom, as a result of a trade

turnover of 501 million US dollars, became Azerbaijan's 15th largest partner in the world and 4th in Europe. Based on the information of the State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan, in 2012, UK investments accounted for 51.7 percent of Azerbaijan's foreign investments⁴².

The second paragraph, titled "**The position of the UK in the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict**", examines the position of the UK in the settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and analyzes the impact of oil cooperation on this issue. It is noted that Great Britain has repeatedly stated that the conflict creates obstacles to stability and prosperity in the region and is considering a solution to the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict within the framework of the OSCE Minsk Group. The country's government also called on the parties to a peaceful settlement of this conflict. Taking into account the large capital investments of the British in the oil sector of Azerbaijan, an important role for them was played by the creation of stability in the region and the prevention of war in order to ensure the security of investments.

In **Conclusion**, the main scientific and theoretical outputs and generalizations arising from the study are formulated and scientifically based practical recommendations are put forward for the further development of bilateral relations.

⁴² Ölkələr üzrə xarici ticarət dövriyyəsi: [Elektron resurs] / Azərbaycan Respublikasının Dövlət Statistika Komitəsi – 17 may, 2020.
URL: <https://www.stat.gov.az/source/trade/>

The content of the dissertation is reflected in the following publications:

1. Гейдар Алиев и «Контракт века» // “Heydər Əliyev irsi və Azərbaycan Respublikasının davamlı inkişafı” mövzusunda doktorant və dissertantların elmi-praktiki konfransının materialları, - Bakı: - 2015, c. 70-78.
2. Нефтяные интересы Великобритании на Южном Кавказе (1991-2013 гг) // Qafqazşünaşların Birinci Beynəlxalq Forumunun materialları, - Bakı: - 17-18 aprel, - 2017, - c. 224-229.
3. Первые шаги в деле сотрудничества // – Bakı: Geostrategiya jurnalı, - 2017. № 04(40), - s.55-57.
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