

AZERBAIJAN REPUBLIC

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**A NEW STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT IN THE HISTORY
OF AZERBAIJAN NATIONAL STATEHOOD
(2003-2017)**

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ABSTRACT

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I. GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DISSERTATION

Relevance and development of the topic. National leader Heydar Aliyev, who highly appreciated our statehood history and its traditions, said: “... *we are proud that our generation had the opportunity to restore the lost traditions of statehood in the late twentieth century. Enrichment of the traditions of statehood in the Republic of Azerbaijan, further strengthening of our independence, its perpetuation requires each of us to do our best*”.¹

In 2003, a new stage in the development of statehood began in Azerbaijan. Some features of this stage are especially important. In the policy of the state, more attention was paid to socio-economic factors, especially the development of the ideology of Azerbaijanism, aimed at strengthening civil solidarity and national values.

Highly effective work in the socio-economic, political and cultural life of the society for 15 years, legal and democratic reforms that have significantly improved the process of state building have enriched the new renaissance of our national statehood. At the same time, these reforms require a re-examination of the path taken over the years in the context of various processes taking place in the world, analyzing the work done and their results to identify the tasks of dynamic development of statehood in the near and long term.

Maintaining the current high level of development achieved by the Azerbaijani state in all areas of development in the world today requires our integration into Europe and the world. This factor increases the relevance of the research topic. This process is going on and is intensifying. It is important to preserve and further develop the traditions of our statehood, its current successes, the uniqueness of our national and cultural values. Because this trend requires looking at the processes and work done in 2003-2017, which is considered the most successful and stable period in the history of our statehood,

¹Heydər Əliyev. Azərbaycan XXI əsrin və üçüncü minilliyin ayrıcında //Yeni 2001-ci il, yeni əsr və üçüncü minillik münasibəti ilə Azərbaycan xalqına müraciət. 29 dekabr 2000-ci il / – Bakı: XXI – Yeni Nəşrlər Evi, – 2001. – s.53.

from the perspective of modern state-building and making certain recommendations.

No matter how high our level of development today, our people and state have achieved new successes in their development requires a comprehensive analysis of the experience gained, to determine the prospects for future development of our society in today's globalized world.

At present, a new order, new directions and conflicts are emerging in international relations. Problems such as energy security, food security, the fight against terrorism and drug addiction require a long-term solution. In this regard, Azerbaijan must further strengthen its place and role in the region, which is a strong state.

First of all, it makes it necessary to integrate Azerbaijan's public life to the advanced world level. Determining the future prospects of these processes makes it necessary to analyze the past, the experience gained and draw the necessary conclusions.

The great leader Heydar Aliyev overcame this difficult task and formed the fundamental basis of economic, political and democratic development with his effective activity that protects and strengthens our statehood. After Ilham Aliyev was elected President of the Republic of Azerbaijan in 2003 a period of renaissance began in all areas. In this regard, the work done in the Republic of Azerbaijan in 2003-2017 was important in terms of maintaining and strengthening state independence. Perspective directions of development have been identified to further deepen the processes in the field of building a democratic, secular and legal state, to achieve the solution of very difficult tasks, such as our state standing on a par with the world's leading states.

The issues of European energy and food security, Azerbaijan's potential opportunities and real position in both areas, as well as their recognition by international organizations, influential politicians and heads of state which are becoming more and more acute in the world we live in, have made our research relevant in terms of defining the future program and tasks of our state in these areas.

The experience of the world's great powers proves that building a democratic state governed by the rule of law and a high level of material well-being, which is an indicator of the development of society, strengthens state independence and further develops statehood. From this point of view, a lot of work has been done in the Republic of Azerbaijan during the presidency of Ilham Aliyev and important results have been achieved. However, the pace of development in today's world requires us to take another look at the years of research, to summarize the experience gained and to define new tasks in order to move forward in the world order.

The subject of a new stage in the development of Azerbaijani statehood in 2003-2017 has not yet been selected as a field of special research in national historiography. So far, there is no research in this area, which is characterized by a comprehensive approach to issues related to statehood.

There are various books, articles and other publications on some aspects of the problem. However, none of these publications has studied our research topic, its scientific and theoretical foundations, practical significance, principles, features and directions, and their interrelationships separately and systematically. The published works cover some areas of our research topic, often over different years, and the topic has not been developed as a specific research problem.

AA Bakikhanov's work "Gulustani-Iram" was the first step in the study of our history on a scientific basis. The work is also the first scientific work dedicated to the history of Azerbaijan.² The use of archival materials, official decrees, in short, official documents in his writing, along with its scientific value, proved that the events were presented with facts and accuracy.

From that time until the first restoration of our state independence in 1918, there are very few articles about the history of our statehood. The situation in this area improved in the twentieth century during the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, and then in the second half of the 1950s. A serious turn in the study of our historical

²Bakıxanov, A. Gülüstanı-İrəm / A.Bakıxanov – Bakı: Xatun Plyus, – 2010. – 225 s.

past and issues of statehood began in the first period of the leadership of the Great Leader Heydar Aliyev in Azerbaijan.

The complex and consistent research in the field of studying our historical past, its separate stages and problems coincides with the second period of the leadership of the Great Leader Heydar Aliyev in Azerbaijan. These years are considered to be the most productive period in the process of studying the history and traditions of the Azerbaijani statehood. Hundreds of research papers confirming our views are clear evidence of this.

There are many works in national historiography on various issues of restoration and further development of the state independence of Azerbaijan.

We must emphasize the importance of Yagub Mahmudov's work in the study of issues related to the restoration of state independence and its new stage of development. The author's works on the historical mission of Heydar Aliyev in the restoration and strengthening of national statehood, some aspects of the problem of development of national statehood were of great importance for our research.³

The conclusions obtained in Irada Huseynova's monographs on the activities of national leader H.Aliyev on the protection and further development of our national statehood were used in the development of the first chapter of the dissertation.⁴

The issues of ensuring basic human rights and freedoms, analyzing the results obtained taking into account international experience and standards in this field and defining perspective tasks are also found in Ayten Mustafazadeh's scientific work. In our research, we have included certain ideas in the author's works on the results of the application of international experience in the field of

³Mahmudov, Y. Azərbaycan tarixində Heydər Əliyev şəxsiyyəti / Y.Mahmudov. – Bakı: Təhsil, – 2002. – 328 s.; Azərbaycan: qısa dövlətçilik tarixi / Y.Mahmudov. – Bakı: Təhsil, – 2005. – 140 s.

⁴Hüseynova, İ. Dövlətçilik naminə / İ.Hüseynova. – Bakı: Bakı Universiteti nəşriyyəti, – 2001. – 297 s.; Müstəqil Azərbaycan dövlətinin qurucusu / İ.Hüseynova. – Bakı: Təhsil, – 2004. – 472 s.

protection and enforcement of human rights without harming the traditions of national statehood.⁵

Musa Guluzadeh's work, published in 2016, briefly commented on some issues related to the history of our statehood, and we have included some of them in our research.⁶

The monographs of Musa Gasimli, the author of dozens of highly historically valuable works on national historiography, examining the problem of national statehood, especially the historical services of Heydar Aliyev in the restoration and strengthening of our independence, helped to clarify some conceptual issues in our research.⁷

We should also note the importance of the points that are reflected in the works and articles⁸ that study the issues of building the National Army, one of the main conditions for the protection of Azerbaijan's state independence⁹, and successful foreign policy to ensure our state independence and security.

We must also show the importance of certain facts, opinions and conclusions in our sources and research on the history of our national

⁵Mustafazadə, A. Prezident İlham Əliyevin bütün fəaliyyəti Azərbaycan xalqının yüksək rifahının təmin edilməsinə yönəlib: [Elektron resurs] / URL: <http://www.1news.az/az/news/prezident-ilham-eliyevin-butun-fealiyyeti-azerbaycan-xalqinin-yuksekk-rifahinin-temin-edilmesine-yonelib>; Защита прав человека в контексте развития новейших технологий: // – «Дніпропетровск: Право і суспільство: науковий журнал, – 2010. № 3, – с. 216–221.

⁶Quluzadə, M. Azərbaycanın dövlətçilik tarixi / M.Quluzadə. – Bakı: Mütərcim, – 2016. – 264 s.

⁷Qasımlı, M. Heydər Əliyev – istiqlala gedən yol / M.Qasımlı. – Bakı: BDU nəşriyyatı, – 2006. – 608 s.; Azərbaycan Respublikasının diplomatiya tarixi. Azərbaycan Respublikasının xarici siyasəti (1991–2003). 2 hissədə. II hissə / M.Qasımlı. – Bakı: Mütərcim, – 2015. – 664 s.

⁸Əliyeva, Y. Azərbaycanın xarici siyasət kursu: birmənalı, açıq, aydın və müstəqil: // İki sahil. – 2018. – 22 dekabr. – s. 4,8.; Məmmədov, N. Xarici siyasət: Reallıqlar və gələcəyə baxış / N.Məmmədov. – Bakı: Qanun, – 2013. – 264 s.; Məmmədیارov, E. Azərbaycan diplomatiyası milli maraqlarımızın və dövlətçiliyimizin keşiyindədir // Xalq qəzeti. – 2018, 10 iyul. – s.7.

⁹Azərbaycan Ordusu dünyanın ən güclü orduları sırasındadır. <https://mod.gov.az/az/pre/23115.html>; Süleymanov, M. Azərbaycan Ordusunun tarixi. I cild / M.Süleymanov. – Bakı: Maarif, – 2018. – 736 s.

statehood and its rich traditions. They were discussed during the dissertation.¹⁰

The dissertation also pays special attention to the works of the First Vice-President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Mehriban Aliyeva on the effective activities aimed at preserving the traditions of statehood, ensuring basic human rights and freedoms at the current stage of state building.¹¹

In our research, in terms of studying the traditions of statehood, we have also considered the views of the Azerbaijani statehood in Russian historiography, in research on its prospects.¹²

Our research also takes into account the issues raised in the works on nation-building in the republics of the former Soviet Union.¹³

It should be noted that the works on the development of the national statehood of Azerbaijan have a place in Turkish

¹⁰Azərbaycanda dövlətçilik və onun rəmzləri: / tərt. ed. N.Vəlixanlı. – Bakı: Elm, – 2009. – 96 s.; Bünyadov, Z. Azərbaycan VII-IX əsrlərdə / Z.Bünyadov. – Bakı: Şərq-Qərb, – 2007. – 424 s.; yenə onun, Azərbaycan Atabəylər dövləti / Z.Bünyadov. – Bakı: Şərq-Qərb, – 2007. – 312 s.; Qarabağnamələr. I kitab / tərt. ed. A.Fərzəliyev. – Bakı: Şərq-Qərb, – 2006. – 216 s.

¹¹Cəfərli, R. Dövlətə və xalqa şərəfli xidmət missiyası: // Azərbaycan. – 2018, – 21 fevral. – s.1,4; Əliyeva Mehriban. Böyük uğurların izi ilə: [Elektron resurs] / URL: <https://azertag.az/xeber/1142404>; Məmmədov, N. Mehriban Əliyeva milli maraqların qorunması və təbliğində çox böyük işlər görür: [Elektron resurs] / URL: <http://a-r.az/az/article/10174>.

¹²Гаджиев, К. Кавказский узел в геополитических приоритетах России / К.Гаджиев. – Москва: Логос, – 2010 – 532 с.; Гурбанов, Т. Конституционно-правовое регулирование внешней политики Азербайджанской Республики / Т.Гурбанов, Э.Мехдиев, К.Сафронов. – Уфа: Аэтерна, – 2015. – 172 с.; Ниязов, Н. Основные векторы политики военной безопасности Азербайджанской Республики в 1994-2010 годы / Н.Ниязов. – Санкт-Петербург: СПбГУ, – 2010. – 208 с.

¹³Внешние связи стран Прикаспия в условиях глобального кризиса и интересы России / Отв. ред. Г.Чуфрин. – Москва: ИМЭМО РАН, – 2010. – 131 с.; Омельченко, Н. История государственного управления. 2-е изд., перераб. и доп. / Н.Омельченко. – Москва: Издательство Юрайт, – 2013. – 575 с.; Постсоветское пространство: роль внешнего фактора. Сб. ст. / отв. ред.: А.Крылов, А.Кузнецов, Г.Чуфрин. – Москва: ИМЭМОРАН, – 2018. – 241 с.

historiography. Fırat Karabayram's monograph drew attention with the expansion of bilateral relations and the foreign policy activities of the Republic of Azerbaijan.¹⁴

The selection of various problems related to the theme of national statehood as a dissertation topic became intensive after the restoration of Azerbaijan's state independence and continues today.¹⁵

In the course of our research, we also considered the main provisions of the dissertations on the problems of nation-building in the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Georgia and the Central Asian republics after the collapse of the USSR.¹⁶

It should be noted that official state documents, laws of the Republic of Azerbaijan, orders and decrees of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan play an important role in the wider and more thorough study of the dissertation. Given the requirements for the volume of the abstract, we mention some of them.¹⁷

¹⁴Karabayram, Fırat. Rusya Federasyonu'nun Güney Kafkasya Politikası / Fırat Karabayram. – Ankara: Atılım Üniversitesi, – 2007. – 357 s.

¹⁵Cəfərov, S. Müasir qlobal siyasi proseslər şəraitində milli dövlətlər və onların suverenliyi məsələsi: /siyasi elmlər üzrə fəlsəfə doktoru dis. avtoreferatı. / Bakı, 2014. – 26 s.; Əliyeva, L. Milli dövlət maraqlarının konstitusion-hüquqi əsasları. Dövlətdaxili və dövlətlərarası aspektlər: /hüquq üzrə fəlsəfə doktoru dis. avtoreferatı / – Bakı, 2017. – 27 s.; Əsgərova, C. Müstəqillik dövründə Azərbaycanda çoxpartiyalı sistemin yaranması: 1991–2008: / tarix üzrə fəlsəfə doktoru dis. avtoreferatı. / – Bakı, 2014. – 24 s.

¹⁶Базарбай, У. Становление и развитие государственной службы Кыргызской Республики: /автореферат дис. кандидата юридических наук / – Екатеринбург, 2007. – 25 с.; Калиш, Я. Евразийская интеграция: идейные основания, политический опыт, вызовы и перспективы: / автореферат дис. кандидата политических наук / – Москва, 2018. – 29 с.; Пушкин, Д. Формирование новой российской государственности в условиях политической трансформации общества: 1990-е гг.: /автореферат дис. кандидата исторических наук/. – Москва, 2010. – 30 с.

¹⁷Azərbaycan Respublikasının milli təhlükəsizlik konsepsiyasının təsdiq edilməsi haqqında Azərbaycan Respublikası Prezidentinin Sərəncamı. 23 may 2007-ci il // Azərbaycan. – 2007, 25 may. – s.1.; Azərbaycan Respublikasında insan hüquq və azadlıqlarının müdafiəsinin səmərəliliyini artırmaq sahəsində Milli Fəaliyyət Proqramının təsdiq edilməsi haqqında Azərbaycan Respublikası Prezidentinin Sərəncamı. 27 dekabr 2011-ci il // Azərbaycan. – 2011, 28 dekabr. – s.1.; Elektron

İlham Aliyev's speeches and conceptual views on the most important issues of national statehood played an important guiding role in writing the research.¹⁸

Despite the scientific content and importance of each of the various types of research, monographs and works we have discussed, none of them has chosen the years and topic covered by this research as a research topic or dissertation.

The following objectives have been identified to help achieve the broader and fuller objectives of the study:

- To take a brief look at the most important events and features of the traditions of national statehood of Azerbaijan from ancient times to the restoration of state independence in 1991 and to determine their main results;

- To analyze and summarize the work done by Heydar Aliyev in the restoration and development of statehood traditions, state independence;

- To determine the main features, directions and results of the work done by İlham Aliyev, who led a new modern stage in the history of national statehood, in strengthening state independence;

- To study the consequences of the implementation of legal and democratic reforms on the strengthening and development of state independence;

- Identify factors that may have a detrimental effect on nation-building and suggest ways to eliminate or neutralize them;

- To analyze the existing experience in the field of formation of the civil solidarity society, which is characteristic for the new stage of development of our national statehood, and to determine the directions of future activities;

məhkəmə” informasiya sisteminin yaradılması haqqında Azərbaycan Respublikası Prezidentinin Sərəncamı. 13 fevral 2014-cü il // Azərbaycan. – 2014, 14 fevral. – s.3.

¹⁸Əliyev, İlham. İnkişaf – məqsədimizdir: [115 cilddə] / İ.Əliyev. – Bakı: Azərneşr, 82,83, 87, 88-ci kitablar. – 2019 – 2022.

- To determine the ways of development of the ideology of Azerbaijanism, which is one of the main conditions for the development of the national statehood of Azerbaijan;
- To analyze the characteristic features of the process of strengthening the national statehood, the means of its implementation from the scientific-theoretical and practical point of view;
- Based on the analysis of the results of the work done in state building in 2003-2017, to identify perspective tasks and new goals that need to be implemented in the next 5-10 years and in the coming decades.

In the years covered by the study, several state programs have been developed and some of them have been launched, which define our development prospects. The situation in this area necessitates the development of promising and comprehensive state programs that will ensure the comprehensive development of our state. In this regard, it would be very useful to take into account the results of the new stage of development of statehood in 2003-2017.

Object and subject of research. In 2003-2017, under the leadership of Ilham Aliyev, our people achieved great success, and our statehood was further strengthened. No matter how sufficient our current level of development is, the new successes of our state make it necessary to make a comprehensive analysis of the path taken, the experience gained, to determine the future development prospects of our society in today's globalized world. Due to this need, the study of the problem of a new stage of development in the history of national statehood of Azerbaijan in 2003-2017 was identified as the object of research.

The subject of our research is to determine the main results of the work done to strengthen our state independence in the new modern stage of the history of national statehood, to analyze the characteristics of the process of strengthening statehood, the means of implementation from a scientific-theoretical and practical point of view.

Goals and objectives of the study. It is to determine the main features of the processes taking place in the new stage of

development of national statehood, which began with the election of Ilham Aliyev as President of the Republic of Azerbaijan in 2003.

Research methods. In writing the dissertation, based on a systematic approach to the research topic, various scientific research methods - analysis, synthesis, historical and logical, comparative analysis were used.

The main provisions of the defense:

- The main results of the development of our national statehood;
- Analysis of legal, political and theoretical aspects of state building at a new stage in the development of statehood since 2003;
- Determining the effective results of the work done to achieve the establishment of civil society;
- Transformation of Azerbaijan into a legal-democratic and modern state on the basis of preservation of national moral values;
- Acceleration of Azerbaijan's integration into the world community and the expected results:
 - The main directions and results of legal-democratic reforms;
 - Identification of perspective directions for further strengthening of national statehood.

The scientific novelty of the dissertation is:

- The historical traditions of our national statehood and the current situation are systematized in the form of mutual synthesis;
- Approaches have been put forward to determine the transformation of Azerbaijan into a modern state and its integration into the world community, provided that the main content of the history of national statehood and national moral values are further developed;
 - It was considered necessary to continue the legal and democratic reforms in a more consistent and systematic manner by determining the effective results of the work done to achieve the establishment of civil society;
 - Specific recommendations were given to take into account the positive aspects of modern democratic and modern statehood practices with our national and historical traditions in the selection of new goals for the development of our national statehood.

Theoretical and practical significance of the research. Based on the results of the study, a number of necessary recommendations and suggestions were developed. The dissertation develops theoretical views on the peculiarities of state activity in the Republic of Azerbaijan, shows the important political and economic importance of maintaining and further expanding the main activities in this field in modern geopolitical conditions. At the new stage of development of national statehood, the goals and objectives that need to be completed and implemented in the coming years and in the long run are theoretically specified and justified.

The materials of the dissertation can be used in the following areas:

- In writing scientific works on the history of Azerbaijan;
- In the daily activities of organizations engaged in foreign policy;
- In the development of new tasks of the effective and well-thought-out state policy of the Azerbaijani state in modern conditions;
- Conducting special courses in universities on "History of Azerbaijan", "National Statehood: Historical Traditions and Prospects", "Azerbaijan's Foreign Policy and Statehood", "Azerbaijan's Relations with International Organizations", etc .;
- Compilation of a new encyclopedic publication on the history of national statehood;
- In improving new ways of developing the ideology of Azerbaijanism, which is one of the main conditions for the development of national statehood;
- In the development of new perspective concepts of national statehood, socio-economic and political development.

Approbation and application of research work. The dissertation was discussed at the meeting of the Department of "History of the peoples of Azerbaijan and Eastern Europe" of Sumgayit State University on May 20, 2021 and was recommended for defense. The main provisions covering the content of the research are reflected in the author's articles published in scientific publications recommended by the Supreme Attestation Commission

of the Republic of Azerbaijan, in his speeches at scientific conferences held in scientific institutions of the country.

Name of the organization where the dissertation work is carried out. The dissertation work was carried out at the Department of History of Azerbaijan and Eastern European Peoples, Faculty of History and Geography, Sumgayit State University.

Structure of the dissertation: The dissertation consists of an introduction (26,577 characters), Chapter I (65,416 characters), Chapter II (87,547 characters), Chapter III (65,230 characters) and conclusion (11,229 characters), total volume (255,785 characters) 156 pages.

II. THE MAIN CONTENT OF THE DISSERTATION

In the "**Introduction**" part of the research, the relevance of the topic is substantiated, and the degree of development of the problem is investigated. The goals and objectives, methods, main provisions of the research, scientific novelty, theoretical and practical significance of the research are defined. Approbation and application are considered and the name of the organization where the work is performed and the volume of the dissertation are indicated.

The first chapter of the dissertation "**From the history of national statehood of Azerbaijan**" consists of 2 half-chapters. The first half of this chapter, entitled "**History of national statehood before the restoration of Azerbaijan's state independence**", states that until the beginning of the Middle Ages, the newly recognized peoples of Europe were trying to create their own state. In Azerbaijan, the existence of the centralized Manna state in the first millennium BC was noteworthy.

Shortly after the death of Alexander the Great, with the establishment of the states of Atropatena in the south and Albania in the north, our statehood entered the next stage of its development.

It should be noted that in the III-VII centuries, during the rule of the Sassanids in the entire South Caucasus, there was a break in state activity, but neither the Sassanids nor the Byzantines which

patronized the Armenians and Georgians trying to occupy our territory were able to break the will of our people.

After the disintegration of the Arab caliphate, "the Sajids, Shirvanshahs, Salaris, Ravvadis and Shaddadids were established in the lands of Azerbaijan."¹⁹ This in itself was a historical event of great political significance.

In the middle of the 11th century, a powerful new Turkic state, the Great Seljuk State, was established, covering the territory from Central Asia to the Mediterranean Sea, uniting the largest territory in Western Asia from the time of the VIII-IX centuries caliphate.²⁰ He ensured the decisive role of the Turkish-Islamic factor in the political life of the Middle East, including the Caucasus, for a long time. It was followed by the "Azerbaijani Atabey state, which became the most powerful state in the Middle East."²¹

*"In the 15th and 18th centuries and beyond, the culture of statehood in Azerbaijan became even richer. During this period, the largest empires of the East, the Garagoyunlu, Aghgoyunlu, Safavi, Afshar and Gajar empires, were directly ruled by Azerbaijani dynasties."*²²

*"After the fall of the Safavids, Nadir Shah Afshar greatly expanded the borders of his empire."*²³ His short tenure was very important in terms of governance, stabilization of the internal situation, restoration of the violated territorial integrity and successful foreign policy.

After the death of Nadir Shah, about 20 khanates were established in the north and south of our territory at almost the same time. "This was the beginning of a period of military-political decline in the history of the country".²⁴

¹⁹История Азербайджана: [Elektron resurs] / URL: <https://nk.gov.az/ru/page/34/>.

²⁰Bünyadov, Z. Azərbaycan Atabəylər dövləti / Z.Bünyadov. – Bakı: Şərq-Qərb, – 2007. – s.3.

²¹Mahmudov, Y. Azərbaycan: qısa dövlətçilik tarixi / Y.Mahmudov. – Bakı: Təhsil, – 2005. – s.27.

²²Yenə orada, s.28.

²³История Азербайджана: [Elektron resurs] / URL: <https://nk.gov.az/ru/page/34/>.

²⁴Yenə orada.

"On the basis of the Gulustan (1813) and Turkmenchay (1828) treaties, which were considered the most unjust in the history of our statehood, the Azerbaijani lands were divided between two empires: Northern Azerbaijan was annexed to Russia and South Azerbaijan to the kingdom by the Gajars."²⁵ Thus began one of the most difficult periods in the history of Azerbaijani statehood.

On May 28, 1918, one of the most significant events in the history of our people took place. "On the same day, the establishment of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic was announced in Tbilisi."²⁶ This meant the restoration of our state independence, which was lost about a century ago. With the establishment of the ADR, the republican form of government began in the modern history of Azerbaijan. The ADR, which lasted only 23 months, was the first republican year in the history of our statehood, which passed three stages.

"On April 28, 1920, the ADR, whose territory was occupied by the 11th Red Army of Soviet Russia, collapsed."²⁷ From that time, our people lived under the control of the Soviet empire, which lasted until 1991.

On December 10, 1922, the formation of the USSR, which included the three South Caucasus republics, was the next stage in the seizure of the rights of the independent republics in the Caucasus."²⁸ This, in fact, was the model of the future union state and the end of the formal independence of the Azerbaijani SSR.

The period from 1923 to 1954 is considered one of the most difficult periods in the history of the Azerbaijan SSR in terms of preserving the traditions of statehood. Under the pretext of the lack of national staff with the necessary quality of work and knowledge until the mid-1930s Russians, Armenians and Jews were appointed leaders of the republic.

²⁵История Азербайджана: [Elektron resurs] / URL: <https://nk.gov.az/ru/page/34/>.

²⁶Юсифзаде, С. Первая Азербайджанская Республика: история, события, факты англо-азербайджанских отношений / С.Юсифзаде. – Баку: Маариф, 1998. – с.45.

²⁷Yenə orada, s.188.

²⁸Ömərov, V. Azərbaycan SSR-in ZSFSR və SSRİ-yə qatılması və formal siyasi müstəqilliyin və dövlətçiliyin ləğvi // Səs. – 2012. 23 noyabr. – s. 14.

"Imam Mustafayev, who was appointed First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan in 1954, took advantage of the situation and tried to improve the situation of the republic and the people, to preserve and develop its endangered national values."²⁹

Thus, a brief look at the rich history of Azerbaijan's statehood from ancient times to the middle of the twentieth century once again showed that no matter how difficult and complicated the path, our people passed all the tests with honor. Our people have managed to preserve the sacred existence of Azerbaijan and have now entrusted it to us.

The second half of the first chapter of the dissertation, "**The importance of Heydar Aliyev's activity in the restoration and strengthening of Azerbaijan's state independence**" shows that during his first term in office, Heydar Aliyev devoted all his skills and abilities to leading Azerbaijan in all spheres of socio-political life. "The subsequent course of historical development proved that Heydar Aliyev had begun to build today's independent Azerbaijan at that time."³⁰ As a result of the successes of the Great Leader, the brightest pages in the history of Azerbaijani statehood were written.

After the departure of Heydar Aliyev from Azerbaijan, life in the republic was reminiscent of a period of stagnation. The beginning of Gorbachev's presidency in 1985, the fact that his closest circle consisted of Armenians, gave rise to further claims of the leadership of the Armenian SSR to Nagorno-Karabakh. However, Heydar Aliyev's presence in Moscow and his position as one of the main figures of the party's Politburo did not even allow these allegations to be discussed. "Therefore, Gorbachev first tried to remove Heydar Aliyev from office at the instigation of the Armenians."³¹

²⁹Mahmudov, K. XX əsrin 50-60-cı illərində SSRİ-də siyasi sistemi təkmilləşdirmək cəhdləri və Azərbaycan // – Bakı: Tarix və onun problemləri, – 2009. №1-2, – s. 183.

³⁰Mahmudov, Y. Azərbaycan: qısa dövlətçilik tarixi / Y.Mahmudov. – Bakı: Təhsil, – 2005. – s.90.

³¹Hüseynova, İ. Müstəqil Azərbaycan dövlətinin qurucusu / İ.Hüseynova. – Bakı: Təhsil, – 2004. – s.106.

In October 1987, with the "retirement" of Heydar Aliyev, new difficult days began in the life of our people. Under Gorbachev's direct support, the Armenians began to use the most disgusting means to carry out their dishonest plans to annex the historical territory of Azerbaijan, the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic, to Armenia.

The leadership of the USSR responded to the protests of our people against the savagery and crimes of the Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh and its environs by committing the bloody January 20 tragedy in Baku in 1990. "On that day, the Soviet army savagely attacked our people in Baku. It was an assassination attempt against our people, who fought for the integrity of their lands and lived by the ideals of freedom".³²

The serious changes that began with the collapse of the USSR in 1991 have placed very responsible tasks before our people, who have entered a new stage of development in their history.

"On the night of February 25-26, 1992, another crime took place, which aggravated the situation. Again, the complete indifference of the republic's leadership, followed by the occupation of our most strategically important cities in Karabakh, such as Shusha and Lachin, by Armenian separatists with the help of Russian troops, led to the most tense situation."³³

On June 7, 1992, the candidate of the Popular Front Party, A. Elchibey, was elected president. This government has ruined the country".³⁴ Arbitrariness in the power structures, lack of management experience, unilateral position in foreign policy, abandonment of a balanced foreign policy, occupation of Nagorno-Karabakh and surrounding areas and villages, and finally the civil war in Ganja in early June 1993 and the threat of the country's disintegration were the bitter consequences of the unity activity of A.Elchibey's government.

³²1990-cı il 20 Yanvar faciəsi ilə əlaqədar Moskvadakı Azərbaycanın Daimi nümayəndəliyində keçirilmiş yığıncaqda Heydər Əliyevin bəyanatı. 21 yanvar 1990-cı il // Azərbaycan. – 2010, 20 yanvar. – s.2.

³³Гасанов, А. Политика национального развития и безопасности Азербайджанской Республики / А.Гасанов. – Баку: Zərdəbi LTD MMC, – 2014. – с.497-498.

³⁴ Hüseynova, İ. Müstəqil Azərbaycan dövlətinin qurucusu / İ.Hüseynova. – Bakı: Təhsil, – 2004. – s.161-162.

In those days, the arrival of Heydar Aliyev in Baku at the request of the people decided the historical destiny of the republic. Later, "the Milli Majlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan decided to mark the day of his election as chairman of the Milli Majlis - June 15, 1993 - as "Salvation Day ", announcing his return to great politics."³⁵

The election of Heydar Aliyev as President of the Republic of Azerbaijan on October 3 of that year marked the beginning of one of the brightest and most responsible periods in the history of our people and statehood.

H.Aliyev's activity in the field of strengthening our statehood caused an important turn in the attitude of the world's leading countries to Azerbaijan.

The second chapter of the dissertation "**The beginning of a new stage of development of national statehood**" consists of two half-chapters. The first half of this chapter, entitled "**The main directions of a new stage in strengthening the statehood of Azerbaijan**" shows that the Azerbaijani state has made great strides in all spheres of public life in 2003-2017. As confirmed by the results of regular surveys of influential international organizations, our country has become one of the two leading and leading countries not only in the region, but also in the post-Soviet space.

During these years, significant achievements have been made and significant work has been done to further strengthen the national statehood, which will serve as an example to the countries of the world with a history of statehood for centuries.

The system of governance has been improved, human rights have been protected, and Europe has become more integrated in this area. Internal political stability and civil solidarity covering all segments of the population have been ensured, the country's military power has been further strengthened, and the people's material well-being has been

³⁵Аббасзаде, Н.М. Историческое значение деятельности Гейдара Алиева в восстановлении и укреплении государственности Азербайджана // –Ужгород: Науковий вісник Ужгородського національного університету. Серія міжнародні відносини. – 2019. – Випуск 5, – с. 53.

improving day by day. Successful foreign policy activities have served to further strengthen this work, and most importantly, the national statehood.

This is the result of the great work done in the field of protection and further strengthening of national statehood in the Republic of Azerbaijan in 2003-2017, as well as a general picture of socio-political development.

I. Aliyev's state activity continued in an ever-increasing line. Achieving all the goals set by the President in the field of domestic policy, the implementation of important state programs and investment projects that serve the dynamic development of the economy, the highest level of material well-being of the population in its history has proved that the people are right.

Much has been done to ensure civil solidarity in society, to create full conditions for every citizen to express their views freely, to ensure freedom of speech, conscience, freedom of assembly and other basic human rights and freedoms as one of the main directions of the new stage of development of national statehood.

During the first 14 years of Ilham Aliyev's presidency, our economic successes created conditions for the expansion of army building. As Ilham Aliyev said in his speech at the solemn military parade on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces on June 26, 2018, "*Since 2003, our military expenditures have increased 15 times.*"³⁶ This is not an ordinary figure, but proves that our country is one of the leading countries in the world in terms of the scale of army building.

As a result of the work done in this area during the years covered by the study, the Azerbaijani National Army achieved the greatest success in the 44-day second phase of the Patriotic War, which began on September 27, 2020. The army liberated our lands from 28 years of Armenian occupation and restored our territorial integrity. This historic event was another proof of the high efficiency of the measures taken in

³⁶Əliyev, İlham. İnkişaf – məqsədimizdir: [115 cilddə] / İ.Əliyev. – Bakı: Azərneşr, – 87-ci kitab. – 2019. – s.318.

the field of army building under the leadership of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev in 2003-2017.

At the new stage of the work done by the state in the process of accelerating legal and democratic reforms in our country, increasing transparency in public administration, establishing national information centers, ensuring freedom of information and security were the first steps in integration into the world information space.

Increased social and political activity of citizens, the proper unity of rights and responsibilities has become one of the main features of the process of building a democratic state based on the rule of law. At the new stage of state building, Ilham Aliyev's work since 2003 to ensure political stability in society, to live in the conditions of high living standards that people deserve and at the same time to strengthen secured social protection has ensured that this field has become one of the most successful.

The second half of this chapter, entitled "**Expansion of legal and democratic reforms**", shows that one of the main differences in terms of content of the new stage of development of our statehood since 2003 is the intensification of legal and democratic reforms, covering all areas of state building. Every year since 2003, legal and democratic reforms in Azerbaijan have been aimed at solving various problems in different spheres of public life, either individually or in full.

The judicial system of the Republic of Azerbaijan differed from the law enforcement agencies in terms of the scope of legal and democratic reforms, their gradual implementation, and the fact that their content and results were more in line with international standards and standards.

Reforms in this area, which began under the leadership of National Leader Heydar Aliyev, have continued more intensively since 2004. Thus, taking into account the rapid socio-economic development in our country, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan has made integration into the political, economic and legal space of Europe among the priorities of state policy. So, it has taken important initiatives to ensure the functioning of the judicial system inherent in democratic societies and the reliable protection of human rights. *"All the innovations implemented during this stage of judicial reform were*

based on a new level of socio-economic development created by the renaissance process in all spheres of public life of our state, the transformation of our country into a member of the European legal space, the need to restructure the entire judicial system in this regard.³⁷

One of the areas in which legal and democratic reforms have been carried out in Azerbaijan since 2003 is the system of power structures. One of the priorities in this system is to bring the activities of the leading prosecutor's office, police and justice agencies in line with the new development standards and requirements of the world. Studying and implementing international experience in this field has had an impact on the results of the effective work of law enforcement agencies, various organizations and human rights defenders.

In the first two decades of the 21st century, the holding of three referendums on amendments to the Constitution has served the establishment of civil society and the supremacy of democratic norms. It also affected to achieve the goals of better protection of human rights and freedoms, accelerating the development of democratic life and activity.

Based on the results of the 2009 Referendum, amendments and additions were made to the Basic Law in 4 groups. Most of the 41 amendments to 29 articles of the Basic Law approved in the referendum belonged to the first group of amendments. These were demonstrations of the state policy in accordance with the world experience and standards of state building and management as an expression of the integration of our society into Europe and the world.³⁸

Based on the results of the referendum held on September 26, 2016, the amendments and additions to the Basic Law created conditions for further improvement of the public administration system and further

³⁷Hüquqi dövlət quruculuğu. Müstəqil Azərbaycan: [Elektron resurs] / URL: https://republic.preslib.az/az_a6.html.

³⁸2009-cu il martın 18-də keçirilmiş ümumxalq səsverməsinə (referenduma) yekun vurulması və yekunların elan edilməsi barədə Azərbaycan Respublikası Mərkəzi Seçki (referendum) Komissiyasının qərarı. 30 mart 2009-cu il: [Elektron resurs] / URL: <http://www.e-qanun.az/framework/16448>.

improvement of work in all spheres of public life. This is evidenced by the content of the additions and changes, as well as the attitude of people from different walks of life, international analysts, prominent politicians, legal scholars and the numerous opinions expressed.³⁹

All this means that *“the renewed Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan will be able to ensure the sustainable development of our state in a stable environment for many years to come, set new goals for independent democratic development, preserve our independence and serve the Azerbaijani people.”*⁴⁰

Reliable and fully mature ideological, political, economic and legal foundations of state building at a new stage of development of our national statehood give us reason to say that the current level of development of our state will ensure that in the near future Azerbaijan becomes the most democratic and highly developed state in the world.

The third chapter of the study, entitled **"Development Strategy of the State of Azerbaijan"**, consists of two sub-chapters. The first half of the chapter is entitled **"Transformation of Azerbaijan into a strong welfare state"** and it says that serious achievements have been made in the field of socio-economic development of the regions during the study period. The first step in this direction - the adoption on February 11, 2004 of the "State Program of socio-economic development of the regions of the Republic of Azerbaijan (2004-2008)" was very important.⁴¹

Another important result was that over the past 15 years, attention and comprehensive support for the socio-economic development of the regions have led to very successful results. Thus, *“In the period from 2004 to 2017, three state programs on socio-economic development of*

³⁹Referendum dövrü mətbuat səhifələrində. (Bibliografiya): [Elektron resurs] / URL: <http://www.preslib.az/referendum/pdf/kiv.pdf>.

⁴⁰Abbaszadə, N.M. Azərbaycan Respublikasında konstitusiya islahatları və dövlətçiliyin möhkəmləndirilməsində onların rolu // – Bakı: Tarix və onun problemləri, – 2019. №1, – s. 153.

⁴¹Azərbaycan Respublikası regionlarının sosial-iqtisadi inkişafı Dövlət Proqramının (2004-2008-ci illər) təsdiq edilməsi haqqında Azərbaycan Respublikası Prezidentinin Fərmanı. 11 fevral 2004–cü il // Xalq qəzeti. – 2004, 12 fevral. – s.1.

*the regions were implemented in order to diversify the economy, the sustainable growth of the non-oil sector and the regions”.*⁴²

The work carried out to upgrade all the infrastructure related to the transport network was one of the visual evidences of the high level of material well-being. The construction of 443 bridges, the opening of the largest international seaport in the Caspian Sea, complete reconstruction of 7 airports to meet the requirements of international flights, Baku International Airport named after H.Aliyev to be one of the 9 airports meeting the most modern standards in the world, commissioning of 4 new metro stations in Baku and dozens of other unnamed transport system facilities in the years covered by the study are clear evidence that the situation in this area is not behind the world's leading countries, and in some cases even better.

During the rule of İlham Aliyev, especially in the first years, he successfully implemented state programs aimed at achieving serious development and high performance in the economic and social spheres. As a result, the living standards of the population began to improve dynamically, and the level of poverty fell as a logical consequence of the multifaceted work done to further improve the social and material well-being of the population.

Thus, if we evaluate the main results of the consistent and multifaceted activities carried out in the Republic of Azerbaijan in 2003-2017 to improve the living standards and material well-being of the population, we can say that living conditions in the field of socially oriented economic policy improved. The level of wages has been raised, mass cultural and educational facilities, residential buildings, bridges, overpasses, various infrastructure meeting world standards have been built and put into operation.

The second half of the third chapter, **"The importance of İlham Aliyev's foreign policy success for the further strengthening of statehood"** discusses the basics of İlham Aliyev's foreign policy activities. It was noted that maintaining the territorial integrity of the

⁴²Həsənov, Ə. Möhtəşəm zəfər salnaməsi: Prezident İlham Əliyev hələ uzun illər xalqı öz arxasınca daha yüksək zirvələrə və böyük qələbələrə doğru aparacaq // Azərbaycan. – 2018. 13 oktyabr. – s.2.

country as the main condition of state independence, strengthening cooperation with international organizations and becoming an active participant in world politics, further developing equal relations with all countries and other important areas have been achieved.

"Since the independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan, especially in 2003-2017, a pragmatic approach, balanced foreign policy based on objective and international law, as well as based on national interests, has become a historical fact and political reality." ⁴³

As a result of consistent, pragmatic and well-thought-out activities in İlham Aliyev's foreign policy over the years, priority has been given to expanding international, regional and interstate relations, strengthening relations and cooperation with the nearest neighboring countries. The main goal was to establish partnerships with leading countries that have a position to influence the course of world politics, and as a result, Azerbaijan's position among the member countries of the world community has been further strengthened.

Thus, if we evaluate the main results of the consistent and multifaceted activities carried out in the Republic of Azerbaijan in 2003-2017 to improve the living standards and material well-being of the population, we can say that during these years, the living conditions of the people in the field of socially oriented economic policy pursued at the state level and constantly updated in our country have significantly improved, and the level of wages has risen. Mass cultural and educational facilities, residential buildings, bridges, overpasses, various infrastructure meeting world standards have been built and put into operation.

As a result, *"2017 marks the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Azerbaijan and about 70 countries. Over the past years, the geography of our diplomatic mission has expanded. Azerbaijan has 70 embassies and diplomatic offices, 5 representations to international organizations, 9 consulates general and 14 honorary consulates. Embassies of 65 countries, representations of*

⁴³Abbaszadə, N.M. Milli dövlətçiliyimizin möhkəmləndirilməsində İlham Əliyevin xarici siyasətinin əhəmiyyəti // – Sumqayıt: Sumqayıt Dövlət Universiteti. Elmi Xəbərlər, – 2019. №4, – s. 59.

20 international organizations and 12 honorary consulates have been accredited in Azerbaijan. Recently, the embassies of Portugal, Venezuela, Peru and Costa Rica were opened in Azerbaijan. There are also 4 consulates general in our country."⁴⁴

In each of the years of the research period, the successful results of the foreign policy of the Republic of Azerbaijan have been incomparably greater. However, we consider it more important to dwell on one of them first.

*"On October 24, 2011, Azerbaijan won the elections to the non-permanent membership of the UN Security Council for 2012-2013 with the support of 155 out of 193 UN member states."*⁴⁵ This meant appreciating the work done by the Republic of Azerbaijan and its leader in strengthening peace and security in the world.

One of the successful and effective forms of cooperation of the Republic of Azerbaijan with international organizations on various issues is the fight against international terrorism. Having gained significant experience in this field, especially during the years of research, the Republic of Azerbaijan has got a high level of trust and image as one of the most reliable allies of the world's leading countries, including the United States, NATO and other international cooperation organizations.

It should be noted that in the years covered by the study, along with other areas of foreign policy, the goal is to quickly eliminate the grave consequences of the war between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh.

In all his statements and speeches on the issue, İlham Aliyev said that *"Azerbaijan will never reconcile with the current situation and restore its territorial integrity."*⁴⁶ The results of the second phase of the 44-day

⁴⁴Məmmədov, E. Azərbaycan diplomatiyası milli maraqlarımızın və dövlətçiliyimizin keşiyindədir // Xalq qəzeti. – 2018. 10 iyul. – s.7.

⁴⁵Əhmədov, E. Müasir dövrdə Azərbaycanın dövlət siyasətinin prioritet istiqamətləri: 2003-2017-ci illər // – Bakı: Dövlət idarəçiliyi, – 2017. № 4, – s.190.

⁴⁶Əliyev, İlham. İnkişaf – məqsədimizdir: [115 cilddə]/ İ.Əliyev. – Bakı: Azərneşr, – 83-cü kitab. – 2019. – s.323.

Patriotic War, which began on September 27, 2020, once again proved the unity of activity with the words of our President.

Thus, what we have said once again showed that our foreign policy activities in these years have been actively pursued in all directions, and the results have served to further strengthen our statehood.

In the "**Results**" part of the dissertation, the main conclusions obtained in the course of the research are systematized and summarized.

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

1. Azərbaycan Respublikasında Konstitusiyaya islahatları və dövlətçiliyin möhkəmləndirilməsində onların rolu / – Bakı: Tarix və onun problemləri, – 2019. №1, – s.150-154.

2. Историческое значение деятельности Гейдара Алиева в восстановлении и укреплении государственности Азербайджана // – Ужгород: Науковий вісник Ужгородського національного університету. Серія міжнародні відносини. – 2019. Випуск 5, – s. 50-57.

3. Milli dövlətçiliyimizin möhkəmləndirilməsində İlham Əliyevin xarici siyasətinin əhəmiyyəti / – Bakı: Sumqayıt Dövlət Universiteti, – 2019. №4, – s.57-65.

4. Azərbaycan dövlətçiliyinin möhkəmləndirilməsində milli mədəni dəyərlərin qorunması və inkişafının rolu / – Bakı: Geostrategiya, – 2021. №1 (61), – s.24-29.

5. Azərbaycanın güclü rifah dövlətinə çevrilməsi / – Bakı: Tarix və onun problemləri, – 2021. №2, – s.181-186.

6. Azərbaycanın milli dövlətçilik tarixindən. Azərbaycan Respublikası Təhsil Nazirliyi // Doktorantların və gənc tədqiqatçıların XXI Respublika Elmi Konfransının materialları. – Bakı, 2017. – s.5-6.

7. Azərbaycan Xalq Cumhuriyyəti Azərbaycanın dövlətçilik tarixində yeni mərhələdir // – Bakı: Azərbaycan Xalq Cumhuriyyəti: təşəkkülü, fəaliyyəti, tarixi əhəmiyyəti. Respublika Elmi konfransının materialları. – Sumqayıt, 2018, – s.18-20.

8. Müstəqilliyimizin qorunmasında Heydər Əliyevin xarici siyasət kursunun əhəmiyyəti // Heydər Əliyev Azərbaycan dövlətçiliyinin memarıdır. Respublika Elmi konfransının materialları. – Sumqayıt, 2018. – s.283-285.

9. Azərbaycanın milli dövlətçilik tarixinin yeni inkişaf mərhələsinin uğurları // Doktorantların və gənc tədqiqatçıların XXII Respublika Elmi Konfransının materialları. – Bakı, 2018. – s.16-18.

10. Azərbaycan milli dövlətçiliyinin inkişafında yeni mərhələnin məzmunu haqqında // Doktorantların və dissertantların XXIII Respublika Elmi Konfransının materialları. – Bakı: 2019. – s.3-4.

11. Dövlətçiliyin inkişafının yeni mərhələsində hüquqi demokratik islahatların həyata keçirilməsi // ERASMUS Uluslararası Akademik Araşdırmalar Sempozyumu. – Ankara: – 2020, – s.303-320.

12. Milli ordu Azərbaycanın dövlət müstəqilliyinin qarantıdır / – Bakı: Tarix, insan və cəmiyyət. Elmi-nəzəri və elmi-metodik jurnal, – 2021. №1 (31), – s.12-21.

13. İlham Əliyevin Dağlıq Qarabağ probleminin siyasi yolla həlli istiqamətində fəaliyyəti // Azərbaycan Respublikası 1991-2021: dövlət müstəqilliyinin bərpası, iqtisadi və sosial-mədəni inkişafı mövzusunda Respublika Elmi Konfransının (14-15 oktyabr 2021) materialları. – Sumqayıt, 2021 (№5), – s.11-14.

14. Ermənistan - Azərbaycan Dağlıq Qarabağ münaqişəsinə son qoyulması Azərbaycan Respublikasının Prezidenti İlham Əliyevin xarici siyasətinin uğurlu nəticəsidir // Azərbaycan Respublikası Təhsil Nazirliyi. Doktorantların və gənc tədqiqatçıların XXIV Respublika Elmi Konfransının materialları. Azərbaycan Texniki Universiteti. 23-24 noyabr 2021-ci il, – Bakı, 2021, – s. 156-157.

15. Azərbaycan dövlətçiliyində Heydər Əliyev irsi // Azərbaycan Respublikasının Təhsil Nazirliyi. Bakı Slavyan Universiteti “Azərbaycanşünaslığın aktual problemləri”. XIII Beynəlxalq elmi-praktik konfransın materialları. 04-05 may 2022-ci il, – Bakı, 2022, – s.19-21.

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