

REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

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**THE HISTORY OF THE CHEMICAL INDUSTRY IN
SUMGAYIT (1949-1991)**

Specialization: 5503.02 - History of the Motherland
Field of Science: History
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ABSTRACT

of the dissertation submitted for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

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The dissertation work was carried out at the department of "History of Azerbaijan and the peoples of Eastern Europe" of Sumgayit State University.

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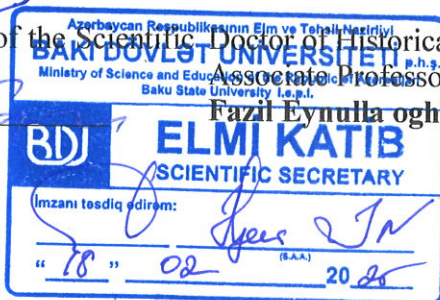
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I. GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DISSERTATION

Relevance of the topic and the degree of elaboration. One of the pressing issues in modern Azerbaijani historiography is the history of the establishment and development of the Sumgayit chemical industry. During the Soviet period, it was impossible to objectively research this issue, as the studies conducted either served the Soviet regime and its ideology or were limited to fragmented investigations. Initial steps towards the development of the Sumgayit chemical industry began in the 1930s. However, with the outbreak of World War II, the progress in this sector was temporarily halted.

After World War II, the number of chemical industry enterprises in Sumgayit began to grow rapidly. To prevent the Azerbaijani government from intervening in the production activities of the Sumgayit chemical enterprises, the USSR leadership subordinated these plants directly to union ministries.

During the Soviet regime, Sumgayit became one of the largest chemical industry centers among the republics of the former USSR in terms of production volume, variety, and ecological hazard levels.

A new stage in the development of the Sumgayit chemical industry began in 1969, with Heydar Aliyev's election as the First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan. Heydar Aliyev meticulously examined the urgent issues facing the chemical industry and initiated the creation of a comprehensive program for its modernization in technical, economic, and social aspects. This laid the foundation for a new development concept in the chemical industry.

During Heydar Aliyev's first term in political power, significant steps were taken to counter the biased policies of the Soviet Union in Azerbaijan's chemical industry. Efforts were made to address ecological problems through the introduction of new technologies, and considerable work was carried out in this regard. However, Moscow posed serious obstacles to these initiatives. Despite these challenges, Heydar Aliyev decisively overcame them. One notable example was the construction of the "EP-300" plant, based on the Synthetic Rubber Factory, which played a critical role

in advancing Sumgayit's chemical industry. Despite the central government's resistance, Heydar Aliyev succeeded in implementing this project.

The construction of new chemical industrial enterprises in Sumgayit contributed not only to the chemical industry but also to the development of various sectors of industry and agriculture across Azerbaijan. Additionally, it created new job opportunities, ensured employment for the population, expanded the range of chemical products, fulfilled the country's demand for such products, and facilitated exports to foreign countries. These developments significantly bolstered Azerbaijan's financial and economic strength, paving the way for the acquisition of advanced and modern technologies from developed countries.

The objective scientific study of the history of Azerbaijan's chemical industry from a national perspective began only after the country gained independence.

The source base for the problem under investigation is extensive, including the analysis of the following key literature on the Sumgayit chemical industry, which was utilized during the research.

E. Akhundova's book Heydar Aliyev. Personality and Time (Part II) ¹ contains very valuable information about the role of the Great Leader Heydar Aliyev in the development of the Sumgayit chemical industry during the first stage of his political power, despite the problems created by the Soviet regime in the Sumgayit chemical industry. The information presented in this work was effectively utilized during the research.

The first volume of Y. Mahmudov's two-volume book Heydar Aliyev² (prepared by a large team of experts) discusses Heydar Aliyev's statehood activities, the measures he implemented in the

¹Akhundova E. Heydar Aliyev. Personality and time. Baku, "Ozan", 2007, p.416 784 p.

²Mahmudov Y. Heydar Aliyev. In two volumes. Volume one. Baku: Turkhan NPB, 2013.500 p.

political and economic spheres in Azerbaijan, as well as his activities in the Sumgayit chemical industry.

F. Sadigov's³ monograph Heydar Aliyev and the Chemical Industry of Azerbaijan highlights the measures taken by Azerbaijani chemistry, especially the Sumgayit chemical industry during the Soviet regime, in the field of reconstruction and development.

A special issue titled Heydar Aliyev and Sumgayit, prepared by the leadership of the Sumgayit City Municipality, dedicated to the 80th anniversary of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev, discusses the Sumgayit chemical industry and the measures taken by Heydar Aliyev for its development.

The materials of the Scientific and Practical Conference titled “Ilham Aliyev in 10 Years of Power”⁴ jointly organized by the Sumgayit City Executive Power and the Sumgayit City Organization of the New Azerbaijan Party, and the materials of the conference covering the period of the rule of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev in 2003-2013, also provide information on the Sumgayit chemical industry. This information was used during the research.

Z. Farajov's⁵ book Sumgayit uses information about Sumgayit, including its various production sectors and the chemical industry, which was referenced in the study.

Detailed information about the history of the establishment and development of the Sumgayit chemical industry is provided in the monographs jointly written by Sh. Salimov and R. Aliyev entitled The History of the Establishment and Development of the Sumgayit Chemical Industry.⁶

³ Sadigov F. Heydar Aliyev and the chemical industry of Azerbaijan. Baku: Azernashr, 2003, 143 p.

⁴ Ilham Aliyev 10 years in power. Materials of the scientific-practical conference. Baku, “East-West” Publishing House, 2013, 320 p.

⁵ Farajov Z. Sumgayit. 2017. 229 p.

⁶ Salimov, Sh. Aliyev, R. History of the formation and development of the chemical industry of Sumgayit city / Sumgayit: SSU 2016. 154 p.

In the monograph “The Strategic Importance of Sumgayit City in the Socio-Economic Development of Azerbaijan” ⁷written by Sh. Aliyev on the basis of numerous sources and information on the 70th anniversary of Sumgayit city, the history of the formation and development of the Sumgayit chemical industry, as well as the biased policy of the Soviet regime, were analyzed.

H. Aliyev’s monograph⁸ “The History of Sumgayit City” is of great importance for the study of the chemical industry. The monograph discusses the formation of Sumgayit city and the activities of individual enterprises.

U. Guliyeva’s⁹ abstract of her PhD dissertation on history on the topic of Sumgayit’s participation in the international economic and cultural relations of the Republic of Azerbaijan was used.

G.S. Sharifov and Y.M. Israfilov’s¹⁰ book Ecology of Organic Substances Production, jointly written by them, discussed the impact of the chemical industry on the ecology of Sumgayit city.

Y.N. Gahramani, M.M. Agahuseyinova and R.V. Gurbanova,¹¹ dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the Azerbaijan State Oil Industry University, a book entitled "Limitless Chemistry" contains a lot of valuable information about the Sumgayit chemical industry.

⁷ Aliyev Sh. The strategic importance of the city of Sumgayit in the socio-economic development of Azerbaijan. Monograph. - Sumgayit, “Azeri” publishing house, - 2019, - 368 p.

⁸ Aliyev, H.A. History of the city of Sumgayit / -Baku: Science and Education, - 2011, - 542 p..

⁹ Guliyeva U. Participation of Sumgayit in the international economic and cultural relations of the Republic of Azerbaijan (1991-2005). Ph.D. dissertation. 2015. P. 52.

¹⁰ Sharifov G.S., Israfilov Y.M. Ecology of organic matter production. Sumgayit, SDU publishing house, 2002, 224 p.

¹¹ Gahramani, Y.N., Agahuseyinova M.M., Gurbanova R.V. Chemistry without borders (part II). Dedicated to the 100th anniversary of ASOIU. – Baku, 2022, - 224.p.

O. Ismayilova's¹² book "Sumgayit... is our speaking history" discusses the history of Sumgayit and the services of Heydar Aliyev in the development of the Sumgayit chemical industry.

The book "Processes and Products of Production of Basic Organic Substances" written by A. A. Agayev, D. A. Ashurov, Sh. A. Tarverdiyev, G. A. Ramazanov and M. M. Muradov¹³ contains sufficient information on the Sumgayit chemical industry, which was used during the research.

The book "Technology of Surface Active Substances Production",¹⁴ co-written by A.A.Agayev, S.A.Tarverdiyev, M.M.Muradov, T.D.Guliyev and I.M. Nasrova, provides information about the organization of production at the Surface Active Substances Plant and its role in the Sumgayit chemical industry.

B. Ahmadov's¹⁵ monograph "Development Problems of the Oil Refining Industry of Azerbaijan" provides information on individual production areas of the Sumgayit chemical industry.

Issues related to the problem from the book "Sumgayit and its people" written by G. Ahmadov and B. Veziroglu¹⁶ were used during the research.

"The Truths of Sumgayit" (First Volume)¹⁷ written by R. Mammadov and H. Sadigov was used during the research. Although the book is not dedicated to the history of the Sumgayit chemical industry, it contains some information about the problem.

¹² Ismayilova O. Sumgayit... is our speaking history. Zaman Publishing House. Baku-1999. 74 p.

¹³ Aghayev A.A., Ashurov D.A., Tarverdiyev S.A., Ramazanov G.A. Muradov M.M. Processes and products of the production of basic organic substances. – Sumgayit - 2009, -582 p.

¹⁴ Aghayev A.A., Tarverdiyev S.A., Muradov M.M., Guliyev T.D., Nasrova I.M. Technology of production of surfactants. - Baku: "Science and Education", - 2012. - 454 p.

¹⁵ Ahmadov B. Development problems of the Azerbaijani oil refining industry. Baku: 2003.

¹⁶ Ahmadov, G. Vezirov, B. Sumgayit and Sumgayit people. -Baku: Zaman, -1999. -446 p.

¹⁷ Mammadov, R. Sumgayit truths. First book /R. Mammadov, H. Sadigov. - Sumgayit. SDU, -2010, -240 p

In addition, the works of the authors listed below were also used in connection with the topic of the dissertation: A. Hajiyeve and E. Mammadov's¹⁸ My Sumgayit, V. Abbasov, L. Aliyeva, L. Efendiyeva, N. Rzayeva and N. Mursalov's¹⁹ Chemistry of nitrogenous organic compounds, N. D. Ashurova's²⁰ Halogen organic compounds and the dioxin problem, N. Khazri's²¹ Sumgayit, Z. Yusif-Zade's The Great Man.²²

Regarding the problem, Sh. Aliyev's research and scientific articles published in prestigious scientific journals²³ of the Republic on the topics of prospects of the Sumgayit chemical industry, current

¹⁸ Hajiyeve, A., Mammadov E. My Sumgayit. Sumgayit, -1999, -p.3.

¹⁹ Abbasov .V., Aliyeva L., Efendiyeva L., Rzayeva N., Mursalov N. Chemistry of nitrogenous organic compounds. Baku -2021, - 203 p.

²⁰ Ashurova N.D. Halogenated organic compounds and the dioxin problem. Sumgayit -2021, - 227.p..

²¹ Khazri N. Sumgayit. Ishig. Baku. -1981. -112 p.

²² Yusif-Zade Z. Great man. Baku, Azernashr, -2014, -288 p.

²³ Aliyev, Sh. Problems and prospects of effective use of the potential of the Azerbaijani petrochemical complex // -Baku: Journal of Economics and Life, - 2008, №11, -p.20; Issues of strengthening industrial sectors in Azerbaijan // -Baku: Reports of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences, -2009. №6, -p.147; Chemical and petrochemical complex of Azerbaijan: a look at the past, current situation and development prospects // -Baku: Journal of Economics and Life, - 2003. №4-6, -p.38; Stages of development of the chemical and petrochemical complex, current problems and prospects // -Baku: Journal of Economics and Life, -2004. №7-8, -p.62-63; Issues of efficiency in using the potential of the Sumgayit chemical and petrochemical complex and strengthening financial sources //-Baku: Journal of Finance and Accounting, -2009, №8. -p.28; Issues of assessing and effectively using scientific and technical potential in the Sumgayit industrial center //-Baku: Proceedings of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences, -2009, №5. -p.137; The standard-bearer of our petrochemical industry: a look at history of yesterday, today and tomorrow // Weekly economic newspaper "Economics". - 2002, August 9-15. -p.4; Aliyev, Sh., Salahov M. Prospects for effectively using the potential of the industrial complex in the city of Sumgayit //-Baku: Proceedings of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences, -2008, №5. -p.121; Issues of developing environmentally competitive production areas in the Sumgayit industrial complex //-Baku: Journal of Economics and Life, -2009, № 6-7. -p.27; Issues of developing environmentally competitive production areas in the Sumgayit industrial complex //-Baku: Journal of Economics and Life, -2009, № 6-7. -p.29 (p.25-32);

status and development prospects of the chemical and petrochemical complex of Azerbaijan, issues of efficiency in using the potential of the Sumgayit chemical and petrochemical complex and strengthening financial sources, assessment of scientific and technical potential in the Sumgayit industrial center, etc. were used during the research.

Sumgayit chemical industry has not been studied comprehensively in this chronological framework as a subject of research from a historical perspective.

During the research work, various sources were used, separate provisions in the speeches and speeches of the national leader Heydar Aliyev on the history of the development of the Sumgayit chemical industry, decrees and orders, and materials from the media.

From the archival materials we applied during the research, primarily from the State Archive of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Archives of Socio-Political Documents of the Office of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan²⁴ materials on the

²⁴ 25th anniversary of the city of Sumgayit. Materials for protocol №98 of the meeting of the Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan dated July 9, 1974 on 92 sheets. State Archives of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Fund No. 1, file №56, sheet - 23; Azerbaijan SSR Council of Ministers Department of Chemical Industry Director of the Sumgayit Chemical Plant comrade M.Z. Mehdiyev. State Archives of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Fund №54, file № 2/4, p. -112-113; Bureau of the Sumgayit State Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan dated January 13, 1960 On the establishment of a party committee at the Sumgayit synthetic rubber plant (Informed by the Secretary of the State Committee of the Party, comrade Alive F.A.). Protocol No. 111 of the Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan dated January 22, 1960, 624 pages. Archive of socio-political documents of the Presidential Administration of the Azerbaijan Republic (ARPIISSA), Fund No. 1, File №50, Sheet - 543; Report on the main measures for the chemicalization of agriculture of the Azerbaijan SSR for the period up to 1980. On the need for and use of mineral fertilizers. Materials for protocol No. 151 of the meeting of the Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan dated December 4, 1970, 275 pages. ARPIISSA, Fund No. 1, File №104, sheets - 91, 92-93, 94, 102-103, 107; Deputy Minister of the USSR Ministry of Chemical Industry K.K. Cherednichenko Letter from the Director of the Sumgayit Chemical Plant named after M.A. Azizbekov. ARPIISSA, Collection No. 54. List № 2/4, File No. 6 33,

emergence, development, types and volume of production of the Sumgayit chemical industry were brought to scientific periodicals.

A significant part of the source base of the problem is the periodical press. In this regard, the Sumgayit newspaper, which has experts, official state officials and state statistical information on the Sumgayit chemical industry, played an important role.

The object and subject of the research. The object of the research is the study of the history of the establishment and development of the Sumgayit chemical industry during the Soviet regime.

The subject of the research includes the management of the Sumgayit chemical industry by the central authorities, existing shortcomings, the ecological situation, production areas, and the role of the chemical industry in the development of the national economy.

Objectives and tasks of the research. Goals and objectives of the research work. The main goals and objectives of the research

Sheets – 48; Chancellery Correspondence with the USSR Council of Ministers, the State Planning Committee of the Azerbaijan SSR, enterprises and organizations of the republic on the consideration of issues of energy development in the Azerbaijan SSR; on improving the quality of production of equipment for the enterprises of the republic; on sending Soviet specialists to foreign countries to provide technical assistance and on other issues. State Archives of the Azerbaijan Republic, Collection No. 3029, List № 2, File № 2473, Sheets 115-117; To the heads of the main departments of the USSR Ministry of Chemical Industry, all-Union unions, the Minister of Chemical Industry of the Ukrainian SSR, the heads of the chemical industry departments of the union republics. Letter from the head of Economic Planning of the USSR KSN V.A. Andreev. ARPIISSA, Collection № 54. File No. 2/4. List No. list №6-33, sheet – 48; On the nomination of employees of enterprises and organizations of the USSR Ministry of Chemical Industry for the Azerbaijan SSR for awarding orders and medals of the Soviet Union. Materials for protocol №154 of the meeting of the Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan dated December 24, 1970 on 190 sheets. ARPIISSA, Collection No. 1, File No. 110, sheet – 35; On improving the organization of management of the chemical industry (Resolution of the Central Committee of the CPSU and the Council of Ministers of the USSR dated May 28, 1970, No. 374). Materials for protocol No. 134 of the meeting of the Bureau of the Central Committee of Azerbaijan dated June 24, 1970 on 260 sheets. ARPIISSA, Fund No. 1, file №68, p. – 97;

work are to study the history of the development of the Sumgayit chemical industry in 1949-1991 and the policy pursued by the Soviet regime in this area in Azerbaijan.

One of the main goals was the disregard for the environmental problem and the biased policy pursued during the construction of petrochemical enterprises during the Soviet regime. In particular, the reasons for the production of chemical products that are extremely dangerous for human health in Sumgayit and not in other territories of the Union are among the issues that attract attention.

In order to achieve the stated goal, the following issues were set as a task:

- To study the general situation of the Sumgayit chemical industry in 1949-1969, the construction and production history of individual chemical plants;

- To reveal the essence of the biased policy of the Union government during the construction of chemical plants in Sumgayit and involve it in the study;

- To study the history of the development of the Sumgayit chemical industry in 1969-1982;

- to investigate and involve in the research the role of Heydar Aliyev in the development of the Sumgayit chemical industry during the first period of his political power;

- to investigate the crisis that arose in the state of the Sumgayit chemical industry in 1983-1991, its causes and consequences;

- to investigate the environmental problem in Sumgayit during the Soviet regime (1949-1991) and the impact of the chemical industry on the ecological situation.

Research methods. The theoretical and methodological foundation of the conducted research is based on the dialectical and historical-comparative method. In the dissertation related to the topic, objectivity was maintained while investigating the activities in the Sumgayit chemical industry, and a critical approach was applied to the process. Additionally, the comparative research method was utilized.

The main provisions of the defense. The following provisions were defended in the dissertation:

- Although the foundation of the chemical industry in Azerbaijan was laid in the 30s of the 20th century, the outbreak of World War II significantly slowed down this process;

- After World War II, the development of the chemical industry in Azerbaijan was mainly carried out in accordance with the interests of the former Union;

- The main reasons for establishing the chemical industry center in Sumgayit were its proximity to Baku, oil fields, as well as the Caspian Sea, and the biased policy of the Union government;

- The establishment of the chemical industry in the Sumgayit region led to the construction of a number of new plants, the influx of labor from the regions, and as a result, played an important role in the rapid growth of the population in this area and the formation of the city;

- Although the establishment of the chemical industry in Sumgayit had a positive impact on the development of the Azerbaijani chemical industry, it also led to severe pollution of the environment - air, soil and water. As a result, some mass diseases occurred in Sumgayit, and the number of child deaths was higher than in other regions of the republic;

- some productions that were extremely dangerous for human health by the central government were first tested in Sumgayit and then applied in other territories of the union;

- after Heydar Aliyev came to power in 1969, the chemical industry in Sumgayit was further developed, special attention was paid to the application of new technical equipment, and a number of measures were taken to eliminate ecological problems;

- on the eve of independence, the struggle for freedom in various republics of the USSR, the weakening of economic relations between the Union Republics, and in some areas their complete cessation, had a negative impact on the Sumgayit chemical industry. As a result, a number of problems arose in the export of products manufactured at Sumgayit chemical enterprises and the import of raw materials from foreign countries.

Scientific novelty of the research. The history of the chemical industry in Sumgayit during the Soviet period is being comprehensively investigated for the first time as a dissertation topic.

- The essence of the policy pursued by the Union during the construction of the Sumgayit chemical industry has been revealed and shown based on scientific evidence and facts;

- The reason why the Union placed the chemical plants built in Sumgayit and extremely dangerous for human health in the territory of Sumgayit has been investigated and it has been concluded that the biased policy of the Union and the Armenian factor that had established itself in the USSR Ministry of Chemistry played an important role in this matter;

- The role of chemical enterprises in the development of the Azerbaijani industry, their impact on the development of the city of Sumgayit and the creation of new jobs have been included in the study;

- The damage caused by the Sumgayit chemical industry to human health and ecology has been investigated and analyzed, and it has been concluded that as a result of the impact of the chemical industry, the highest number of child deaths and various diseases in the territory of the Union occurred in the city of Sumgayit.

During the Soviet regime, prohibitions were imposed on the real history of the Sumgayit chemical industry, and a number of issues that were impossible to write about were brought to the scientific stage.

Theoretical and practical significance of the research. The research work and its findings can be used in studying the industrial history of Sumgayit, exploring the industrial history of Azerbaijan, particularly the history of the chemical industry, writing scientific articles and research works on the history of the chemical industry, as well as in lectures and seminar sessions at higher and secondary specialized educational institutions.

Approval and application. Regarding the topic of the dissertation work, the applicant has published 6 articles in periodicals recommended by the Higher Attestation Commission under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan - 3 abroad, 3 domestically,

and 4 abroad in the materials of international and republican scientific conferences.

Name of the organization where the dissertation work is performed. The research work was conducted at the "History of Azerbaijan and Eastern European Peoples" department of Sumgayit State University.

The total volume of the dissertation. The dissertation consists of an introduction, 3 chapters, 6 paragraphs, a conclusion and a list of used literature. Introduction – 21226 characters, the first chapter - 83021 characters, the second chapter – 106422 characters, the third chapter – 70521 characters, the conclusion - 9592 characters, the list of used literature – 39312 characters. The total volume of the research work is 205 pages, 292215 characters, there are 21 tables.

II. MAIN CONTENT OF THE WORK

In the “**Introduction**” section of the dissertation, the relevance of the topic is justified, the level of development of the problem and source studies are commented on, the goals and objectives of the research are determined. Also, the methods of the research, the main provisions put forward for defense, and the theoretical and practical significance are indicated, and its scientific novelty is given.

The first chapter of the dissertation is entitled “**Sumgayit Chemical Industry in 1949-1969**” and consists of two subchapters. In the first subchapter, entitled “**The Process of the Formation of the Sumgayit Chemical Industry**”, the emergence of the Sumgayit chemical industry since the 1930s of the 20th century, the rapid increase in the construction of chemical plants in Sumgayit after the end of World War II and the continuous emergence of new production areas, the most obvious reasons for choosing Sumgayit as an industrial center, and the first production of synthetic rubber from ethyl alcohol by Sumgayit chemists in the USSR and in Europe in general are studied.

It was shown that the purchase of artificial rubber, which is of great importance for the national economy, was 4 times cheaper than the production of natural rubber. In that year, for the first time in the former USSR, the plant began to produce synthetic ethyl alcohol

based on the processing of petroleum gases. In 1955-57, the construction of the second phase of the enterprise began.²⁵ “The creation of Sumgayit means the emergence and development of new industries in the Azerbaijani economy - ferrous and non-ferrous metallurgy, chemical industry and other industries.”²⁶

In addition, the connection between the history of the creation and development of Sumgayit with the history of the chemical industry, the construction of a number of new chemical industry facilities in Sumgayit, the construction of the Synthetic Rubber, Superphosphate and Sumgayit Chemical Combine, the management of the Sumgayit chemical industry by the Union, and the issuance of decisions on the products produced and the income received by the center were investigated.

The second half-chapter, entitled **“The Impact of the Chemical Industry on the Creation of Ecological Problems in Sumgayit City (1949-1969)”**, examines information on ecological problems, their discussion at symposiums and conferences, and the adoption of decisions at the highest level regarding the protection of air, soil, and water.

It was noted that after World War II, during the construction of chemical plants in Sumgayit, although ecological problems were not seriously noticeable in the first years, this problem began to worsen in the following years. In 1968, 22 million cubic meters of water were supplied to the city from the water network. 13.5 million cubic meters of this water were used in industrial enterprises, 3 million cubic meters in public institutions, and 5.5 million cubic meters in cultural and household services to the population. There was no serious control over the use of water in Sumgayit. The drinking water network in the city was very poorly exploited.²⁷

²⁵ Aliyev, H.A. History of the city of Sumgayit / H.A. Aliyev. --Baku: Science and Education, 2011, - p.542

²⁶Malikov, G. Heydar Aliyev paid special attention to Sumgayit. Xalq newspaper.- 2010.- December 17. -p.3.

²⁷Cumshudov, Sh. Let's use water resources efficiently, let's not allow the Caspian Sea to be polluted // Socialist Sumgayit. -1962, March 29. -p.3.

Although the importance of keeping the Caspian clean from an ecological point of view was confirmed by all Caspian littoral states, it still continued to be polluted as always. The main source of pollution in the Caspian Sea was oil and oil products, followed by chemical pollution.

The second chapter of the dissertation is called “A new stage in the development of the Sumgayit chemical industry (1969-1982)”. After examining the first half-chapter of the first chapter, called “The history of the development of the Sumgayit chemical industry”, it was concluded that with Heydar Aliyev’s coming to power, a new stage began in the development of the Sumgayit chemical industry, and in the 1970s and 1980s, the production of mineral fertilizers, plastic masses, synthetic resin, rubber and sulfanol, sulfuric acid, and the volume of household chemical products increased more than 2 times.

In 1971, Heydar Aliyev, who carefully studied the important issues facing the chemical industry in the republic, first of all, organized the work of creating a program for the modernization of this sector from a technical, economic and social point of view, laid the foundation for the development concept of the chemical industry. Heydar Aliyev insisted on the union leadership to improve the chemical and petrochemical structures of Azerbaijan, to eliminate morally and physically obsolete and worn-out production areas, and instead to create modern, large-tonnage enterprises with waste-free technology, and at the same time to make decisive decisions that would allow the construction of technical and environmental protection facilities.²⁸

It should be noted that thanks to the initiatives of the national leader Heydar Aliyev, in the 1970s and 1980s, the reconstruction of the chemical industry in Sumgayit, the creation of new production areas and enterprises, the construction of more efficient technological facilities, as well as the reconstruction, modernization and renewal of existing production facilities, gained wide scope.

²⁸ Karimov, M. The development of the Azerbaijani petrochemical industry is connected with the name of Heydar Aliyev // Xalq newspaper. -2009, June 12. -p. 3.

In order to constantly improve technological processes and increase production output at the expense of internal resources, optimizers constantly conducted technical searches. In the first quarter of 1974, more than 300 thousand manats of economic efficiency were achieved thanks to the implementation of 253 rationalization proposals.

One of the stages of rapid development of the petrochemical complex was the 1970-1980s. Thus, under the leadership of Heydar Aliyev, who paid attention and care to the extensive and comprehensive development of this complex in the country, historical work was carried out to increase the potential of the Sumgayit industrial and economic complex. During those years, the petrochemical complex was fundamentally renovated and a lot of work was done for the efficient use of hydrocarbon resources. By the beginning of the 1980s, 20 percent of the republic's industrial potential was concentrated in the complex, and one eighth of the industry employees worked here.²⁹

The second half of the chapter, entitled **“Implementation of environmental measures in Sumgayit city in 1969-1982”**, discusses the step-motherly attitude of the former USSR leadership to the chemical industry before Heydar Aliyev came to power, and the fact that the decisions made were often contrary to the interests of Azerbaijan, since the chemical issues of the Republic of Azerbaijan were subordinated to the interests of the All-Union.

It is noted that at that time, the production capacity of sulfuric acid, completely unjustifiably, sodium hydroxide, and especially superphosphate fertilizers was increased at a high rate in the republic. The volume of sulfuric acid, which is very harmful, was increased 3 times during that period. The location of a number of chemical enterprises in Sumgayit, the raw materials of which were brought from Russia and other parts of the USSR, and the finished products were transported to Russia, had an extremely negative impact on the already difficult ecology of the city. The head of the republic, Heydar Aliyev, could not accept the fact that the former union ministries often turned

²⁹ Aliyev, Sh. Problems and prospects of efficient use of the potential of the Azerbaijani petrochemical complex // -Baku: Journal of Economics and Life, - 2008, No. 11, -p.20.

the chemical complex of Sumgayit into an open experimental ground, technological processes were tested, and after achieving the necessary high results, these production areas were built and put into operation in other regions. Such an attitude led to a decrease in economic efficiency and profitability at the enterprises of the chemical industry of Azerbaijan.³⁰

The first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan, H. Aliyev, rightly noted at the Republican meeting of activists held in February 1977. *“The problem of environmental protection is of great importance in modern conditions. Unfortunately, for a long time, due to the irresponsibility of some organizations, this issue was not given due importance in Sumgayit. As the chemical and petrochemical industries developed in our city, in fact, appropriate protective measures were not taken. It was possible to take some measures to correct the situation during the ninth five-year plan. In particular, 62.7 million manats were spent on environmental protection throughout the republic, which is several times more than the funds spent in the entire previous period.”*³¹

The third chapter of the dissertation, entitled **“The State of the Sumgayit Chemical Industry in 1983-1991”**, consists of two subchapters. In the first subchapter, entitled “The State of the Sumgayit Chemical Industry”, the socialist obligations of the Synthetic Rubber Plant, construction and installation works at the “EP-300” production plant, the “Polimir-120” plant, the Ethylene-propylene-300, the Polymer Building Materials Plant, the socialist obligations at the Superphosphate Plant, the history of the Chemical Industry Production Association and the Organic Synthesis Association were examined.

It was noted that with the launch of the new technological complex, the production of valuable chemical products such as ethylene, propylene, butylene-butadiene fraction, light and heavy pyrolysis tar, and propane was started, and with the commissioning of

³⁰ Karimov, M. The development of the Azerbaijani petrochemical industry is connected with the name of Heydar Aliyev // Xalq newspaper. -2009, June 12. -p. 3.

³¹ Hajiyev, N. Water is life // Socialist Sumgayit. -1988, June 16. -p.3.

“EP-300”, the physically obsolete EP-60 was removed from production. The “Ethylene-Polyethylene” plant, thanks to the “EP-300” unit, produced various chemical products that were in particularly high demand on the world market³².

At that time, 70 percent of chemical products were exported outside the republic. For example, 50 percent of mineral fertilizers, 25 percent of caustic soda, 65 percent of sulfanol, 75 percent of polyethylene and synthetic detergents, 79 percent of epoxy resin, 88 percent of rubber and latex, and 100 percent of isopropyl alcohol were exported.³³

The second half of the chapter, entitled **“The Ecological State of Sumgayit City in 1982-1991,”** emphasizes that Sumgayit is one of the most ecologically stressful cities in our country. A number of harmful enterprises, workshops and production facilities built here in the past polluted the city’s air. By the beginning of 1989, the total area of green belts in Sumgayit was 780 hectares. In 1988 alone, more than 2 million manats were spent on greening. During this period, 8.6 hectares of new green areas were created, repair and planting work was carried out on old green areas, and many trees and ornamental shrubs were planted. Nevertheless, the total green area in Sumgayit did not meet health and hygiene standards. While 50 square meters of green area should be allocated to each person to ensure normal living conditions, this figure was 31.2 square meters in Sumgayit.³⁴

In the **“Results”** section of the dissertation, important results obtained during the research are given and generalizations are made.

The study of the problem of the chemical industry of Sumgayit gives grounds to conclude that the creation and development of the chemical industry was one of the most important industries that played an important role in the development of a number of sectors of the

³² Damirov, I., Mammadov T. “EP-300” is the future of the SK plant // Socialist Sumgayit. -1982, December 14. -p.2

³³ Aliyev, Sh. Issues of efficiency and strengthening of financial sources in using the potential of Sumgayit chemical and petrochemical complex //□Baku: Journal of Finance and Accounting, -2009, No. 8. -p.28

³⁴ Mirzayev, R. Caring for greenery is everyone's duty // Socialist Sumgayit. -1989, January 12. -p.2.

Azerbaijani economy in general, and the fact that Azerbaijan has rich hydrocarbon reserves was one of the factors that had a positive impact on the creation of a new chemical complex in Sumgayit.

The study of archival documents during the period in question also reveals the fact that even the smallest details of all sectors of production in the Sumgayit chemical industry were controlled by the central government. Therefore, the construction of a number of plants that were not only economically inefficient for Azerbaijan, but also extremely dangerous for human health, took place precisely in the territory of Sumgayit. As a result, during the Soviet regime, Sumgayit became one of the cities with the most tense ecological environment in our Republic. There is a lot of information about the cases when chemical wastes in soils contaminated with chemical products regularly enter the human body through air, water and plants, causing neurotoxic, skin and respiratory diseases.

After Heydar Aliyev came to power, a number of chemical industrial enterprises based on new technology were built and put into operation, which gave impetus to the development of the Sumgayit chemical industry.

In the first years of independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan, it was decided to close some chemical enterprises that were extremely dangerous to health, which, although it led to an increase in unemployment, played an important role in the relative reduction of the environmental problem.

The general conclusions reached as a result of the research conducted in the dissertation are as follows:

-The establishment of the city of Sumgayit was carried out almost in parallel with the establishment of the chemical industry. The outbreak of World War II stopped the establishment of the Sumgayit chemical industry, but it resumed with the end of the war and the emergence and increase of the USSR's demand for some chemical products. One of the reasons for the establishment of the chemical industry in Sumgayit was its proximity to the city of Baku and oil sources, and another reason was its location in a flat area, the coast of the Caspian Sea and convenient transport routes.

- The Soviet regime conducted initial production of a number of chemical products for testing purposes in Sumgayit, and after receiving positive results, they were produced in other republics of the Union. It was as if the Soviet regime had turned Sumgayit into a testing ground for the Union's chemical industry. The fact that Soviet technology was quite backward and manual labor still prevailed was one of the factors influencing the emergence of ecological problems.

-With the election of Heydar Aliyev as the First Secretary of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan, a new stage began in the Sumgayit chemical industry. Heydar Aliyev raised very serious issues before the Center regarding the application of new technology in the Sumgayit chemical industry, and Heydar Aliyev, who was able to partially achieve this, was able to obtain approval from the center for the construction of new chemical enterprises in the city of Sumgayit and achieve the allocation of financial resources for their construction.

- As a result of the measures taken by Heydar Aliyev, in the early 1980s, there was a sharp increase in the production of products in the Sumgayit chemical industry, both in terms of quality and quantity, compared to the early 1970s. First of all, measures were taken to prevent the unjustified increase in the production volume of some environmentally harmful chemical products. In order to eliminate environmental problems in the city of Sumgayit, a number of important decisions were made to introduce new technology in the chemical industry and replace old, obsolete equipment with new ones.

- As a result of the measures taken in Sumgayit city, although it was not possible to completely eliminate environmental problems, the problem was significantly reduced in the early 80s compared to the early 70s. The main period of activity of a number of chemical enterprises established in the 70s coincided with the early 80s and played an important role in the development of the Sumgayit chemical industry. The newly established chemical enterprises, in addition to increasing the economic potential of Sumgayit city, played an important role in providing employment to the population and eliminating unemployment.

-Along with the general development in the Sumgayit chemical industry, a number of shortcomings were made in the production

process in some plants, which had a negative impact on the overall development of the chemical industry.

- The economic crisis that occurred in the former USSR and Azerbaijan in the mid-1980s also had a negative impact on the Sumgayit chemical industry. The collapse of the USSR and the resulting severance of artificially created economic ties between the former Union Republics led to the closure of a number of production areas in the Sumgayit chemical industry. As a result of the collapse of the USSR and the declaration of independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the main factor affecting the closure of industrial areas built by the Soviet regime in Sumgayit and dangerous to human health - the emergence of environmental problems in Sumgayit - was related to the obsolescence and expiration of technology in a number of chemical enterprises.

-Despite the measures taken in the field of greening and the introduction of new technologies in Sumgayit, environmental problems still remained. One of the factors influencing the emergence of environmental problems was the improper organization of production. Since the mid-80s, as a result of the decrease in production in the Sumgayit chemical industry, environmental problems have partially decreased.

-In the early 90s, as a result of the struggle for independence, the closure of production areas that were once built in Sumgayit by the Union and were extremely dangerous for human health from an ecological point of view had a positive effect on the ecological situation of Sumgayit.

As a result of the research work, the following recommendations can be made regarding the Sumgayit chemical industry:

-enterprises related to the chemical industry should be based on modern technology in terms of both quality and ecology;

-environmental problems and the issue of public health should always be in the spotlight at the state level;

-the distance between newly established chemical enterprises and residential areas should be taken into account, depending on the degree of ecological hazard.

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

1. Aliyev R.A. The history of the development of the Sumgayit petrochemical industry (the first half of the 70s of the XX century). Scientific News of SSU. Department of Social and Human Sciences. Sumgayit. 2019, No. 2, vol. 15, pp. 56-60
2. Aliyev R.A. History of the Sumgayit chemical industry in the second half of the 70s of the XX century. Pedagogical University News. Baku. 2019, No. 4, vol. 67, pp. 223-229
3. Aliyev R.A. The role of the chemical industry in the emergence of Sumgayit ecological problems in the early 90s of the XX century. History and its problems. Theoretical, scientific, methodological journal. Baku. 2019, No. 2, pp. 235-239
4. Aliyev R.A. History of the formation of the petrochemical industry in Azerbaijan (in the example of a synthetic rubber plant). National Pedagogical University named after M.P. Dragomanova. Gilea scientific journal. Kiev, 2019, No. 6 Issue 145 part 1. P.7-11
5. Aliyev R.A. History of the creation and development of a synthetic rubber plant. Odessa National Economic University. All-Ukrainian Association of Young Scientists. Naukovy Visnik. Odessa. 2019, no. 1, (264), p.186-205
6. Aliyev R.A. From the history of the impact of the chemical industry of Sumgait on the environmental situation (late 80s of the twentieth century). Scientific journal of history, economics and law. Modern scientific thought. Moscow, 2019, No. 2, pp. 144-149
7. Aliyev R.A. The state of the chemical industry in Sumgayit. Sumgayit State University. Socio-economic, political and cultural development of Azerbaijan during the years of independence. Materials of the Republican Scientific Conference. Sumgayit. October 13-14, 2016, pp. 124-125
8. Aliyev R.A. From the history of the development of the Sumgayit chemical industry (late 50s). Baku State University.

Materials of the XXI Republican Scientific Conference of Doctoral Students and Young Researchers. Baku, October 24-25, 2017, pp. 7-9

9. Aliyev R.A. Synthetic rubber plant in the 70s of the XX century. Sumgayit State University. Heydar Aliyev is the architect of Azerbaijani statehood. Materials of the Republican Scientific Conference. May 04, 2018, pp.21-22
10. Aliyev R.A. History of Sumgait chemical industry in the second half of the 70s of the 20th century. Science and education in the modern world: challenges of the XXI century. V International Scientific and Practical Conference. Nur-Sultan. October 10-12, 2019, pp. 71-76
11. Aliyev R.A. Superphosphate Plant in the 70-80s of the XX century. Actual Problems Of Chemical Engineering International Conference dedicated to 100th Anniversary of Azerbaijan State Oil and Industry University.24-25 December 2020, pp.425-429

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