

# REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

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## ABSTRACT

of the dissertation of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

### **AZERBAIJAN - FRANCE RELATIONS (1991-2003 years)**

Speciality: 5502.01 – General history

The field of science: History

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**BAKU - 2024**

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# I. GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DISSERTATION

**Relevance and elaboration of the topic.** After the restoration of state independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan in 1991, relations with the Republic of France took an important place in the European direction of its foreign policy. The French government recognized the independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan on January 3, 1992, diplomatic relations were established between the two countries in February, and the embassy of the French Republic in Azerbaijan opened on March 11. However, in the first years of independence, mutual relations did not develop in a positive way, under the influence of some factors, especially the Armenian lobby; the French side took an unfair position in relation to Azerbaijan in many cases. There were a number of reasons why Azerbaijan paid special attention to the establishment and development of its relations with France. The regional geopolitical, geoeconomic role and geostrategic position of Azerbaijan played a major role in determining the goals and objectives of France's foreign policy in relation to the Republic of Azerbaijan.

In 2022, the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries was completed. Since the formation and implementation of the foreign policy activity of the Republic of Azerbaijan was accompanied by the process of independent state building, all the problems encountered by the state had an impact on its foreign policy. Forming an independent foreign policy line, defining its main priorities, goals and objectives, directions and joining the system of international relations in the conditions of deep difficulties of the transition period was not such an easy task.

Mutual relations between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of France have passed through various stages. In the early 90s of the 20th century, the relation of Azerbaijan was characterized by limited. From May 1992 to the middle of 1993, conduction of Western-leaning policy were characterized by the fact that national statehood fell into a whirlwind of serious threats.

In 1993, when Heydar Aliyev came to the power, promoted the establishment of equal and mutually beneficial relations with all countries of the world as a priority direction, improved relations with major power centers located in the region, and at the same time ensured that Azerbaijan's developing relations with the United States and European countries became more pragmatic. President Heydar Aliyev made his first foreign visit to France in December 1993. Talking about the relations between Azerbaijan and the French Republics, the national leader of the Azerbaijani people, Heydar Aliyev, said: *"We want to have good friendship with France and develop French-Azerbaijani relations in all directions. ... I am sure that France will have a reliable, sincere and honorable friend in the face of Azerbaijan."*<sup>1</sup>

After Heydar Aliyev's first visit to the French Republic, the coldness in relations gradually disappeared. As a result of the visit, Azerbaijan managed to reduce the influence of external factors, the Armenian lobby and diaspora on France's position in approaching the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, which was the main problem of the Armenian military aggression. This visit opened a new page in mutual relations. The parties expressed their readiness to cooperate in all areas. The visit marked the beginning of intensive development of the relations of the Republic of Azerbaijan not only with France, but also with Western European countries in general. After the signing of the memorandum "On friendship, mutual understanding and cooperation between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of France", important steps were taken to establish and develop cooperation between the two countries. Heydar Aliyev, who invited France to cooperate with Azerbaijan, which until then took an unfair position in relation to Azerbaijan, said: *"... Azerbaijan is open to the whole world, including France, in mutually beneficial cooperation in all fields, first of all in the fields of economy, trade, science, technology, and culture"*<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Əliyev, H. Müstəqilliyimiz əbədidir: [46 cildə] / H.Əliyev – Bakı: Azərnəşr, c.8. – 1998. – 488 s., – s.287.

<sup>2</sup> Azərbaycan Respublikasının Prezidenti Heydər Əliyevin Fransaya rəsmi səfər zamanı Parisdə mətbuat konfransında bəyanatı – 21 dekabr 1993–cü

The negotiations and documents signed during President Heydar Aliyev's next visit to the French Republic in 1997 were a manifestation of France's growing interest in Azerbaijan and acceptance of its role in regional politics. These documents, which constitute the legal-contractual basis of relations between the two countries, allowed further development of cooperation. On September 4, 2002, President Heydar Aliyev stated that Azerbaijan attaches special importance to relations with France when he received the director of the French Institute of International Relations: "We attach special importance to our relations with France. We will continue to develop these relations."<sup>3</sup>

Another factor of determining the relevance of the topic is that the Republic of Azerbaijan is represented in many international and regional organizations on an equal footing with France and cooperates in a multilateral format. The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, which was created as a result of the military aggression of Armenia against Azerbaijan, set very important tasks for the diplomacy of the Azerbaijani state. In this sense, researching the policy of the Republic of France, one of the co-chair countries of the OSCE Minsk Group in 1991-2003, is of scientific and political relevance.

The activities of France, which is the co-chair of the Minsk Group, did not lead to a fair resolution of the conflict in the years under review. In the 44-day war that took place in September-November 2020, Azerbaijan won victory over the invading Armenia and liberated its territories from occupation. During the days of military operations, France demonstrated a position contrary to the co-chairmanship mandate. At the same time, without telling any facts, he slandered Azerbaijan about bringing mercenary fighters from foreign countries based on fabricated news. He could not say a word in front of the demands of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev to provide the facts. After the war, France tried with all its might to regain its former influence, to create a

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il: [Elektron resurs] / URL: <http://lib.aliyevheritage.org/az/7068289.html>. – istifadə tarixi: 24.11.2018-ci il.

<sup>3</sup> Azərbaycan – Fransa əlaqələri yüksək səviyyədədir və dostluq xarakteri daşıyır // Azərbaycan. – 2002, 5 sentyabr.

favorable situation for Armenia, and to revive the ineffective activity of the discredited Minsk group. President İlham Aliyev said about the regarding France's biased position: *"We have repeatedly expressed our objections to the French side that they should leave us alone. Go mind your own business. Otherwise, the chairman of the French Senate comes to Yerevan, where he declares that the French Senate will recognize Nagorno-Karabakh. When we address this issue to the French government bodies, when we express our objection, they tell us not to pay attention, this is a legislative body, it does not reflect the position of the government. Well, what about the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, does it not reflect the position of the government? What are these statements? Let them go and deal with their business"*<sup>4</sup>.

Even in the post-conflict period, the Republic of France did not abandon its pro-Armenian policy. Thus, on the eve of the 2022 presidential elections in France, the illegal visit of one of the candidates under the influence of the Armenian lobby to Karabakh was met with strong opposition by Azerbaijan. The presence of the mayor of Paris meeting with the leader of the Armenian separatists in Yerevan were kept the relations with France in the center of attention in Azerbaijan's foreign policy.

One of the factors that make the study of the problem relevant is related to the investigation of the issues of establishment and development of cooperation in the economic field between the two countries. As it is known, the presence of rich energy resources in the Azerbaijani sector of the Caspian Sea and cooperation in the field of efficient use of these resources stimulate the development of economic and political relations between the two countries. France, like many European countries, has had a certain activity in declaring to the world the issue of the fair use of energy resources of Caspian countries. It should be noted that if we look at the period after 2003, which is beyond the chronological framework of the dissertation, we

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<sup>4</sup> İlham Əliyev Azərbaycan Televiziyasına müsahibə verib: [Elektron resurs] / Azərbaycan Respublikası Prezidentinin rəsmi internet saytı, – 2021, 10 may. URL: <https://president.az/articles/51454>.

will see that President İlham Aliyev took a number of steps for the development of relations between the two countries. The head of state said about the current situation and prospects of Azerbaijan-France relations: *"Our relations are multifaceted and cover many fields. There are specific programs for each field, documents have been signed. This will allow us to develop France-Azerbaijani relations in a multifaceted way. This creates new opportunities for our bilateral relations, opens new horizons for regional cooperation, and at the same time, French-Azerbaijani relations play a very important role in the development of European-Azerbaijani relations. Because France is the leading country in Europe and France certainly has a special place and role in the development of Azerbaijan-European Union relations"*<sup>5</sup>.

Since 2005, as the head of the working group with France in the Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and then as the First Vice-President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, President of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, Mehriban Aliyeva has been widely active in the development of Azerbaijan-France relations. Mehriban Aliyeva was awarded the "Officer of the Legion of Honor" state order of the French Republic for her work in this field<sup>6</sup>.

However, in France, President Emmanuel Macron, who has been in power for the last few years, has spoken of double standards, which has caused some disagreements and tension in bilateral relations.

In the studied years, political, economic, geopolitical, geostrategic factors and regional security issues have been an integral part of Azerbaijan-France relations. The study of these relations is one of the tasks facing historians. First of all, it should be noted that there are political, diplomatic, energy, economic-trade, cultural-humanitarian,

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<sup>5</sup> Əliyev, İ. İnkişaf məqsədimizdir: [104 cildə] / İ.Əliyev. – c.1-26. – Bakı: Azər nəşr, – 2008, – c.26, – s.305.

<sup>6</sup> Mehriban Əliyevanın Fransa Respublikasının "Şərəf Legionunun Zabiti" dövlət ordeni ilə təltif olunma mərasimi keçirilmişdir: [Elektron resurs]/ Azərbaycan Respublikası Prezidentinin rəsmi internet saytı. -2011, 07 oktyabr. URL: <https://president.az/articles/3254?locale=en>.

etc. relations between the two countries. There is a rich history of development of cooperation in the fields. In this sense, the important place of France in the bilateral relations of the Republic of Azerbaijan with other countries, as well as the fact that the unique aspects of the cooperation between the two countries have not been researched out so far, indicate that the topic is relevant in the historiography of Azerbaijan both from a scientific-theoretical and from a practical political point of view. Conducting research on the presented topic serves to fill the gap in Azerbaijani historiography in this field.

Thus, the above-mentioned factors will help to establish mutually beneficial cooperative relations between the two countries, create a contract-legal base, the development dynamics of diplomatic-political relations, cooperation in the energy, trade-economic, science, education, culture, and humanitarian fields, and deepen France's position in Armenia's military aggression against Azerbaijan made it necessary to research, make scientific generalizations and come to conclusions.

Bilateral relations between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of France in 1991-2003 have not been investigated in a complex, systematic way as a separate problem in Azerbaijani historiography. However, relations with the French Republic have been touched upon in separate works dedicated to various aspects of the foreign policy activities of the Republic of Azerbaijan. From this point of view, the works of M.Gasımlı<sup>7</sup>, A.Hasanov<sup>8</sup>, A.Gojayev

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<sup>7</sup> Qasımov, M.C. Azərbaycan beynəlxalq münasibətlər sistemində (1991-1995-ci illər) / M.Qasımov. – Bakı: Gənclik, – 1996. – 140 s.; Qasımov, M.C. Azərbaycanın xarici siyasəti (konsepsiya məsələləri) / M.Qasımov. – Bakı: Mütərcim, – 1997. – 124 s.

<sup>8</sup> Həsənov, Ə. Azərbaycan Respublikasının xarici siyasətinin əsas vəzifələri, prinsip və istiqamətləri (1991–1997-ci illər) // – Bakı: Tarix və onun problemləri. Nəzəri, elmi, metodik jurnal, – 1998. № 2, – s.49–69; Həsənov, Ə. Azərbaycan – ABŞ: anlaşılmaz münasibətlərdən strateji tərəfdaşlığa doğru (oktyabr 1991 – avqust 1997) / Ə.Həsənov. – Bakı: Azərbaycan Universiteti, – 1997. – 107 s.; Həsənov, Ə. Azərbaycanın ABŞ və Avropa dövlətləri ilə münasibətləri (1991–1996) / Ə.Həsənov. – Bakı:



(Eyvazli)<sup>9</sup>, İ.Hüseynova<sup>10</sup>, A.Abbasbeyli<sup>11</sup>, E.Amir-İlyasova<sup>12</sup>, Z.Adıgözəlov<sup>13</sup>, İ.İsrafilov<sup>14</sup>, R.Dadashova<sup>15</sup> mention a number of issues related to bilateral cooperation. information about the nature of the relationship was given.

The works of M. Gasimli, who researches in detail the most diverse aspects of the foreign policy of the Republic of Azerbaijan, attract more attention from the point of view of studying the problem. In his studies, the principles, goals and objectives of the foreign policy of the Republic of Azerbaijan, relations with

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Elm, – 2000. – 368 s.; Həsənov, Ə. Azərbaycanın xarici siyasəti: Avropa ölkələri və ABŞ (1991–1996) / Ə.Həsənov. – Bakı: Azərnaşr, – 1998. – 315 s.; Həsənov, Ə. Heydər Əliyev və Azərbaycanın xarici siyasət prioritetlərinin müəyyənləşməsi / – Bakı: Heydər Əliyev irsi və Azərbaycan dövlətçiliyi, – 2005. – s.571–582; Həsənov, Ə. Müasir beynəlxalq münasibətlər və Azərbaycanın xarici siyasəti / Ə.Həsənov. – Bakı: Azərbaycan, – 2005. – 752 s.

<sup>9</sup> Qocayev, (Eyvazlı) A. Müasir–Azərbaycan Fransa münasibətləri / – Bakı: Şuşa, – 1999. – 64 s.

<sup>10</sup> Hüseynova, İ.M. Dövlətçilik naminə / – Bakı: Bakı Universitetinin nəşriyyatı, – 2001. – 286 s.; Hüseynova, İ.M. Heydər Əliyev və Qafqazda sülh prosesi. Bakı: Çarşıoğlu, 2008, 670 s.; Hüseynova, İ.M. Heydər Əliyev və Qafqazda sülh prosesi / İ.M.Hüseynova. – Bakı: Çarşıoğlu, – 2008. – 670 s.; Hüseynova, İ.M. Müstəqilliyimizin təminatçısı / İ.M.Hüseynova. – Bakı: Təhsil, – 2003. – 504 s.

<sup>11</sup> Аббасбейли, А.Н. Азербайджан в системе международных организаций / А.Н.Аббасбейли, А.М.Гасанов. – Баку: Азернешр, – 1999. – 256 с.

<sup>12</sup> Эмир-Ильясова, Э.И. Азербайджан в системе международных отношений / Э.И.Эмир-Ильясова. – Баку: 2000; Эмир-Ильясова, Э.И. Геополитика во внешнеэкономических связях Азербайджанской Республики // Э.И.Эмир-Ильясова. – Баку: 2003.

<sup>13</sup> Adıgözəlov, Z. Azərbaycan və Fransa münasibətlərinin formalaşması: tarixi-siyasi aspekt // – Bakı: Tarix və onun problemləri, – 2011. №1, s.138-145, – s.140.

<sup>14</sup> İsrafilov İ. Azərbaycanın XX əsrdə Almaniya və Fransa ilə əlaqələri / İ.İsrafilov. – Bakı: ADNA, 2006. – 79 s.

<sup>15</sup> Dadaşova R. 1992-1998-ci illərdə Azərbaycan – Fransa əlaqələri // – Bakı: Qanun, –1998, №4, – s.43-48, – s.43.

international organizations, including the Republic of France, were analyzed, possible ways and perspectives of cooperation were investigated. In particular, in the two-volume "Foreign policy of the Republic of Azerbaijan (1991-2003 years)" written by the author on the basis of rich archive materials and documentary sources and published in 2015, the issues of political and diplomatic cooperation with the Republic of France were investigated on the basis of reliable sources<sup>16</sup>.

In the works of A. Hasanov, various issues of the foreign policy of the Republic of Azerbaijan, including bilateral cooperation with individual states, were investigated. In terms of studying bilateral relations between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of France, the author's works are important.

A. Gojayev (Eyvazli)'s book has studied the establishment and first stages of relations between the two countries. The author explained the main goals of his activity towards the formation of the legal framework of relations between the Republic of France and the Republic of Azerbaijan, France's interests in the Caucasus and becoming one of the co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group. Attention was paid to issues of cooperation in mutual economic, cultural and humanitarian fields. Information useful for research work is also reflected in the publication.

In the books of A. Abbasbeyli and E. Amir-Ilyasova, the position of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the system of international relations, the directions and principles of its foreign policy, its participation in international and regional organizations, and its relations with other countries were investigated. In these studies, which included France-Azerbaijan relations in 1991-2000, a number of peculiarities of bilateral cooperation and the main factors determining development prospects were shown.

Although I. Huseinova's books are not dedicated to the relations between the two states, the important events in the Caucasus region, the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, which was the main problem of

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<sup>16</sup> Qasımlı, M.C. Azərbaycanın xarici siyasəti (1991–2003): [2 cildə] / M.Qasımlı, – Bakı: Mütərcim, – c.1. – 2015. – 648 s.; c.2. – 2015. – 664 s.

Azerbaijan as a result of the military aggression of Armenia, and the political negotiations and mutual relations conducted with the major powers in this regard are reflected.

Articles dedicated to one or other aspects of the problem were also used when writing the dissertation.

Z. Adigozelov's article was analyzed from political aspects. It should be noted that the author's approach to the topic was within a limited work, and evaluations regarding the possible development trends of bilateral relations were made superficially.

In the article of Sh. Mustafayeva, France's possible directions of action in establishing peace in the South Caucasus were analyzed. The author approached this role of France mostly in the context of the conflict that arose as a result of Armenia's military aggression against Azerbaijan and its occupation of territories<sup>17</sup>.

In his article of O. Nasibli analyzed the humanitarian relations between Azerbaijan and France. Although the article covers the years outside the chronological framework of our research, it is of some interest in terms of comparative analysis<sup>18</sup>.

Z. Mammadov and R. Aliyeva also mentioned the relations established with France in their article dedicated to the inter-parliamentary relations between the Western European countries and the Republic of Azerbaijan in 1995-2015<sup>19</sup>.

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<sup>17</sup>Mustafaeva, S. The role of France in establishing peace in the South Caucasus (in the context of the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict) / S.Mustafaeva // Scientific and Theoretical Almanac Grani, – 2018, No. 21(3). – p. 108-115.

<sup>18</sup> Насибли, О.К. Развитие гуманитарного сотрудничества Азербайджанской и Французской Республик в новейшее время // – Баку, Colloquium-journal, – 2019, № 10-4, – с.17-21.

<sup>19</sup> Mammadov, Z. Aliyeva, R. The inter-parliamentary relations among the Republic of Azerbaijan and Western European states (1995-2015) // İTOBİAD KONGRE, II. International Congress of Human and Social Science Researches, –2019, – p. 1315-1322.

G.Abdullayeva touched on France-Azerbaijan trade relations in her article about the development of trade relations between the European Union and the Republic of Azerbaijan<sup>20</sup>.

In S.S. Guliyeva's articles, a wide spectrum of relations between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of France was investigated on the basis of sources and literature<sup>21</sup>.

While writing the dissertation work, attention was also paid to the works that talk about the historical roots of relations between Azerbaijan and France. In this regard, Yagub Mahmudov and K. Shukurov's co-authored work<sup>22</sup>, Y. Mahmudov<sup>23</sup>, S. Onullahi<sup>24</sup>, M. Gasimli<sup>25</sup> and other historians' books and articles were referred to.

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<sup>20</sup> Abdullayeva, G. Issues of extension of trading relations between Azerbaijan and The European Union // 55th International Scientific Conference on Economic and Social Development – Baku, 18-19 June, – 2020, – p. 217-226.

<sup>21</sup> Quliyeva, S.S. Azərbaycan və Fransa Respublikaları arasında elm-təhsil sahəsində əməkdaşlıq (XX əsrin 90-cı illəri) // Müsəlman Şərqində ilk parlamentli respublika, Azərbaycan Xalq Cümhuriyyətinin 100 illik yubileyinə həsr olunmuş beynəlxalq elmi konfransın materialları, – 21-23 may 2018, Bakı. – s.742-744; Quliyeva, S.S. Cənubi Qafqaz Fransasının xarici siyasətində // Qafqaz böyük sarsıntılar şəraitində: tarixi təcrübə, müasir dövr və perspektivlər. Respublika Elmi konfransı, Tezislər, Bakı, 04 dekabr, 2017. – s. 60-61; Quliyeva, S.S. Fransasının Cənubi Qafqaz siyasəti və Dağlıq Qarabağ problemi // Qafqazşünasların I Beynəlxalq Forumu. 17-18 aprel 2017. – Bakı, 2 kitabda: I ci kitab. – Bakı: MTM İnnovation, – 2017, s. 263-267; Quliyeva, S.S. XX əsrin sonu – XXI əsrin əvvəllərində Azərbaycan Respublikası ilə Fransa Respublikası arasında mədəniyyət sahəsində əməkdaşlıq // – Bakı: Geostrategiya. – 2019, № 04(52), – s. 57-63; Кулиева, С.С. Сотрудничество в области энергетики между Азербайджанской Республикой и Французской Республики // – Москва: Евразийский Союз Ученых (ЕСУ). – 2019, №6(63), 9 часть, – с. 13-17.

<sup>22</sup> Mahmudov, Y. Azərbaycan beynəlxalq münasibətlər və diplomatiya tarixi. Dövlətlərarası müqavilələr və digər xarici siyasət traktatları (1639-1828): [4 cildə] / Y. Mahmudov, K. Şükürov. – Bakı: c.1. 2009, – 512 s.

<sup>23</sup> Махмудов, Я.М. Взаимоотношения государств Аккоюнлу и Сефевидов с европейскими странами (II половина XV – нач. XVII вв.) / Я. Махмудов. – Баку: Издательство Бакинского Университета, – 1991. – 264 s.

The researches of foreign researchers K. Kasim<sup>26</sup>, A. Tashkaya<sup>27</sup>, C. Uliyamson<sup>28</sup>, F. Willem<sup>29</sup>, P. P. Timofeeyev<sup>30</sup>, P. Pavlova<sup>31</sup>, M. Moradi<sup>32</sup>, and Z. Hatamzad<sup>33</sup> were used while investigating the problem. In the works of the mentioned authors, various aspects of the foreign policy issues of France and the Republic of Azerbaijan were studied.

In general, the study of works published both in Azerbaijan and in foreign countries shows that although the issues of cooperation between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of France in the diplomatic-political, trade-economic, scientific-technical, cultural and humanitarian fields were partially touched upon, in 1991-2003

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<sup>24</sup> Onullahi, S.M. Jan Battist Tavernye Naxçıvan haqqında // – Bakı: Bakı Universiteti Xəbərləri, – 1999. № 3, – s.87-93.

<sup>25</sup> Qasimov, M.C. Xarici dövlətlər və Azərbaycan (aprel işğalından SSRİ yaradılana qədərki dövrdə diplomatik-siyasi münasibətlər) /M.C.Qasimov. –Bakı: Qanun, – 1998. – 360 s.

<sup>26</sup> Kamer, Kasım. Azərbaycan'ın dış politikası /Emine Gürsoy–Naskali ve Erdal Şahin (Der.) / Bağımsızlıklarının 10 Yılında Türk Cumhuriyetleri. – Haarlam, – Hollanda: SOTA, – 2001, – s. 436-437.

<sup>27</sup> Taşkaya, A. Jean Baptiste Tavernier, Tavernier Seyahatnamesi (kitap tanıtımı) // Tarih İncelemeleri Dergisi, Cilt XXVI, – 2011. Aralık, № 2, – s.639-641.

<sup>28</sup> Williamson, C. Safavid Persia Through the Eyes of French Travellers // The La Trobe Journal, №91, – 2013 june, – pp. 65-75.

<sup>29</sup> Willem, F. Iran and the World in the Safavid Age / F.Willem, H.Edmund. – I.B.Tauris, – 2015. – 544 p.

<sup>30</sup> Тимофеев П.П. Политика Франции на постсоветском пространстве // Современная Европа. 2013. №2 (54): [Электронный ресурс] / URL: <https://cyberleninka.ru/article/n/politika-frantsii-na-postsovetskom-prostranstve> (дата обращения: 06.03.2021).

<sup>31</sup> Павлова, П.М. Роль Франции в урегулировании Нагорно-Карабахского конфликта // Сборник научных статей 30-летие конфликта в Нагорном Карабахе. – Москва: Российский университет дружбы народов. – 2019.– с. 97-104.

<sup>32</sup> Moradi, M. Fərənse və xəlice fars // Tarixə rəvabete xəreci. – Tehran, – 1373. № 171, – s. 97-121.

<sup>33</sup> Hətəmzad, Z. Səfəvi və Fransa dövlətlər arasında əlaqələr // – Bakı: Tarix və onun problemləri. – 2013. № 2, – s.401-406.

bilateral relations have not been the object of a separate complex study, and therefore the study of the problem is relevance.

A wide range of sources were used in the research. A number of documents and periodical press materials were brought into scientific circulation. Content of the speeches and interviews of leaders of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of France, official representatives, materials of official meetings held between the two countries, documents signed at bilateral meetings held between various ministries of the two states, materials of the Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the Republic of France and diaspora organizations, newspapers and magazines, and Internet sites. and event analysis was conducted.

The most authoritative source in the study of the relations between Azerbaijan and France is the multi-volume "Our independence is eternal", which contains speeches, appeals and interviews of the national leader Heydar Aliyev, and it was widely used during the research. The materials included in the multivolume are important in terms of studying the foundations of relations between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of France, the main directions and forms of cooperation, and the dynamics of development<sup>34</sup>.

In terms of studying the state of relations between the two countries after 2003, the works of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, his speeches during his visits to the Republic of France, and the interviews he gave are an important source.<sup>35</sup> His speeches, interviews which he gave during his visits to the French Republic are an important source. They reflect the state, potential and development prospects of relations with France.

When writing the dissertation, archive documents published by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, interstate and intergovernmental contracts and agreements signed between Azerbaijan and France, and materials of the Embassy of the French Republic in the Republic of Azerbaijan were used. Since the

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<sup>34</sup> Əliyev, H. Müstəqilliyimiz əbədidir: [46 cildə] / H.Əliyev. – c.1-46, – Bakı: Azər nəşr, – 1997-2013.

<sup>35</sup> Əliyev, İ. İnkişaf məqsədimizdir: [134 cildə] / İ.Əliyev. – c.1-134. – Bakı: Azər nəşr, – 2008-2023.

materials on cooperation between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the French state were published in "Azerbaijan" and "Khalq Gazete" newspapers, they were also addressed. The materials on the websites of official state and government organizations were widely used in writing the dissertation.

**The object and subject of the research.** The object of the research is mutual relations between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of France in 1991-2003.

The subject of the research is the factors determining the bilateral relations between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of France, the creation of the legal-contractual basis of mutual relations, the establishment of relations in the diplomatic-political, energy, trade-economic, military, scientific-technical, cultural-humanitarian fields and their characteristics, it is also an examination of France's position in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict created as a result of Armenia's military aggression against Azerbaijan.

The chronological framework of the dissertation covers the years 1991-2003. Taking the beginning of the chronological framework in 1991 is related to the restoration of state independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan and taking the first steps in the field of independent international activity. Specifying the end of the chronological framework as 2003 is related to the holding of the Presidential elections in the Republic of Azerbaijan in that year.

**Research goals and objectives.** The main goal of the research is to examine the entire complex of mutual relations between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of France in 1991-2003 from a scientific-historical point of view. In order to achieve the set goal, the following specific tasks were attempted:

- Collect, study, systematize, interpret, analyze, compare and critically analyze sources and literature on the relations between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of France, make generalizations;
- to interpret and analyze the factors and historical conditions that determine the diplomatic-political relations between the two countries;

- analyze and evaluate the main factors affecting the formation of mutual interests;
- to investigate the establishment and development of diplomatic-political relations;
- to study the establishment of cooperation in trade-economic, scientific-technical, military, educational, cultural and humanitarian fields, study the dynamics of development and determine their prospects;
- To study the possibilities of influence of hydrocarbon resources in the Azerbaijani sector of the Caspian Sea on the development of economic cooperation between the two countries;
- To investigate the attitude of the French Republic to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict created as a result of the military aggression of Armenia against the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- To put forward scientifically based proposals to further develop bilateral relations between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of France.

**Research methods.** While investigating the problem, the historical-chronological principle adopted in historical studies, the collection, systematization, and complex involvement of facts and data, the methods of interpretation, comparative and critical analysis of issues were used, and scientific-theoretical generalizations were made.

**Main clauses defended.** Taking into account the relevance of the research, the following provisions were defended:

- An analysis of the factors determining the diplomatic-political relations between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of France was carried out. The first proposition is that Azerbaijan's economic and security interests, and France's economic interests and geopolitical intentions had a significant impact on the mutual relations of the two countries in the studied chronological framework;
- Diplomatic-political relations between the two countries have not always developed in an upward direction, a number of problems arose in 1992-1993. It is possible to define the years 1995-1997 as



flexible changes, and the stage covering the years 1997-2003 as the stage of slow growth;

- the reasons why the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev made his first foreign visit to the Republic of France at the end of 1993 were analyzed;

- although the perspectives of cooperation in trade-economic, scientific-technical, educational, cultural and humanitarian fields have been assessed, the steps towards the realization of these opportunities have not been fully effective due to objective and subjective reasons.

- The hydrocarbon reserves in the Azerbaijani sector of the Caspian Sea had a serious impact on the development of economic cooperation between the two countries, and caused France's unfair position on many political issues to change towards relative objectivity.

- The position of the French Republic in relation to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict created as a result of Armenia's military aggression against the Republic of Azerbaijan was unfair, biased and one-sided under the influence of the Armenian lobby and diaspora. The active political and economic diplomacy of the Azerbaijan state, its position based on international law forced France to approach a constructive position in some cases.

**The scientific novelty of the research consists of the following:**

- For the first time in the historiography of the homeland, the issues of political, diplomatic, energy, trade-economic, military, scientific-technical, educational, cultural and humanitarian cooperation between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of France in 1991-2003 were studied on the basis of rich facts and materials. trends were determined and evaluated, such a conclusion was reached that the establishment and development of relations was influenced by history, mutual interests, and the path of cooperation was not smooth;

- The establishment and development of diplomatic-political relations between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of France, as well as factors determining mutual interests, are justified by rich facts and materials;

- the situation and prospects of economic cooperation between the two countries were studied on the basis of facts, and it was concluded that the reason for the level of cooperation being lower than the capabilities of the parties is related to France's pro-Armenian position;

- The attitude of the Republic of France to the military aggression of Armenia against Azerbaijan and the occupation policy was investigated on the basis of actual materials. It has been shown that the influence of the Armenian lobby and the Armenians living in this country on the French government is strong;

- the results of bilateral relations were shown and scientific generalizations were made.

**Theoretical and practical significance of research.** The main provisions and conclusions of the dissertation work can be used:

- in the preparation of teaching aids and textbooks;
- delivering lectures and holding seminars in higher education institutions;

- conducting scientific research of master's, dissertation and doctoral students;

- writing generalized works dedicated to the foreign policy of the Republic of Azerbaijan;

- in the activities of relevant ministries, committees and departments participating in the cooperation of the Republic of Azerbaijan with the Republic of France;

- promoting the foreign policy activities of the Azerbaijan state;

- In the activities of the diaspora organizations of Azerbaijan in France.

Dissertation approval and application. The main content of the dissertation is reflected in the articles and theses published by the author in Azerbaijan and abroad. In connection with the topic, the dissertation candidate made reports at republican and international scientific conferences.

**The organization where the dissertation work was performed.** The dissertation work was completed at the Department of New and Modern History of European and American Countries of the Faculty of History of Baku State University.

**Dissertation structure.** Dissertation work consists of Introduction - 29190 characters, Chapter I - 95212 characters, Chapter II - 80083 characters, Chapter III - 30215 characters, Conclusion - 11973 characters, and a total of 246 thousand 673 characters, excluding the list of references.

## II. THE MAIN CONTENT OF THE DISSERTATION WORK

In the introduction, the relevance of the topic is justified, the used sources and literature are extensively analyzed, the goals and objectives of the research, the scientific-theoretical and practical importance are determined, the methodological basis, scientific innovation and the main propositions defended are indicated.

The first chapter of the dissertation, **"Establishment and development of political-diplomatic relations between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of France"** consists of two paragraphs. In the first paragraph, called "Factors determining Azerbaijan-France relations", the establishment of relations between the two countries and the factors characterizing these relations were studied. After the fall of the USSR, France's interest in the South Caucasus was primarily determined by the favorable geographical and political position of the region. As this region is located between Europe on the one hand and the Middle East, Russia and Iran on the other, it was important for France for several reasons: firstly, the countries of the South Caucasus, especially Azerbaijan, were of great importance as transit countries. On the other hand, many European states saw the region as one of the possible strategic springboards for solving crises in neighboring regions<sup>36</sup>.

After the state independence was restored on October 18, 1991, one of the important places in the foreign policy of the Republic of Azerbaijan was the establishment and development of relations with the Republic of France. After the Republic of France recognized the state independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan, diplomatic relations were established between the two countries. A number of factors influenced the establishment of relations between the

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<sup>36</sup> Тимофеев П.П. Политика Франции на постсоветском пространстве // Современная Европа. 2013. №2 (54): [Электронный ресурс] / URL: <https://cyberleninka.ru/article/n/politika-frantsii-na-postsovetском-prostranstve> (дата обращения: 06.03.2021).

Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of France<sup>37</sup>. First of all, natural and historical factors determined the establishment of relations. The fact that Azerbaijan has a strategically favorable geographic position, plays the role of a bridge between Europe and Asia, and is located on the Silk Road attracted the attention of European states, and this interest was always dominant in ancient, medieval, modern and recent times<sup>38</sup>.

Relations established with France were not easy, consistent and dynamic in the first years of state independence. This was mainly influenced by two factors: the first was the dirty propaganda activity of Armenians living in France and the Armenian lobby against Azerbaijan, and the second factor was the unprofessional approach of a number of political forces concerned about the disruptive activities of Armenians.

The second paragraph of the first chapter is called **"Creation and development of the contractual-legal basis of mutual relations"**. It is known that for the establishment and development of cooperation between states in other fields, first of all, the recognition of state relations, the establishment of diplomatic relations, and the formation of the contractual and legal basis of relations are of great importance. In this sense, the formation of the legal basis of the relations between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of France was important in the past years.

The creation of the contractual-legal basis of mutual relations has mainly gone through the following stages:

The first phase was from January 1992 to June 1992. The main feature of this stage is the establishment of the first relations based on international legal norms and diplomatic protocol.

The second stage was from June 1992 to June 1993. At this stage, under the influence of the lobby of the Armenian organizations in France and the community, stagnation prevailed in relations.

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<sup>37</sup> Qasımlı, M.C. Azərbaycanın xarici siyasəti (1991–2003): [2 cildə] / M.Qasımlı, – Bakı: Mütərcim, – c.1. – 2015. – 648 s.; – c.2. – 2015. – 664 s., – s.53.

<sup>38</sup> Qasımov, M.C. Azərbaycanın xarici siyasəti (konsepsiya məsələləri) / M.Qasımov. – Bakı: Mütərcim, – 1997. – 124 s., – s.48.

Third, the stage was from June 1993 to January 1997. The President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev made his first official foreign visit to the Republic of France. At this stage, when the pragmatic line was defined as the superior direction in Azerbaijan's foreign policy, efforts were made to build relations with the French Republic on solid foundations, convey the truths of Azerbaijan to France, try to weaken the influence of Armenian organizations, lobby and community on the French state with various political combinations, energy, trade and economic relations with France and the contractual-legal basis of relations of cooperation in other fields has been created.

The fourth stage was from January 1997 to 2001. At this stage, the relations between Azerbaijan and France have developed, the environment of mutual trust between the two countries has increased, under the influence of various forces, the French state, which previously had a negative attitude towards Azerbaijan, actively defended the issue of Azerbaijan's full membership in the Council of Europe, increased its activity as a co-chair of the Minsk Group, and went against the interests of Azerbaijan. In some issues, it has relatively retreated from its previous unfair position.

Fifth, after the Republic of Azerbaijan became a member of the Council of Europe on January 25, 2001, Azerbaijan-France relations entered a qualitatively new stage. In 2001, mutual political-economic relations became particularly intensive and rich, new documents were signed, contractual and legal basis of relations were strengthened.

The second chapter of the thesis work is called **"Cooperation in energy, trade-economic, science, education, culture and humanitarian fields"**. In the first paragraph of the chapter called **"Energy, trade-economic cooperation and its importance"**, issues of energy, trade-economic cooperation between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of France are investigated. The development of political relations between the two countries and the signed documents gave impetus to the establishment of cooperation in these areas. One of such areas of cooperation was energy. The Republic of France considered it useful for its strategic interests to

establish and deepen cooperation with the Republic of Azerbaijan in order to diversify energy needs. Cooperation in this field met the common interests of both countries.

In December 1993, during the official visit of President Heydar Aliyev to Paris, the issues of energy cooperation between Azerbaijan and the Republic of France were discussed. During the negotiations, the French state fully supported cooperation in the oil field and defended Azerbaijan's energy strategy.

On September 20, 1994, after the "Contract of the Century" was signed in Baku with the participation of 8 countries on the joint development and distribution of oil in the "Azeri", "Chirag" and deep-water "Guneshli" fields in the Azerbaijani sector of the Caspian Sea, France decided to use its oil companies' Azerbaijani hydrocarbon reserves. took some measures to ensure participation in the exploitation process. In March 1995, the prime minister of the French Republic, Edouard Balladur, addressed the Azerbaijani government and expressed his intention to cooperate in the field of energy. Two months later, President Heydar Aliyev and the president of "Elf" company F. Jaffre discussed issues of cooperation in the field of energy in Paris. In July, SOCAR and "Elf" agreed to soon establish an oil alliance<sup>39</sup>.

On January 13, 1997, with the participation of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Heydar Aliyev, and the President of France, Jacques Chirac, SOCAR and the French companies "Elf Aquitaine" and "Total" signed a 25-year agreement on the joint development of the Lankaran Diniz and Talish Diniz oil fields. the contract was signed <sup>40</sup>.

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<sup>39</sup> Qocayev, (Eyvazlı) A. Müasir–Azərbaycan Fransa münasibətləri / – Bakı: Şuşa, – 1999. – 64 s., – s.14.

<sup>40</sup> Azərbaycan Dövlət Neft Şirkəti ilə Fransanın “Elf Akiten” və “Total”şirkətləri arasında neft müqaviləsinin imzalanma mərasimi : [Elektron resurs] / URL: [/https://azertag.az/xeber/AZARBAYCAN DOVLAT NEFT SIRKATI ILA FRANSANIN ELF AKITEN VA TOTAL SIRKATLARI ARASINDA NEFT MUQAVILASININ IMZALANMA\\_MARASIMI-804072](https://azertag.az/xeber/AZARBAYCAN DOVLAT NEFT SIRKATI ILA FRANSANIN ELF AKITEN VA TOTAL SIRKATLARI ARASINDA NEFT MUQAVILASININ IMZALANMA_MARASIMI-804072) 13.01.1997;

The conducted research shows that as a result of the work done, the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of France created a bilateral dialogue for the expansion of cooperation in the field of energy and tried to further strengthen this dialogue.<sup>41</sup>

Both countries exchanged experiences related to energy policy and supported the development of joint projects between their enterprises in all sectors of the energy field, especially in the fields of hydrocarbons and renewable energy.

After the restoration of state independence, relations between the Republic of Azerbaijan and France in the trade and economic sphere began to be established independently and to acquire a new qualitative state. The document signed during the first official visit of President Heydar Aliyev to France envisaged trade and economic cooperation between the two countries as well as in other fields. During that visit, French business circles directly received detailed information from the President of Azerbaijan about the rich economic potential of the country, the reforms carried out, foreign investments in various areas of the economy.

On June 7, 1994, the president of the French "Spy Batinol" industrial company B. Renye, who visited Baku, discussed the plans to create a "support group for Azerbaijan" within the framework of the French-Azerbaijani Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the national center of French entrepreneurs in order to promote cooperation between the two countries. asked the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan for help in its implementation. President Heydar Aliyev highly appreciated this proposal. Soon such a group was formed<sup>42</sup>.

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Azerbaijan oil in the world policy. – Baku: Azerbaijan Publishing House, – 1997. – 438 p., – s.288.

<sup>41</sup> Azərbaycan və Fransa arasında enerji sahəsində əməkdaşlıq məsələləri müzakirə edilmişdir: [Elektron resurs] / URL: // [https://azertag.az/xeber/Azerbaycan\\_ve\\_Fransa\\_arasinda\\_enerji\\_sahesinde\\_emekdasliq\\_meseleleri\\_muzakire\\_edilmisdir-538263](https://azertag.az/xeber/Azerbaycan_ve_Fransa_arasinda_enerji_sahesinde_emekdasliq_meseleleri_muzakire_edilmisdir-538263).

<sup>42</sup> Xarici siyasət fəaliyyətinin xronikası 1997-ci il: [Elektron resurs] / URL: [https://files.preslib.az/projects/toplu/v2/f4\\_5.pdf](https://files.preslib.az/projects/toplu/v2/f4_5.pdf).



French companies visited the regions of the country, including the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, and assessed investment opportunities. Many projects were signed. The commission signed an agreement between the government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the government of the Republic of France on mutual promotion and protection of investments, the protocol of the meeting of the economic commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of France<sup>43</sup>.

Thus, in the studied years, the contractual and legal basis of trade and economic cooperation between the two countries was created and strengthened. Forms of trade and economic cooperation were defined in the signed documents.

The second paragraph of the second chapter of the dissertation work is called **"Cooperation in the fields of science, education, culture and humanitarianism"**.

As it is known, the establishment and expansion of international cultural cooperation is one of the components of the implementation of the foreign policy strategy of the states. Cultural diplomacy or "soft power" is considered one of the means to achieve the main goals of states. Establishing cultural relations is of greater importance for ensuring peace and security in the world.

Azerbaijan is not only geographically located at the junction of East and West, but also plays the role of an intercultural and intercivilizational junction. Therefore, it is no coincidence that Azerbaijani culture is accepted in the world, especially Eastern and Western countries show interest in Azerbaijani culture, cultural heritage, art, and even examples of folk creativity.<sup>44</sup>

After the restoration of state independence, a new stage began in Azerbaijan-France cultural relations. These relations cover the fields of science, education and art. France has declared that it

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<sup>43</sup> Azərbaycan Respublikası hökuməti və Fransa Respublikası hökuməti arasında investisiyaların qarşılıqlı təşviqi və qorunması haqqında sazişin təsdiq edilməsi barədə Azərbaycan Respublikasının qanunu // – Bakı 27 noyabr 1998 // Azərbaycan 1993, 3 yanvar.

<sup>44</sup> Axundova, J. Müxtəlif ölkələrdə diaspor və ictimai-mədəni diplomatiya / J. Axundova. – Bakı: Elm və təhsil, – 2016. – 92 s., – s.57-62.

supports all cultural activities of Azerbaijan, which has just declared its independence. At the same time, Azerbaijan also paid close attention to all the proposals made by France in this field<sup>45</sup>.

During the years of independence, certain steps were taken in the field of establishing literary relations between France and Azerbaijan, studying and promoting Azerbaijani writers and poets in France, and promoting the progressive directions of French literature in our country. In 1995, the ghazals of genius Nizami Ganjavi, translated into French, were published in "Mozura" magazine<sup>46</sup>. The promotion of the "Kitabi-Dada Gorgud" saga, which is considered the epic of Azerbaijani literature, was in the center of attention in France. On the occasion of the 1300th anniversary of the epic, ceremonial events were held in Paris on the initiative of UNESCO.

The Heydar Aliyev Foundation has exceptional services in the direction of cultural relations with France. The fund carries out purposeful activities in the field of promoting our rich culture, literature, art, Azerbaijani truths in France. The Foundation has donated 100 titles of scientific and fiction literature, consisting of 150 elegantly printed copies covering various fields, to the library of the National Institute of Oriental Languages and Civilizations, one of the oldest scientific and educational institutions in France, where the Azerbaijani language is taught.<sup>47</sup>

Since 1993, France's humanitarian assistance to forced refugees, displaced persons and displaced persons has increased year by year. The volume of humanitarian aid increased from the initial 14.5 thousand US dollars to 2 million US dollars. Among the humanitarian aid that came from France through the Red Cross and Red Crescent, food products occupied an important place. At the same time, there were 462 tents, 36 thousand blankets and kitchen

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<sup>45</sup> Qocayev, (Eyvazlı) A. Müasir–Azərbaycan Fransa münasibətləri / – Bakı: Şuşa, – 1999. – 64 s.

<sup>46</sup> Abdullayev, Ə. Müstəqil Azərbaycan və Fransa / Ə. Abdullayev. – Bakı: İqtisad Universiteti nəşriyyatı, – 2007. – 210 s., – s.182.

<sup>47</sup> Qasimov, E.A. Azərbaycan – Fransa mədəni əlaqələri (2006-2008-ci illər) // – Bakı: Bakı Universitetinin Xəbərləri, – 2017. № 2, – s.156-163, – s.158.

equipment. During humanitarian aid, special attention was paid to refugee children: 0.5 tons of children's shoes, 9.5 tons of clothes, etc.

The research shows that between 1991-2003 relations between the Republic of Azerbaijan and France were established and expanded in energy, trade-economic, science, education, culture and humanitarian fields. A contractual-legal basis of mutual relations has been created. The legal-normative basis for bilateral cooperation in the field of culture was the joint statement on cultural relations between France and Azerbaijan signed in 1997. Relations between education and science departments have been established, forms of cooperation have been defined, student and specialist exchanges have been carried out.

The third chapter of the dissertation called **"France's attitude to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict created as a result of Armenia's military aggression against Azerbaijan"** consists of two paragraphs. The first paragraph of the chapter is called **"France's position on the military aggression of Armenia"**.

The analysis of the position of the French Republic from the time of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict to the end of 1996 allows the following conclusions to be drawn. First of all, since the beginning of the conflict, as a result of the active propaganda of the Armenian lobby in France and the lies spread in the French society, this state's approach to the issue has been decidedly against Azerbaijan. In the period from June 1992 to the middle of 1993, the Azerbaijani side took a strong position against the pro-Armenian position of the French state. In the period from October 1993 to the end of 1996, gradual changes were made due to the economic interests of France in Azerbaijan and the correct foreign policy line of the Azerbaijani state.

The second paragraph of the chapter is called **"Activity of France as the co-chair of the Minsk Group of the OSCE"**. Here, from January 1997, the Republic of France became one of the main parties responsible for the regulation and resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict - the co-chairman of the OSCE Minsk Group. With this, France's activity increased, and such activity was not without reason. France's economic interests in Azerbaijan were

secured. The French "Elf-Egiten" oil company acquired a 10 percent stake in the "Shah Deniz" international contract signed on June 4, 1996.

After the Lisbon Summit of the OSCE<sup>48</sup> held from December 2 to 4, 1996, a change took place in the co-chairmanship institution of the Minsk Group. In the period from 1992 to 1996, Italy (1992-1993), Sweden (1994), Russia and Finland (1995-1996) chaired the Minsk Group.<sup>49</sup>

The heads of state of the Minsk group countries also expressed their views on the proposal to resolve the conflict. In the joint statement signed by US President Bill Clinton, President of the Russian Federation Boris Yeltsin, and President of the French Republic Jacques Chirac on June 20, 1997 on helping to resolve the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict by peaceful means, within the framework of the G8 meeting held in Denver, the administrative center of the state of Colorado, the state its leaders express their concerns about the continuation of the conflict, note that it seriously undermines economic and social development and well-being in the entire Caucasus region, indicate that more than 1 million people have been displaced from their homes, positively assess the continuation of the ceasefire, promise to help resolve the conflict, direct the leaders of Azerbaijan and Armenia they recommended holding meetings<sup>50</sup>.

In the "**Result**" part of the dissertation, important results obtained during the research were presented and generalizations were made.

1. The conducted studies show that the pragmatic foreign policy line defined by President Heydar Aliyev played an important role in the development of comprehensive cooperation between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of France. As a result of his

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<sup>48</sup> Lisbon Summit: [Electronic resource] / URL: [https://www.osce.org/event/summit\\_1996](https://www.osce.org/event/summit_1996).

<sup>49</sup> OSCE Minsk Group: [Electronic resource] / URL: <https://www.osce.org/mg>.

<sup>50</sup> Qasımlı, M.C. Azərbaycanın xarici siyasəti (1991–2003): [2 cildə] / M.Qasımlı, – Bakı: Mütərcim, – c.1. – 2015. – 648 s., – s.241-242.

activities, the dialogue between the two countries was established at the highest level and relations developed;

2. As a result of the analysis of France's attitude to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, which was created as a result of Armenia's military aggression, it can be concluded that since the beginning of the conflict, this country has taken a one-sided position and has been pro-Armenian. However, since the middle of 1993, certain changes have taken place in this position. Despite all this, France has always shown an unfair attitude to the conflict and for obvious reasons its position has been pro-Armenian. The official position of the French state in the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict created as a result of Armenia's military aggression is based on respecting the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. However, sometimes under the influence of Armenia and the Armenian organizations, community and lobby in France, this country did not take adequate steps and approached the processes with double standards;

3. The failure of the negotiation process in 1997-2003 was due to both the non-constructive position of Armenia and the failure to regulate the conflict by the co-chairing states, including France, acting on double standards, not exerting any pressure on the aggressor Armenia, and the other co-chairing country arming the occupying country - Russia. not expressing dissatisfaction, etc. has been related to France's activity as a co-chair of the Minsk Group attracted attention, but it was not constructive as a whole. France's policy served to freeze the conflict, to accept the occupation as "done and done";

4. In the studied years, a contract-legal basis for cooperation in energy, trade-economic, science, education, culture and humanitarian fields was created and implemented between Azerbaijan and France. It was concluded that during the years of President Heydar Aliyev's rule, the contractual and legal basis of trade and economic cooperation between the two countries was created and strengthened;

5. The conducted studies show that the investigation of the relations between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of France is relevant from a scientific and political point of view, and

the continuation of separate directions of the problem in the future should be one of the priority issues.

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

1. Azərbaycan-Fransa iqtisadi əməkdaşlığı / Aspirantların və gənc tədqiqatçıların elmi konfransının tezisləri.II hissə. Bakı:2000, səh. 157-158
2. Azərbaycan-Fransa münasibətlərinin inkişafında Heydər Əliyevin rolu // Bakı Universitetinin xəbərləri. Humanitar elmlər seriyası. Bakı: 2011, №3, səh.217-222
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The defence will be held on 28 june at 12<sup>00</sup> at the meeting of the Dissertation council ED 2.20 of Supreme Attestation Commission under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan operating at Baku State University.

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Dissertation is accessible at Baku State University.

Electronic versions of the dissertation and its abstract are available on the official website of Baku State University.

Abstract was sent to the required addresses on 27 may 2024



Signed for print: 17.04.2024  
Paper format: 60x84 1/16  
Volume: 39496 characters  
Number of the hard copies: 20