

REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

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ABSTRACT

of the dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

**THE ROLE OF MIRZA BALA MAMMADZADE IN THE
AZERBAIJANI NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT**

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I. GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DISSERTATION

Relevance and degree of development of the topic. In the late XIX and early XX centuries, ideas aimed at selfawareness, national identity, and Turkish nationalism began to emerge in Azerbaijan. These ideas sought unity, with the goal of breaking free from colonialism and moving towards national development. Among the figures who played a significant role in the strengthening of these nationalist ideas and the national liberation movement was Mirza Bala Mammadzada, who fought for Azerbaijan's independence until the end of his life.

The interest in Mirza Bala Mammadzada's role in the national liberation movement is driven by the necessity of conducting an objective study of the history of statehood in the independent Republic of Azerbaijan, as well as the need to understand the historical experiences of that period.

In the complex geopolitical conditions of 1917-1920, promoting the ideas of independence and fighting for the introduction of national statehood were associated with great difficulties. In March 1918, just before the establishment of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, the Bolshevik-Dashnak forces perpetrated brutal massacres against the Turkic-Muslim population. They carried out ruthless punitive measures and massacres in Irevan, Nakhchivan, Shamakhi, Guba, Ganja and Lankaran, causing hundreds of thousands of Azerbaijanis to be displaced from their homes.¹

In terms of studying the events of that period, the work of Mirza Bala Mammadzada is of unparalleled importance and there is a great need for research.

The most important characteristic of Mirza Bala's creativity was his deep belief in independence and the victory of it. He not only believed in this independence but also inspired and encouraged the people around him to believe in it.²

M.B. Mammadzada was proud of his Turkish identity and

¹ İsgəndərov, A.C. Azərbaycanca türk-müsəlman soyqırımı probleminin tarixşünaslığı 1918-1920 / – Bakı: Adiloğlu, 2006. – s. 24.

² Mətbuatımızın Mirzə Bala Məmmədadəsi // <https://sherg.az/arxiv/46848>

considered Turkism a sacred ideology. He attached great importance to the Turkism movement, which he demonstrated in his various writings and articles. Like other independence fighters, Mirza Bala was an advocate not only for Azerbaijan's independence but also for the independence and freedom of the entire Turkish world, as well as the establishment of their national governments.³

The Turkic states defended the just and fair position of Azerbaijan during the 44-day Patriotic War, which is our honorable history. In this regard, on February 14, 2024, during his official inauguration ceremony, Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev stated: *"...first and foremost, we will continue our efforts within the framework of the Organization of Turkic States. This is a priority for us... This is our main international organization because this is our family. We have no other family. Our family is the Turkish world. We have brotherly relations with all the countries that are members of the Turkic Council... This is a vast geography, a large territory, a great military power, a significant economy, natural resources, transportation routes, a young population, a growing population, and peoples who share the same origin and roots. Could there be a stronger union than this? Of course, no. Through joint efforts, we must ensure that the Turkic Council becomes a significant actor and power center on the global stage. We can only achieve this together"*.⁴

As seen, the research of the problem is also relevant in terms of the modern foreign policy priorities of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

In his articles written during his time in exile, M.B. Mammadzada stubbornly defended the national movement, the struggle for national independence and freedom, criticized the inhumane measures, terror and oppression carried out by the Bolsheviks to destroy national culture in Azerbaijan. He succeeded in conveying his ideas and thoughts to the participants of the war of independence in magazines such as "Yeni Qafqasya", "Azeri Turk", "Odlu Yurd", "Gurtu-

³ Əfsanəvi bayraqdar. Mirzə Bala Məmmədzadə xatirələrində. / – Bakı: Mücrü, 2021. – s. 8-9.

⁴ İlham Əliyevin andıçmə mərasimi keçirilib, 14 fevral, 2024 // <https://president.az/az/articles/view/63979>.

lush" and in the newspapers "Bildirish" and "Istiqlal".⁵

After the death of M.A. Rasolzade, Mirza Bala headed the Musavat Party in Germany and fulfilled this honorable task until the end of his life.⁶

M.B. Mammadzada's scholarly and journalistic writings on the Azerbaijani diaspora are highly valuable. He addressed various issues such as the emergence, organization, development, mission, activities, relations with Soviet emigrants, and more, of the Azerbaijani diaspora. Mirza Bala thoroughly worked on these matters based on scientific grounds. This is further demonstrated by his articles, such as "Rasolzada Muhammad Amin Bey is 70 years old" "Rasolzada Muhammad Amin," "Ali Usta and his poems" "Azerbaijani immigrants" and "The captive and immigrant Turkish masses in Western Europe" which were published in his "Selected Works". These works confirm his deep knowledge of the issue and his responsible approach to it.⁷

Mirza Bala states that Azerbaijani emigrants have no protection abroad, and criticizes the "Jamiyyati Agvam" (League of Nations) for its biased attitude toward Azerbaijani emigrants, acting in contradiction to its own principles and indifferently neglecting the fate of thousands of emigrants: *"The International Refugee Section of the League of Nations is turning a blind eye to this disaster, and while not imposing this condition on Armenians, it is giving responses stating that it could only help us under the condition of obtaining the 'Russian refugee' status. The League of Nations only helps Russian refugees and exclusively protects Armenians"*.⁸

In writing the dissertation, several sources and literature were

⁵ Telli, Korkmaz. Azərbaycan milli mücadelesinin öncülerindən Mirza Bala Mehmetzade ve Açık söz gazetesi // Sosyal Bilimler Enstitüsü Dergisi, Cilt:12 Sayı: 1 Mart 2022, s. 189, s. 187-193.

⁶ Mehmetzade, M.B. Azərbaycan Misak-ı Milli'si / – İstanbul: Necm-i İstikbal Matbaası, 1927. – s.16.

⁷ Tahirli, A. "Mirzə Bala Məhəmmədzadə. Seçilmiş əsərləri" haqqında qeydlər // Hürriyyət əşiqi mücahidin həmişəyaşar irsi // <http://anl.az/down/meqale/525/2024/iyun/899906.htm>

⁸ Yənə orada

used. The research shows that the role of Mirza Bala Mammadzada in the Azerbaijani national liberation movement, his socio-political views, and organizational activities have been primarily studied within Turkish historiography, considering that both his homeland and the core of his public, political, and scientific activities were in Turkey. After the collapse of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, Mirza Bala Mammadzada lived in exile starting from 1923. One of his important works written during his time in exile was the book "Armenians and Iran". Mirza Bala writes that, unlike Azerbaijanis, the Shah's government provided every condition for Armenian emigrants, accepting and settling the incoming refugees. Armenians created their organizations and communities throughout Iran, making it one of the main centers of the Armenian national movement. In this work, published in Istanbul in 1927, the author criticizes the provocative "Pan-Iranism" and "Pan-Armenianism" policies implemented by Armenians in Iran, and demonstrates their essence with scientific evidence⁹.

In this work, published in Istanbul in 1927, the author criticizes the subversive "Pan-Iranism" and "Pan-Armenianism" policies carried out by the Armenians in Iran, demonstrating their essence with scientific evidence.

In this work, Mirza Bala Mammadzada analyzed Armenians' atrocities committed against the Ottoman population during World War I, the fact that they were defended by Russia, and the mass genocides perpetrated by Armenians fleeing to Iran after the balance of forces shifted in favor of the Turks in Anatolia. The book highlights the murders of Azerbaijanis in Maku, Khoy, and Urmia, and reveals the true intentions of the Armenians, among other matters¹⁰.

In his book "National Movement of Azerbaijan", Mirza Bala Mammadzada combines the history of the Musavat Party with the history of public thought of the Azerbaijani people, analyzing it in the context of modern European-oriented history of national thought, starting with Mirza Fatali Akhundov. In the book, Musavat is charac-

⁹ Əhmədli, R.A. Mirzə Bala Məhəmməd zadənin ictimai-siyasi görüşləri / – Bakı: "Ozan", 2017. – 448 s.

¹⁰ İsgəndərov, A.C. Azərbaycanda türk-müsəlman soyqırımı probleminin tarixşünaslığı 1918-1920 / – Bakı: Adiloğlu, 2006. – s. 23.

terized as a people's party, with its supporters consisting of peasants, workers, and intellectuals from the working class.¹¹

In this work, Mirza Bala analyzed his thoughts and opinions regarding the March genocide and accused the Bolsheviks and Dashnaks of being guilty and complicit in the genocide. Because the Dashnaks and Bolsheviks were trying to suppress national liberation movements in the Caucasus, as well as in Azerbaijan. For this reason, on March 31, 1918, the Bolsheviks, with the help of Russian soldiers returning from the front, initiated the massacre. Over three days of violent attacks, 14,000 unarmed people were killed. The city of Baku was bombarded from the air, land, and sea, and schools, libraries, theaters, printing presses, educational, and cultural institutions were destroyed¹².

Mirza Bala Mammadzadeh, in his work "Azerbaijan Misak-ı Millisi", analyzes the Declaration of Independence adopted on May 28, 1918, and tracks the historical processes that occurred between 1918 and 1920¹³.

In another works of Mirza Bala Mammadzada, the complex conditions in Azerbaijan on the eve of independence, as well as the calamities brought upon the people, are reflected¹⁴.

In M.A.Rasulzade's work "National Movement in Azerbaijan"¹⁵, the characteristics of the national movement in Azerbaijan, its ideological and political roots, the role of Azerbaijani intellectuals and ideologues, including Mirza Bala, in this process, as well as the New Economic Policy (NEP), the collectivization policy, and its bitter consequences after the Bolshevik invasion of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic are explored.

The work reflects important historical archival documents con-

¹¹ Məmmədzadə Mirzə Bala. Milli Azərbaycan hərəkatı / –Bakı: Nicat, 1992. –246 s.

¹² İsgəndərov, A.C. Azərbaycanda türk-müsəlman soyqırımı probleminin tarixşünaslığı 1918-1920 / – Bakı: Adiloğlu, 2006. – s. 23.

¹³ Mehmetzade, M.B. Azərbaycan Misak-ı Millisi / – İstanbul: Necm-i İstikbal Matbaası, 1927. – s.16.

¹⁴ Məmmədzadə, M.B. Azərbaycan Milli Xartiyası // Azərbaycan jurnalı. Azərbaycan Yazıçılar İttifaqının aylıq ədəbi-bədii orqanı. 1991, № 4, – s. 133-149.

¹⁵ Rəsulzadə, M.Ə. Azərbaycanda milli hərəkat / – Bakı: Elm, 2009. – 128 s.

cerning the history of the Musavat Party, the creation of the Secret Resistance Committee, the activities of Musavat in Turkey, Poland, and Germany, the participation of Musavat members in the creation of the “Prometheus” organization, and the adoption of a new program document by the party in 1936.

Nasiman Yaqublu’s “Azerbaijan’s National Independence Struggle and Muhammad Amin Rasulzada”¹⁶ explores the political events that occurred on the eve of and during the period of Azerbaijan’s national movement and independence, as well as the activities of the independence fighters during the emigration phase.

In the study of the topic, the monograph by Professor Rafail Ahmadli on the public and political views of Mirza Bala Mammadzada is of significant importance¹⁷.

While writing the dissertation, an attitude was expressed towards the work of historian Khaleddin Ibrahimli, “History of Azerbaijani Emigration”¹⁸. The book discusses the collapse of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic with the invasion on April 27, 1920, the ongoing struggle for the restoration of state independence by émigrés, including Mirza Bala Mammadzada and their continuous activities in various countries. It covers the creation of numerous public and political organizations, media outlets, and the publication of more than thirty newspapers and magazines.

In the dissertation, the attitude towards the works of Doctor of Historical Sciences, Professor Musa Gasimli was expressed.¹⁹ Musa Gasimli’s works mention the activities of Mirza Bala Mammadzada and other freedom fighters in the Secret Resistance Committee.

In the monograph titled “Azerbaijani Emigration Press” by re-

¹⁶ Yaqublu, N.Q. Azərbaycan milli istiqlal mübarizəsi və Məhəmməd Əmin Rəsulzadə / – Bakı: Elm və təhsil, 2001. – 80 s.

¹⁷ Əhmədli, R.A. Mirzə Bala Məhəmmədzadənin ictimai-siyasi görüşləri / – Bakı: “Ozan”, 2017. – 448 s.

¹⁸ İbrahimli, X.C. Azərbaycanın mühacirəti tarixi / – Bakı: ADPU nəşriyyatı, 2012. – 358 s.

¹⁹ Qasımlı, M.C. Azərbaycan Türklerinin Milli Mücadele Tarihi 1920-1945 / – İstanbul: Kaknüs Yayınları, 2006. – s.147.

searcher Abid Tahirli²⁰, extensive coverage is given to the works of emigration representatives, including Mirza Bala Mammadzada, in the magazines “Yeni Qafqasya”, “Odlu Yurd”, “Azerbaycan Yurd Bilgisi”, and “Azerbaijan”.

In the book “Azerbaijani Emigrant Literature: Formation, Issues, Personalities” by researcher Badirkhan Ahmadli²¹, the Azerbaijani emigrant period literature and press are explored. In this work, the attitude towards Mirza Bala's activities was expressed.

The dissertation of T.Aslanova has been helpful in studying the scientific and literary creativity, heritage, and views of Mirza Bala Mammadzada²².

The research and analysis of A. Rustamli, E. Madatli, and A. M. Gasimli have been significant in investigating Mirza Bala's role in the national movement, his activities in the literary and cultural fields²³.

One of the studies in Turkish historiography is the monograph by Afgan Valiyev²⁴ and his master's thesis on the topic “In the History of Social Thought: Mirza Bala Mammadzada”.²⁵ In his research, the life and activities of Mirza Bala, his involvement in the formation of the Azerbaijani parliament, and his activities within the Musavat

²⁰ Tahirli, A.H. Azərbaycan mühacirət mətbuatı / – Bakı: Qapp-Poliqraf, 2002. – 160 s.

²¹ Əhmədli, B.B. Azərbaycan mühacirət ədəbiyyatı: təşəkkülü, problemləri, şəxsiyyətləri / – Bakı: Elm və təhsil, 2017. – 376 s.

²² Aslanova, T.Ə. Mirzə Bala Məmmədzaadənin ədəbi-elmi yaradıcılığı / filologiya üzrə fəlsəfə doktoru dis. / – Bakı, 2014. – 143 s.

²³ Rüstəmli A. Mirzə Bala Məhəmmədzaadənin “Cənnət quşu” hekayəsi - Asif Rüstəmlinin təqdimatında // <https://literature.az/?page=118935&newsId=118935> &lang=aze; Rüstəmli A. Mirzə Bala Məmmədzaadənin bir naməlum hekayəsi // ədəbiyyat qəzeti, 2024, 27 yanvar, s. 9; Mirzə Bala Məhəmmədzaadə. Cənnət quşu. // “Qırmızı günəş” jurnalı, Bakı, 1921, 15 dekabr, №2, s.7-9.; Mədətli E. Mirzə Bala Məhəmmədzaadə irsinə dair dəyərli araşdırma // <http://www.anl.az/download/meqale/525/2018/fevral/579511.htm>

²⁴ Veliyev, A. Azərbaycan siyasi düşüncə tarixi və Mirzə Bala Mehmetzadə. / – İstanbul: Kador Ajans, 2006. – 395 s.

²⁵ Veliyev, A. Sosial düşüncə tarixində Mirzə Bala Mehmetzadə. Yüksek lisans tezi. / – İstanbul: İstanbul Üniversitesi, Sosyal bilimler Enstitüsü, 1999. – 166 s.

party have been investigated, as well as his scientific and creative activities in Turkey, Poland, and Germany.

The doctoral dissertation by Nazila Abbasli²⁶ in Turkish historiography on the national liberation struggle and Azerbaijani press has also contributed to the study of this issue.

The works of Sibel Demirci, a prominent figure in Turkish historiography, have been crucial in researching the topic. Her works dedicated to Mirza Bala's legacy focus on articles published in Turkish media on Azerbaijan's independence, the true face of communism, and his scientific activities²⁷.

In the author's other book "Russian Turks in Turkish Political and Intellectual Life", research on the Russian Turks between 1945 and 1960, the development of Turkism in the early XX century, the role of intellectuals such as Ziya Gokalp, Ismail bey Gaspirali, Yusuf Akchura, Mirza Fatali Akhundov, Hasan bey Zardabi, and Ahmad bey Agaoglu in the enlightenment movement, as well as the essence of modernization and nationalism as an ideology in the form of "Jaditism" (reformism), are discussed. The book also examines the relocation of the Azerbaijani diaspora to Turkey after 1923, and the publication of the first journal against communism in the Turkish world, *Yeni Qafqasiya*, initiated by Mammad Amin Rasulzade, which was closed in 1926 but later reissued under the name *Azeri Turk*²⁸.

The information in Sabahattin Simsir's work "The Struggle for Independence of Azerbaijan" has also been included in the study of the topic²⁹. Additionally, the joint work by Aygün Attar and Sabahattin Simsir has been useful for exploring the activities of the Azerbaijani diaspora in Turkey, as well as the works of M.A.Rasulzade

²⁶ Abbaslı, N. Azadlıq mücadeleləri i ve Azərbaycan basını. Doktora tezi // İstanbul: İstanbul Üniversitesi, Sosyal bilimler Enstitüsü, 1999. – 215 s.

²⁷ Demirci, S. Mirza Bala Mehmetzade ve soğuk savaş yazıları / – İstanbul: Post, 2022. – s. 54.; Yenə onun. Mirza Bala Mehmetzadenin ilmi yazıları / – İstanbul: Post, 2022. – s.21-26.

²⁸ Demirci, S. Türk siyasi ve düşünce hayatında Rusya türkləri (1945-1960). / – İstanbul: Post, 2020. – 296 s.

²⁹ Şimşir, S. Azerbeycanın istiklal mücadelesi / – İstanbul: İQ Kültürsanat yayıncılık, 2002. – 272 s.

and Mirza Bala Mammadzada³⁰. In the exploration of various aspects of the topic, the scholarly research by A. Budak³¹, M. Ince³², E. Gumushsoy³³, T. Korkmaz³⁴, and other authors has been beneficial.

The study is based on a rich source base. Mirza Bala Mammadzada emerges as a researcher of national struggle issues and approaches events from a historical perspective. His articles, including "Why Did the Collapse Happen?"³⁵, "The Parliament of Azerbaijan"³⁶, "The National Council of Azerbaijan"³⁷, and "The University of Azerbaijan"³⁸, are valuable sources concerning the history of the first republic of the East, the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic. These works focus on the historical processes and issues of the period, written with a deep sense of patriotism and devotion to the homeland.

The sources for studying the issue can be categorized as follows:

1. Issues of the 1930s to 1950s published in journals such as "Odlu Yurd," "Azerbaijan," "Birleshik Kafkasya," "Azerbaycan Yurd Bilgisi," and "Dergi" obtained from archives in Turkey and Europe, which were published during the time of Mirza Bala Mammadzada.

³⁰ Attar A, Şimşir, S. Türkiyədə yaşayan Azərbaycan türkləri. / – Ankara: Berikan yayınevi, 2013. – 265 s.

³¹ Müsavat partisinin 1911 – 1922 yılları arasındaki faaliyetleri // Fırat Üniversitesi Sosyal Bilimler Dergisi. The Journal of International Social Sciences Cilt: 28, Sayı: 2. – s. 333-343.

³² Azerbaycan Muhaceretinin Etkili Bir Yayını; Bildiriş Gazetesi (1930-1931) // Karabük Üniversitesi Sosyal Bilimler Enstitüsü Dergisi, 2016, 6 (2), 545-558;

³³ Mehmed Emin Resulzâde ve Milliyetperver Bir Mecmua; Azerî Türk // KSÜ Sosyal Bilimler Dergisi 4 (1-2) 2007. – s. 45-55.

³⁴ Telli, K. Azerbaycan milli mücadelesinin öncülerinden Mirza Bala Mehmetzade ve açık söz gazetesi // Sosyal Bilimler Enstitüsü Dergisi, Cilt:12 Sayı: 1 Mart 2022, – s. 187-193.

³⁵ Mehmetzade, M.B. İflas neden oldu // İstanbul: Odlu yurt, 1929, №7. – s.297-302.

³⁶ Mehmetzade, M.B. Azerbaycan parlamentosu // İstanbul: Odlu yurt, 1930, №11 (23). – s.425-429.

³⁷ Mehmetzade, M.B. Azerbaycan Milli Şurası // Ankara: Azerbaycan, 1952, №4. – s. 4-6.

³⁸ Mehmetzade, M.B. Azərbaycan universiteti // Paris-Münxen: Azərbaycan, 1953, № 8-9. – s.5-7.

2. The second group of studies includes sources that provide a biased and distorted analysis of the events and processes of the era, as well as the activities of representatives of the national movement. For example, the negative role of the Musavat Party in the Azerbaijani national movement during the period of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, its alleged failure to support the workers' movement, its lack of necessary resistance against Denikin, its involvement in a number of "crimes," and the claims regarding the Soviet occupation, despite the fact that Mammad Amin Rasulzada and his comrades declared their intention to fight to the last drop of their blood – yet this assertion is not entirely convincing. In this context, absurd claims such as Nasib bey Yusifbeyli being caught at the station on April 27 when Azerbaijan was occupied, with 98 million rubles and valuable securities found in his suitcase, are presented in the work of A.Q. Garayev. In this work, the Musavat government is depicted as traitorous, focused only on their own pockets, involved in bribery and extortion, and party members are accused of inappropriate behavior toward girls in rural areas³⁹.
3. For the investigation of the issue, contemporary press materials and online resources related to Mirza Bala's social, political, creative, scientific, and literary activities have been valuable.
4. A different group of sources consists of memoirs about Mirza Bala Mammadzada and books that compile his articles and writings. In this regard, works such as "Legendary Flagbearer. Mirza Bala Mammadzada in Memories",⁴⁰ and "Mirza Bala Mammadzada. Selected Works",⁴¹ published with the initiative of the Institute of Literature named after Nizami Ganjavi of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences, have been significant.

³⁹ Караев, А.Г. Из недавнего прошлого (Материалы к истории Азербайджанской Коммунистической Партии (б)) / – Кооп.Издательство при БК АКП «Бакинский рабочий», 1926. – с. 121-123.

⁴⁰ Əfsanəvi bayraqdar. Mirzə Bala Məmməd zadə xatirələrində / – Bakı: Mücrü, 2021. – 84 s.

⁴¹ Azərbaycan mühacirət ədəbiyyatı kitabxanası. VII cild. Mirzə Bala Məhəmməd zadə. Seçilmiş əsərləri / – Bakı: Elm və təhsil, 2023. / – 612 s.

Object and subject of research. The object of the research is Mirza Bala Mammadzada's role and contribution to Azerbaijan's national liberation movement and the establishment of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic. The subject of the research includes the study of Mirza Bala Mammadzada's role as an ideologue, writer, and organizer in Azerbaijan's national liberation movement, his involvement in the creation of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, his activities during the existence of the republic, and his work in exile after the Bolshevik occupation, focusing on his public-political and literary activities in Iran, Turkey, and Europe, as well as his struggle for independence.

Research goals and objectives. The main objective of this dissertation is to conduct a comprehensive and systematic study of Mirza Bala Mammadzadah's activities within the Azerbaijani national liberation movement, the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic (ADR), as well as his emigration period activities after the Soviet occupation of Azerbaijan. To achieve this goal, the following specific tasks are planned to be carried out:

- Collecting the most reliable sources and literature regarding the life and activities of Mirza Bala Mammadzada, his role in the Azerbaijani national liberation movement, organizing and analyzing them;
- Studying Mirza Bala Mammadzada's participation in the Azerbaijani national liberation movement in the early XX century, his socio-political stance, and organizational activities;
- Identifying the factors that united Mirza Bala Mammadzada and one of the founders of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, Mammad Amin Rasulzade, in the national liberation movement, and studying their activities in the "Achiq soz" newspaper;
- Investigating and analyzing Mirza Bala Mammadzada's ideological and political views during the national liberation movement;
- Determining Mirza Bala Mammadzada's role in the creation of the first democratic republic in the East, the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, and studying his activities in the parliament;
- Analyzing Mirza Bala Mammadzada's attitude towards the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic's Declaration of Independence;

- Investigating Mirza Bala Mammadzada's activities as a public figure and writer during the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic period;
- Analyzing Mirza Bala Mammadzada's attitude towards the Soviet occupation of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic;
- Studying the activities of the Musavat Party after the fall of the ADR, and Mirza Bala Mammadzada's political and public activities as the head of the Secret Resistance Committee;
- Investigating Mirza Bala Mammadzada's public and political activities in Iran and Turkey after the Bolshevik occupation;
- Studying Mirza Bala Mammadzada's efforts in Europe, particularly in Poland and Germany, for the independence of Azerbaijan during his emigration period, and analyzing his written works;
- Analyzing the articles and scientific works published by Mirza Bala Mammadzada in newspapers and journals such as "Istiglal", "Yeni Qafqasya", "Azeri Turk", "Odlu Yurd", "Azerbaycan Yurd Bilgisi", "Azerbaijan", "Qurtulush", "Bildirish", "Milliyyet", "Cumhuriyyet" and "Birleshik Kafkasya";
- Investigating Mirza Bala Mammadzada's activities as the chairman of the Musavat Party;
- Studying and analyzing the articles and writings of Mirza Bala Mammadzada on socio-political, economic, and cultural topics, and drawing conclusions.

Research methods. The methodology of the dissertation is based on the objective analysis of the materials and facts involved in the research, as well as the ideas and considerations derived from the author's scientific works. Relevant sources and literature on the topic have been collected, systematized, and important scientific results have been obtained.

During the research process, general historical methods accepted in historical science, such as critical analysis, systematic analysis, generalization, and content analysis methods, have been used.

The main provisions of the defense these are:

The research allows for the defense of the following points:

- At the beginning of the XX century, favorable political conditions for the emergence of the national liberation movement were created in Azerbaijan, with the significant role of Azerbaijan in-

tellelectuals, thinkers, and idea carriers in this process.

- M.A. Rasulzada, Mirza Bala Mammadzada and other participants of the national liberation movement prioritized activities related to the national consciousness and identity.
- In the organization of the national liberation movement, the youth played an important role, and one of the main propagandists in this matter was Mirza Bala.
- Mirza Bala and his comrades-in-arms fought for independence by uniting around common ideological goals.
- The creation of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic and its recognition by world states required active propaganda. In this regard, Mirza Bala's articles and other scientific works emphasized the idea of independence.
- During the emigration period, Mirza Bala continued his propagandist, political, and creative activities aimed at achieving independence, the collapse of the communist ideology, and the establishment of democratic values.
- In a complex and challenging political environment, Mirza Bala worked towards the recognition of Turkish identity, the development of Turkism, and its spread throughout the entire Turkish world.

Scientific novelty of the research

- For the first time, the socio-political activities of Mirza Bala Mammadzada as one of the leaders of the Azerbaijani national liberation movement were studied in the History of the Motherland;
- For the first time, the works of Mirza Bala Mammadzada dedicated to the national liberation movement were brought into scientific circulation and their critical analysis was given;
- For the first time, the defamatory opinions written about the works of Mirza Bala Mammadzada during the 70-year Soviet period were criticized on scientific grounds;
- For the first time, the leading ideological role of Mirza Bala Mammadzada in the national liberation movement was substantiated.

Theoretical and practical significance of research. The main propositions presented in the dissertation have scientific and theoretical significance. The key points of the dissertation can be widely used in scientific research on the history of the Motherland, the Azer-

baijan Democratic Republic, its founding figures, the history and literature of Azerbaijani emigration, as well as in the preparation of generalized works, textbooks, teaching aids, and course syllabi, as well as lecture materials at higher education institutions.

The main materials and propositions of the dissertation can also be utilized in organizing seminars, conferences, and symposiums related to the history of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic and the press.

Approbation and application. The main points of the dissertation are reflected in 4 scientific articles published in Azerbaijan and 1 article published abroad, as well as in 11 theses and conference materials, 3 of which were presented at international conferences. In addition, presentations have been made and speeches delivered at various conferences and scientific events related to the research areas.

Name of the organization where the dissertation work is carried out. The dissertation work has been carried out at the Department of Azerbaijani History (for the faculty of humanities) of Baku State University and has been recommended for defense.

The total volume of the dissertation with a sign, indicating the volume of the structural units of the dissertation separately. The dissertation consists of an introduction, 3 chapters, 6 sub-chapters, a conclusion, and a list of references. The introduction has 30,003 characters, Chapter I has 72,309 characters, Chapter II has 107,817 characters, Chapter III has 53,958 characters, and the conclusion has 8,961 characters, with the total length of the dissertation amounting to 274,975 characters.

II. MAIN CONTENT OF THE DISSERTATION

In the “**Introduction**” of the research paper, the relevance and degree of development of the topic have been discussed, the goals and objectives of the research have been defined, the methods have been specified, the main theses presented for defense have been outlined, and the scientific novelty, theoretical and practical significance of the dissertation have been substantiated.

The first chapter of the dissertation is titled “**Mirza Bala**

Mammadzada's Participation in the Azerbaijani National Liberation Movement and his activities during the period of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic". The first part of this chapter is titled **"Mirza Bala Mammadzada's Participation in the Azerbaijani National Liberation Movement in 1916-1918"**. This section covers topics such as Mirza Bala Mammadzada's involvement in the Azerbaijani national liberation movement in 1916-1918, his activities in the parliament of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, the social-political and national articles he published in the "Achiq soz" newspaper, and other related matters.

Mirza Bala Mammadzada, who dedicated much of his life to the education and freedom of the people, was born on May 24, 1898, in Zira village on the Absheron Peninsula, into a fisherman's family (though some sources mention August 13⁴² as his birth date). In the early XX century, his father had to move the family to Baku to earn a living, settling in the Chambarakand area of the city.

At a time when the Azerbaijani people were on the verge of creating their own state, Mirza Bala Mammadzada was engaged in writing and journalism. He began publishing at a very young age. In 1915, he started collaborating with the "Achiq soz" newspaper, writing articles on the role of education and enlightenment in the progress of the people and addressing problems in schools. Starting in 1915, Mirza Bala Mammadzada occasionally wrote articles for the newspaper "Achiq soz," published by Muhammad Amin Rasulzada, and later became an active participant in the work of the newspaper⁴³.

Mirza Bala Mammadzada published articles on nationalism, Turkism, independence, and other topics in "Achiq soz", the official organ of the Musavat Party, and was also the editor-in-chief of the "Ganjlar Yurdu" journal, the organ of the party's Youth Organization⁴⁴. It is worth noting that "Achiq soz", the official organ of the Mu-

⁴² Türkoğlu, İ. Mirza Bala Mehmedzâde // <https://islamansiklopedisi.org.tr/mirza-bala-mehmedzade> (1898-1959) (istinad tarixi 29 yanvar 2024).

⁴³ Mirzə Bala Məmmədşadə. // <https://musavat.org.az/mirz%C9%99-bala-mm%C9%99mm%C9%99dzad%C9%99/>

⁴⁴ Əhmədli, R.A. Mirzə Bala Məhəmmədşadənin ictimai-siyasi görüşləri / – Bakı: Ozan, 2017. – s.43.

savat Party, began publication in Baku on October 2, 1915⁴⁵. Under the leadership of Muhammad Amin Rasulzada, the newspaper carried the subtitle “political-public, literary Turkish newspaper.” The newspaper boldly depicted the social and political events of the time, playing a significant role in the formation of national consciousness among the Turks under Russian rule and the development of national awareness among Azerbaijani Turks. “Achiq soz” was the first to use the term “Turk” openly, replacing the terms “Muslim” and “Tatar”.⁴⁶

In addition to “Achiq soz”, Mirza Bala Mammadzada also wrote articles for “Qurtulush” and “Doghru soz” newspapers, addressing national awakening and highlighting the problems of the people and society. He also worked as the head of the editorial office for the “Basirat” newspaper and was an active writer for it. The “Basirat” newspaper sought to prevent the provocation of sectarian conflict between Shiites and Sunnis during the period of the tsarist regime's policy of creating strife and enmity⁴⁷.

In the second part of the dissertation titled “**Mirza Bala Mammadzada's place and role in the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic**”, his activities as a stenographer in the Azerbaijani parliament starting from December 7, 1918, along with his close friend Jafar Jabbarly, are studied. Mirza Bala was responsible for writing down all speeches, reports, meetings, decisions, and laws. Additionally, his role as the publication director of “Azerbaijan”, the official newspaper of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, is examined in the context of his political activities during those years.

His articles in “Azerbaijan” and “Basirat” newspapers, which covered all aspects of social and political life, are also analyzed. Many of his articles exposed the enemies of the Democratic Republic's government and state independence⁴⁸. Mirza Bala was also an

⁴⁵ Resulzadə, M.Ə. Tutacağımız Yol // Açık Söz, No: 1, S. 1. Cuma 2 Ekim 1915.

⁴⁶ Swietochowski, T. Müslüman Cemaatten Ulusal Kimliğe Rus Azerbaycan'ı 1905-1920, (Çev. N. Mert). / – İstanbul, 1988. – 148 s.

⁴⁷ Veliyev, A. Azerbaycan siyasi düşünce tarihi ve Mirze Bala Mehmetzade. / – İstanbul: Kador Ajans, 2006. – s.34.

⁴⁸ Fərəcova, Z. Zamanın fırtınalarında keçən ömür...Azərbaycan. - 2023.- 18 may. - № 103. - S. 11.// https://www.elibrary.az/docs/qazet/qzt2023_2719.pdf

active member of the Musavat Party's Baku Committee⁴⁹.

One of the most important issues addressed in Mirza Bala's articles was the territorial and border issues of the newly independent Azerbaijan Democratic Republic⁵⁰.

In the second chapter of the dissertation titled **“Mirza Bala Mammadzada's participation in the Azerbaijani national liberation movement during his emigration period”**, it is noted that following the April occupation, terror, murder, and arrests against public and political figures began in Azerbaijan. The founders of the Azerbaijani Democratic Republic and prominent public and political figures were forced to leave the country.

The first subchapter of the section titled **“Mirza Bala Mammadzada's activities in Iran and Turkey”** reveals that in 1923, Mirza Bala left Azerbaijan and arrived in South Azerbaijan, where he led the Tabriz Committee of the Musavat Party until 1927. After his arrival in Iran in 1923, he was granted the authority to lead all Musavat organizations in the country⁵¹. Up until his move to Turkey in 1927, Mammadzada worked tirelessly to strengthen and activate Musavat cells both in South Azerbaijan and throughout Iran. He also taught in the city of Enzeli. There, he established connections with M.A. Rasulzada in Turkey and sought to build ties among Musavat activists who had migrated to Iran⁵².

Mirza Bala Mammadzada's journey to Iran was not without challenges. In July 1923, the local Soviet authorities identified the location of the printing press for the “İstıǵlal” newspaper, an organ of the National Resistance Movement, which was printed clandestinely. The Resistance Committee and all workers at the press were arrested.

⁴⁹ Mədətli, E. Mirzə Bala Məhəmmədzadə irsinə dair dəyərli araşdırma // <http://www.anl.az/down/meqale/525/2018/fevral/579511.htm>

⁵⁰ Rüstəmli, A. Mirzə Bala Məhəmmədzadə və onun “Gənclər yurdu” məcmuəsi // <https://kaspi.az/az/mirze-bala-mehemmedzade-ve-onun-gencler-yurdu-mecmuesi>

⁵¹ Əhmədli, R.A. Mirzə Bala Məhəmmədzadənin ictimai-siyasi görüşləri / – Bakı: Ozan, 2017. – s. 111-112.

⁵² Aslanova, T.Ə. Mirzə Bala Məhəmmədzadənin ədəbi-elmi yaradıcılığı / filologiya üzrə fəlsəfə doktoru dis. / – Bakı, 2014. – s.19.

However, Mirza Bala Mammadzada managed to escape, and by May 1924, he had emigrated to Enzeli in South Azerbaijan. Due to being pursued by Cheka agents, he was aided by his old friend Qasim Bala⁵³ and fled first to Tehran, then to Tabriz. After a period in Tabriz, he worked as an engineer on the construction of a highway near the city of Sulduz in South Azerbaijan, and, in addition to teaching in private homes, he contributed articles to the journal "Yeni Qafqasiya," which was published in Istanbul under the editorship of M. Rezulzada⁵⁴.

While in Iran, Mammadzada wrote articles for "Yeni Qafqasiya", discussing his meetings with the third and fourth generations of immigrants from North Azerbaijan. He noted that these people had been living under immigrant status since the 1813 Treaty of Gulustan in the Ardabil region⁵⁵. It should be noted that following the First and Second Russo-Iranian Wars, immigration waves to South Azerbaijan occurred.

During his time in exile in Iran, Mirza Bala Mammadzada wrote about his encounters with Azerbaijani exiles, describing the harsh conditions they faced. The Iranian government severely hindered any protection for the Azerbaijani immigrants, leading many to suffer from hunger, disease, and hardship, with many dying as a result⁵⁶.

Mammadzada depicted his life in exile in his story "Vətən qaldı" (The Homeland Left Behind), where he described the human drama and the bitter life of the freedom and independence fighters⁵⁷.

In the second subchapter titled **"Mirza Bala Mammadzada's Activities in European Countries"**, it is mentioned that while in exile in Europe Mirza Bala Mammadzada published his work "Milli Azərbaycan hərəkatı" (The National Azerbaijani Movement) in Berlin in

⁵³ Abbashi, N. Azadlık mücadeleleri ve Azerbaycan basını, İstanbul, 1999, s.88.

⁵⁴ Qasımlı, A.M. Azərbaycan Türklərinin istiqlal mücahidi Mirzə Bala Məmmədzaadə // Bakı: Türkünstan, 2019, 10-16 dekabr. – s. 8.

⁵⁵ Əhmədli, R.A. Mirzə Bala Məhəmmədzaadənin ictimai-siyasi görüşləri / – Bakı: Ozan, 2017. – s.113.

⁵⁶ Vəliyev, A. Azərbaycan siyasi düşüncə tarixi, s. 98-100.

⁵⁷ Yenə orada, s. 102-103.

1938. According to this work, there were three main political movements in Azerbaijan in the early XX century: conservative, liberal, and revolutionary. The young revolutionaries, in particular, fought tirelessly for the freedom of the Azerbaijani people. These revolutionaries, according to Mirza Bala Mammadzada, initially cooperated with Russian independence fighters but distinguished themselves by prioritizing national independence over the class struggle, which the Russian revolutionaries emphasized instead of nationalism⁵⁸.

One of M.A. Rasulzada's major contributions while in exile in Europe was the publication of the "Azerbaijan" journal. The journal began publication on April 1, 1952, as the organ of the Azerbaijan Cultural Society. On the cover of its first issue were the words: "Unity is strength", "To Turkify, Islamize, and Modernize"⁵⁹. Mammadzada's and other authors' writings on Azerbaijani realities were of significant interest.

Through his extensive knowledge, writings on Russia, and contributions, Mirza Bala Mammadzada was invited to Munich by the Soviet Union Research Institute, founded by Americans and headquartered in Germany. There, he worked as the president of the institute, and many of his articles were published in the institute's journal "Dergi" which was printed in Turkish. While in Munich, he attended various conferences and meetings concerning the Turks of Russia.⁶⁰

During his time in Berlin, M.B.Mammadzada was also involved in the publication of the "İstıqlal" newspaper by Azerbaijani exiles. He wrote in his book published in Berlin: *"In 1932, the 'İstıqlal' newspaper began publication in Berlin with the participation of the editorial boards of 'Yeni Qafqasiya,' 'Azeri-turk,' 'Odlu yurd,' and 'Bildirish,' all under the same program. By that time, the Soviet government had already become an oppressive force. It mobilized all*

⁵⁸ Cəfərov, N. Milli-ictimai fikir tariximizdən (1914- fevral 1917) / – Bakı: Azərnəşr, 1993 – s.5-6.

⁵⁹ Yaqublu, N.Q. Azərbaycan Milli İstiqlal Mübarizəsi və Məhəmməd Əmin Rəsulzadə. / – Bakı: Elm və təhsil, – 2001. – s. 62.

⁶⁰ Türkoğlu, İ. Mirza Bala Mehmedzâde (1898-1959) Azərbaycanlı gazeteci, tarihçi ve politikacı. // <https://islamansiklopedisi.org.tr/mirza-bala-mehmedzade>

*its diplomatic power, along with its subversive apparatus, and succeeded in preventing the entrance of 'İstiglal' into Turkey"*⁶¹.

The third chapter of the dissertation titled **"The Services of Mirza Bala Mammadzada, one of the leaders of the Azerbaijani national liberation movement"** examines his social-political activities during the years when he led the National Resistance Committee and the Musavat Party.

The first sub-chapter, titled **"Mirza Bala Mammadzada, Leader of the National Resistance Committee"** states that after the Azerbaijani Democratic Republic (ADR) was occupied by Bolshevik Russia on April 27, 1920, the extraordinary congress of Musavat was held on April 29 in Baku through the mediation of Khalil Ibrahim and Suleyman Abdullayev, who were expelled from the Musavat Party. After Mirza Bala's speech, the congress unanimously decided that the Musavat Party would remain legal as long as the Bolsheviks honored their promises, thereby declaring the party's opposition stance⁶².

After the occupation in April, Mirza Bala was arrested by the Bolsheviks. Immediately after his release from prison, he, together with his friends, created a secret organization of the Musavat Party and expanded it across Azerbaijan⁶³. At that time, Mirza Bala worked both as a translator at the Ministry of Agriculture and as the head of the Secret Resistance Committee. The committee received substantial support from school teachers and university students. Secret political courses and schools were operating in Baku and other regions to train propagandists against the Russians. This propaganda work was conducted under the leadership of Mirza Bala⁶⁴.

The Secret Resistance Committee had three commissions: the

⁶¹ Məmmədşadə, M.B. Milli Azərbaycan hərəkəti / – Bakı: Nıcat, 1992. – s. 195.

⁶² Mehmetşade, M.B. Milli Azerbaycan harekatı / – Ankara: Azrebaycan Kùltür Derneđi Yayınları, 1991. – s.136-137.

⁶³ Budak, A. Azerbaycan Musavat Partisinin 1911 – 1922 yılları arası faaliyetleri: / Yüksek lisans tezi/ Ankara: Hacı Bayram Veli Üniversitesi Lisansüstü Eğitim Enstitüsü, 2019. – s. 33.

⁶⁴ Veliyev, A. Sosyal düşünce tarihinde Mirza Bala Mehmetşade / Yüksek lisans tezi / – İstanbul: İstanbul Üniversitesi, Sosyal bilimler Enstitüsü, 1999. – s. 30.

Political Affairs Commission, the Organization and Propaganda Commission, and the Financial Commission. Mirza Bala's leadership of the Secret Resistance Organization demonstrated his excellent organizational skills⁶⁵. During this period, Mirza Bala also worked as a teacher in Azerbaijani schools, published articles on Azerbaijan's history in the "Yeni Yıldız" journal, and published his book "Azerbaijani Turkish Press" in 1922 in Baku⁶⁶.

From the first days of the occupation, Musavat began its struggle against the Soviet regime. On the night of April 27, young Musavat members Abdulvahap Yurtsever and Mirza Bala Mammadzad visited Mammad Amin Rasulzada's house and, with his permission, along with Mammad Sadig Guluzada, Mammad Hasan Baharly, and Jafar Jabbarly, held an oath ceremony to establish the Secret Musavat Organization. During a secret meeting at Jafar Jabbarly's house in Chambarakand, Mirza Bala was appointed the head of the National Resistance Committee, Abdulvahap Yurtsever as his deputy, and Jafar Jabbarly as the general secretary.⁶⁷ M.H.Baharly became the financial secretary, and S.Guluzade was tasked with reorganizing the Musavat Party's branches in regions outside Baku. Soon after, Rahim Vekilli, a member of parliament, became the head of the Political Affairs Commission⁶⁸.

On April 27, at the age of 22, Mirza Bala was appointed to the leadership of the most influential party in power⁶⁹. However, he considered this date a day of national mourning, comparing it to the March 31 tragedy. The secret Musavat Organization spread widely

⁶⁵ Veliyev, A. Sosial düşüncə tarixində Mirza Bala Mehmetzadə / Yüksek lisans tezi / – İstanbul: İstanbul Üniversitesi, Sosyal bilimler Enstitüsü, 1999. – s. 31.

⁶⁶ Əfsanəvi bayraqdar. Mirzə Bala Məmmədzadə xatirələrdə / – Bakı: Mücrü nəşriyyatı, 2021. – s. 18-19.

⁶⁷ Budak, A. Azərbaycan Musavat Partisinin 1911-1922 illəri arası fəaliyyətləri / Yüksek lisans tezi / Ankara: Hacı Bayram Veli Üniversitesi Lisansüstü Eğitim Enstitüsü, 2019. – s. 99.

⁶⁸ Qasımlı, M.C. Azərbaycan Türklerinin Milli Mücadele Tarihi 1920-1945 / – İstanbul: Kaknüs Yayınları, 2006. – s.147.

⁶⁹ Mirzə Bala Məmmədzadə. İstiqlal mücadiləsi / A Rüstəmli. – Bakı: Zirə Mədniyyət Mərkəzi, 2018. – s. 15.

among teachers, and their ideas began circulating within the public⁷⁰.

At the same time, many young people connected to the secret organization voluntarily moved to Turkestan to join the Bashmakchi Movement, initiated by Enver Pasha⁷¹. With the establishment of the Soviet Union and the signing of the agreement on October 30, 1922, Azerbaijan officially lost its independence. After joining the USSR,

Azerbaijan became a secondary state within the Soviet system. Almost all the representatives who signed this agreement were members of the Communist Party.

During this period, Soviet newspapers published articles about the dissolution of the Musavat Party. However, through the "İstiglal" newspaper, members of the Musavat Party declared that they would continue their activities regardless of these setbacks⁷². After Mirza Bala Mammadzade moved to Iran, his political struggle from 1915 to 1923 ended. He had engaged in secret political resistance between 1920 and 1923 while continuing his scholarly and literary activities⁷³. He worked as a teacher in Baku schools, served on the board of the Sabir Library, escaped from a Bolshevik prison, but had no choice but to move to Iran in 1923, as staying in Azerbaijan was no longer possible.

In the second sub-chapter of the chapter, titled **“Musavat Party during Mirza Bala Mammadzada’s leadership”** Mirza Bala wrote an article titled “Rasulzada Mammad Amin (1884-1955)” in 1955 following the death of Mammad Amin Rasulzada. In this article, he discussed how Rasulzada dedicated his entire life to raising a revolutionary freedom army and combating Russian Empire’s imperialistic and colonizing policies. He wrote that in Rasulzada’s series of artic-

⁷⁰ Qasımlı, M.C. Azərbaycan Türklerinin Milli Mücadele Tarihi 1920-1945 / – İstanbul: Kaknüs Yayınları, 2006. – s. 156.

⁷¹ Budak, A. Azərbaycan Musavat Partisinin 1911 – 1922 illəri arası fəaliyyətləri: / Yüksək lisans tezi/ Ankara: Hacı Bayram Veli Üniversitesi Lisansüstü Eğitim Enstitüsü, 2019. – s. 102.

⁷² Budak, A. Azərbaycan Musavat Partisinin 1911 – 1922 illəri arası fəaliyyətləri: / Yüksək lisans tezi/ Ankara: Hacı Bayram Veli Üniversitesi Lisansüstü Eğitim Enstitüsü, 2019. – s. 103.

⁷³ Yaqublu, N.Q. Böyük mütəfəkkir. Milli məfkurə adamı // Yeni Müsavat qəz.. 1988, 28 fevral.

les titled “National Revival”, he scientifically explained that the unity of the nation is based on language and culture, not religion, and that Islam represented a religious community, not a national one. Mirza Bala also emphasized that the Turkic peoples, including Azerbaijanis, were separate and independent from the Russian ruling and Russian nations⁷⁴.

Throughout his life, Mirza Bala remained loyal to his leader, Mammad Amin Rasulzade, dedicating many writings to him. Among these writings, the article “Rasulzade Mehmet Emin bey at 70” stands out. In this article, Mirza Bala not only discussed Rasulzade’s life and work but also analyzed the historical and literary events of that period and provided political evaluations⁷⁵.

Starting in 1955, Mirza Bala began working at the Soviet Union Research Institute in Germany. Shortly after, he was elected the chairman of the Scientific Council of the Institute and served in this position for two years. He also became the editor-in-chief of the Institute's publication, the “Dergi”. Between 1955 and 1959, 13 of Mirza Bala’s articles were published in the journal, where he continued to write articles against the Soviet Union, contrary to the journal’s publication policy. During these years, Mirza Bala expressed his thoughts on the independence of Azerbaijan through articles published in the “Caucasus” and “United Caucasus” journals, which were issued by the Caucasian Independence Committee.⁷⁶

In 1958, Mirza Bala wrote an article for the “Dergi” journal, criticizing the Soviet Union's policies towards religion. He mentioned that during the Soviet era, the “Imamzadeh” in Ganja and the “Atagha” in Baku were sites of pilgrimage, and especially during the Muharram month, the population visited these sites. To prevent op-

⁷⁴ Azərbaycan mühacirət ədəbiyyatı kitabxanası. VII cild. Mirzə Bala Məhəmmədşadə. Seçilmiş əsərləri. / – Bakı: Elm və təhsil, 2023. – s. 447; Mirzə Bala. Rəsulzadə Məhəmməd Əmin // Münih: “Dergi”, Sovyetlər Birliyini Ögənme Enstitütü, yıl 1, ocak-mart 1955, sayı 1. – s. 134-139.

⁷⁵ Əhmədli, R.A. Mirzə Bala Məhəmmədşadənin ictimai-siyasi görüşləri / – Bakı: “Ozan”, 2017. – s. 172.

⁷⁶ Demirci, S. Mirza Bala Mehmetzade ve soğuk savaş yazıları (Cumhuriyet ve Milliyet gazetelerindeki yazıları) / – İstanbul: Post yayınevi, 2022. – s. 64.

position from the Muslim community, the Soviet army hired religious leaders known as “red mollahs” to organize the funerals of Muslim soldiers. Mirza Bala also criticized the publication of books against religion in the Soviet Union and mentioned that an organization called the “Union of Atheists” was active in Baku as early as January 1925⁷⁷.

On May 22, 1958, the Soviet radio initiated another attack on Islam, its philosophy, and fundamental principles. Mirza Bala wrote that the Communist Party had used various methods and tactics against Islam and Muslim nations, trying to appear as a friend and ally to them while continuously fighting against Islamic culture, destroying Under the Soviet regime, mosques were closed, religious education was prohibited, and every opportunity for anti-religious propaganda was created⁷⁸.

During this period, Mirza Bala made significant historical statements related to the idea of Turkism. According to him, the slogan “To Turkify, Islamize, and Modernize” was fundamental to the development of Azerbaijani society, turning its back on Russia while looking towards Turkey and Western Europe⁷⁹. As a result, Azerbaijan managed to free itself from Russian subjugation and establish an independent, cultured state based on democratic principles from Western Europe.

Mirza Bala Mammadzada continued his leadership of the Musavat Party during the formation of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, analyzing the public-political situation in the period surrounding the massacres in Baku under the leadership of Stepan Shaumyan. He emphasized that these events were not about class struggle or proletarian revolution but were part of a national struggle. Among the victims were Azerbaijani socialists and even Bolshevik commis-

⁷⁷ Mehmetzade, M.B. Sovyetlerin dini bir müracaatnamesi münasebeti ile. Dergi Mecmuası, N 14, 1958. – s.5; Veliyev, A. Azərbaycan siyasi düşüncə tarixi, s. 198.

⁷⁸ Mehmetzade, M.B. Sovyetler Birliyinde İslam dinine karşı yeni hücumlar. / Münih: Dergi mecmuası, N 13, 1958. – s.3. Veliyev, A. Azərbaycan siyasi düşüncə tarixi, s. 199.

⁷⁹ Mehmetzade, M.B. “Molla Nesredin” Elli yıl evvel/önce intişar etmiştir // Ankara: Azərbaycan dergisi, Yıl 5, Sayı:2-3 (50-51), Mayıs-Haziran, 1956. – s. 3-7.

sars from Azerbaijan. After Mammad Amin Rasulzada's death on March 6,⁸⁰ 1955, Mirza Bala became the leader of the Musavat Party and also the leader of the Turkic diaspora in exile, continuing his work in the media until his death in 1959⁸¹.

During his leadership of the Musavat Party, Mirza Bala Mammadzad promoted Mammad Amin Rasulzada's ideas, and in his scholarly work, he exposed the true nature of Soviet occupation policies.

- In the **Conclusion** part, the following conclusions were reached regarding the tasks set before the research:
- At the beginning of the XX century, the struggle of intellectuals and ideologues with a progressive worldview in the political, social, and ideological realms for the understanding of national identity, the education of the Turks who were dependent on Russia, and the attainment of freedom significantly impacted the self-awareness process of the people and the development of the national liberation movement. The publication of national newspapers and journals played a crucial role in this process.
- The main driving force of the national liberation movement, based on progressive ideas, was the youth. Among them, Mirza Bala Mammadzada, inspired by the ideas of Mammad Amin Rasulzada, actively advocated for the independence of the people, the struggle against Tsarist Russia, and the establishment of a state based on independent and democratic values through scientific and journalistic writings in various media. He contributed to the unification of the youth with a national spirit around a common cause.
- Mirza Bala Mammadzada was an active proponent of Turkism, Islamism, and modernization ideas, as well as a staunch supporter of creating a free, democratic state based on European values. It was on the foundation of these ideas that the first democratic state in the Muslim East, the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, was

⁸⁰ Veliyev A. Azərbaycan siyasi düşüncə tarixi, s. 216-217.

⁸¹ Demirci, S. Mirza Bala Mehmetzade ve soğuk savaş yazıları (Cumhuriyet ve Milliyet gazetelerindeki yazıları) / – İstanbul: Post yayınevi, 2022. – s. 64-65.

established, carrying out progressive reforms in its brief existence. Mirza Bala considered the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, which proclaimed the establishment of this state, a turning point in Azerbaijan history.

- Having been forced to emigrate to Iran, Turkey, and Europe to escape the persecutions of Soviet Russia, Mirza Bala, although never returning to Azerbaijan, did not refrain from fighting for the national cause – Azerbaijan's independence, national identity, and a democratic state based on these values. The progressive ideas and values he fought for throughout his life laid the foundation for Azerbaijan's restoration of its state independence in 1991.
- On October 18, 1991, the Republic of Azerbaijan restored its state independence and became the successor of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.
- In general, the exploration of various aspects and directions of the studied problem, as well as the research of the history of the Republic and the activities of its founders, will contribute to the enrichment and further development of the academic investigation into this field.

The following articles, theses and conference materials covering the content of the dissertation were published:

1. Mirzə Bala Məmmədşadəninin Türkiyə mətbuatında Azərbaycanın milli azadlığı ilə bağlı publisistikası. // – AMEA-nın Gəncə bölməsi. “Xəbərlər” məcmuəsi, 2023 4(8), s.122-127.
2. Mirzə Bala Məmmədşadəninin “Müsavət” partiyasında fəaliyyəti. // – Tarix, insan və cəmiyyət”.Elmi-nəzəri və elmi-metodik jurnal. 2023 3(40) s.114-124.
3. Mirzə Bala Məmmədşadəninin Avropa ölkələrində Azərbaycanın istiqlaliyyəti uğrunda mübarizəsi. Azərbaycan Dövlət Pedaqoji Universitetinin xəbərləri, 2023 Cild 71, №3,s.151-161.
4. Mirzə Bala Məmmədşadəninin Azərbaycan milli azadlıq hərəkəti uğrunda mübarizəsi. // – Bakı Universitetinin Xəbərləri, Humanitar elmlər seriyası. 2023 №2,s.190-198.
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 8. Mirzə Bala Məmmədzadənin “Gənclər yurdu” məcmuəsində publisistik əsərləri. // – Müsəlman Şərfinin ilk parlamentli respublikası tarixi tədqiqatlarda. Respublika Elmi Konfransının materialları.Bakı 24 may 2024 s.119-123.
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 11. XX əsrin əvvəllərində Cənubi Qafqazda ictimai-siyasi vəziyyət Mirzə Bala Məmmədzadənin əsərlərində. Cənubi Qafqaz: “Mövcud vəziyyət və perspektivlər” mövzusunda Respublika elmi konfransı. // – AMEA Qafqazşünaslıq İnstitutu. Bakı. 19 oktyabr, 2023, s. 94-95.
 12. Mirzə Bala Məmmədzadənin əsərlərində Azərbaycan Xalq Cümhuriyyətinin yaranması və fəaliyyətinə münasibət məsələsi”. Ümummilli lider Heydər Əliyevin 100 illiyinə həsr edilmiş Doktorantların və Gənc tədqiqatçıların XXVI Respublika Elmi Konfransının materialları. // – Bakı. 17-18 noyabr, 2023. II cild. s.301-303.
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15. Mirzə Bala Məmmədzadənin əsərləri Azərbaycan Xalq Cümhuriyyəti tarixinin öyrənilməsində əsas mənbələrdən biri kimi”. Azərbaycan Xalq Cümhuriyyətinin 105-ci ildönümünə həsr olunmuş “Müsəlman Şərqi ilk Cümhuriyyəti” mövzusunda Respublika elmi konfransı. . // – Bakı. 25-26 may, 2023, s.150-151.
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