

**REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN**

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**ABSTRACT**

of the dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

**SOCIAL AND POLITICAL LIFE  
OF THE AZERBAIJAN REPUBLIC  
(2016-2020 years)**

Speciality: 5503.02 – History of Motherland

Field of science: History

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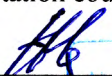


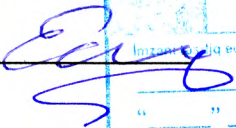
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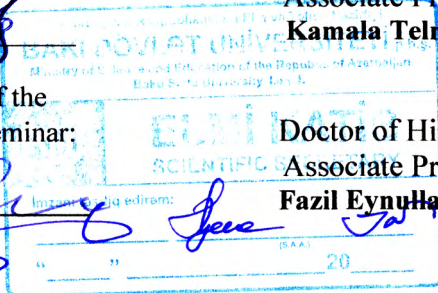
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## I. GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE DISSERTATION

### **Relevance of the research topic and the degree of its development.**

From 1993 until now, all necessary measures have been taken and will continue to be taken to strengthen democratic values in Azerbaijan, provide citizens with a sense of freedom within the society, and protect their rights. Currently, Azerbaijan is a tolerant state where multinational-religious cultures coexist; the concept of a legal state is realized; individual, civil and social interactions are based on democratic principles.

At this stage of the evolution of our society, radical changes and political activity in all spheres of social life require taking them into account. One of the main goals of social policy is to achieve national priorities in the creation of a new democratic political system, and optimally and fundamentally fulfill the demands and interests of civil society.

Starting from 2003, especially in 2016-2020, one of the main results of what happened in the social and political life of the Azerbaijan Republic is the provision of democratic values, the establishment of a civil society and a legal state.

Exactly what we indicated requires a comprehensive study of all the processes that took place in the social and political life of the Azerbaijan Republic in 2016-2020, as well as actualizes the comprehensive investigation of the implementation mechanisms of the policy for the formation of civil society. In this context, the relevance of the dissertation and the necessity of research can be expressed with the following provisions:

- ✓ First of all, it is increasingly important to assess how civil society improves and shapes public opinion around various specific events taking place in the current globalized world, raising them to the top of the political agenda;
- ✓ It is important to carry out a comprehensive and deep analysis of the control problem of state and civil society relations during the research years;
- ✓ relations and interaction of political parties and institutions with civil society creates a serious demand for studying the current problem on scientific basis;

- ✓ the interest in studying problems related to gender equality and the level of activity of women in state administration structures have increased as one of the most active groups that make up civil society;
- ✓ Another issue that makes the research relevant is that starting from 2003, a new, dynamic political and economic system was established in Azerbaijan, successful progress was made in the direction of building a civil society, favorable conditions were created for the stable and sustainable development of our republic, and civil solidarity was encouraged;
- ✓ There are favorable conditions for the creation and development of civil society in Azerbaijan. One of the main elements of the development of the society and the successful, effective completion of the process of new, constructive socio-political transformations is the expansion of young people involvement in all areas of social life in our society;
- ✓ It is important to study President Ilham Aliyev's unique approach to increasing the country's reputation in international relations, shaping its image and working with NGOs from a scientific and practical point of view. The importance of the research is also in the fact that significant changes in the positions of the Second Karabakh war, especially the moments that demonstrate the strengthening of the people-power unity, are of special relevance.

Therefore, the presented dissertation can be considered as an important step taken to full fill the current emptiness in the Azerbaijan history. Generally, it can be seen from the above-mentioned facts that the comparison of the current problems in the history and political sciences with the experience of other countries from the theoretical and political point of view are particularly relevant. In this regard, one of the problems in which it is important to carry out serious research based on the analysis of its content and effective results, and to give suggestions and recommendations based on the conclusions and results obtained, is the socio-political processes that have influenced the formation of civil society in the Republic of Azerbaijan in the years covered by the research.

Many research works and writings of various styles were used in

the investigation of the topic. First of all, we would like to mention the multi-volume work "Our independence is eternal". The book consists of appeals, statements, interviews and speeches of the national leader Heydar Aliyev.<sup>1</sup>

At the same time, the speeches of the President of the Azerbaijan Republic İlham Aliyev regarding the establishment of a democratic regime and the rise of civil society institutions in Azerbaijan, the published materials, especially the publication "Development is our goal" have been the object of extensive analysis.<sup>2</sup>

The choice of 2016-2020 as the chronological framework of the study was not accidental. Since 2003, the content and results of social and political processes related to the beginning of a new renaissance period in the development of Azerbaijan's statehood have been very encouraging, and on the other hand the studied years have been especially memorable.

The further expansion of legal reforms, the conclusion of the Referendum on amendments and additions to the Basic Law with predicted positive results, and the new parliamentary elections are only a part of these positive changes and innovations.

These notes indicate that the research topic is not accidental and it arises from the necessity of choosing the main directions of the next stages of the development of society.

It should be noted that, in general, the research topic is new in terms of the selected years, and it is not possible to talk in detail about the investigation percent in comparison with previous years.

The main conclusions of all the processes that have taken place in the social and political life of the Azerbaijan Republic recently, especially the issues of the formation and development of civil society as one of them, have not been investigated widely.

From this point of view, it is possible to mention the works of Sh. Bagirov in the last few years by examining some current issues

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<sup>1</sup> Əliyev Heydər Əlirza oğlu. Müstəqilliyimiz əbədidir: Çıxışlar, nitqlər, bəyanatlar, müsahibələr, məktublar, məruzələr, müraciətlər, fərmanlar. 46 kitabda /H. Əliyev. -Bakı: Azərneşr, - 1997-2012.

<sup>2</sup> Əliyev İlham. İnkişaf məqsədimizdir. 138 kitabda / İlham Əliyev. Bakı: Azərneşr, - 2008 - 2024.

close to our research topic. The author conducted research on the characteristics of civil society and emphasized that the theory of civil society is a Western concept. Sh. Bagirov's book "Political Aspects of Civil Society building in Azerbaijan"<sup>3</sup> is remarkable in terms of reviewing historical realities related to European states. Although the work dates back to our research years, it is an important tool for studying the development of civil society.

I. Mammadzade presented a comparative perspective on the concepts of civil society in his work entitled "Civil society and national ideology: philosophy of the political process in Azerbaijan"<sup>4</sup>. His research on civil society, political regimes, especially the changes that took place in the post-Soviet space is particularly noteworthy.

A. Mirzazade's research on "Features of the formation of a multi-party system in the Azerbaijan Republic " covered a number of important issues, one of which is the ability of citizens to actively and directly participate in state administration through political parties and public organizations.<sup>5</sup>

A. Guliyev's dissertation entitled "The place of non-governmental organizations in the socio-political system: national and international experience"<sup>6</sup> covers the development dynamics of NGOs, which are a crucial part of civil society, as well as the organization's structure and future. He examined the position and function of NGO institutions in the history of modern Azerbaijani socio-political thought, and carried out a comprehensive analysis of the topic at a global level.

Although the research does not belong to our period, but M. Hasanov's dissertation on "The role of multi-partyism in the decision-

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<sup>3</sup> Bağırov, Ş.X. Azərbaycanca vətəndaş cəmiyyəti quruculuğunun siyasi aspektləri. siyasi elmlər üzrə fəlsəfə doktoru alimlik dərəcəsi almaq üçün təq. ed. dis.: AMEA, Fəls. və Siyasi-Hüquqi Tədqiqatlar İn-tu. - B., 2007. - 165 s.

<sup>4</sup> Məmmədzadə İ. Vətəndaş cəmiyyəti və milli ideologiya, Azərbaycanda siyasi proseslərin fəlsəfəsi / İ.Məmmədzadə. Elm, - Bakı: - 1995. - 156 s.

<sup>5</sup> Mirzəzadə, A. Azərbaycan Respublikasında çoxpartiyalı sistemin formalaşması xüsusiyyətləri / A.Mirzəzadə. Azərbaycan, - Bakı: - 2001. - 170 s.

<sup>6</sup> Quliyev, A.Ə. Qeyri-hökumət təşkilatlarının ictimai-siyasi sistemdə yeri: milli və beynəlxalq təcrübə / siyasi elmlər üzrə fəlsəfə doktoru dis. avtoreferatı / - Bakı, 2013. - 28 s.

making and development of democracy in the Azerbaijan Republic "7 is noteworthy in terms of its proximity to the problem. Democratic evolution of the country, emergence of civil society, political pluralism, freedom of speech and expression were the topics investigated by the author in his dissertation.

We would like to mention the dissertation of N. Abbaszadeh, in which certain issues related to the strengthening of statehood are given, although the research topic is not chronological.<sup>8</sup> Although we paid attention to some points in the author's work, it should be noted that the socio-political processes in the years 2003-2018, covered by the research, have been mentioned slightly.

Some other dissertations we mentioned, attract attention in terms of the investigated issues.<sup>9</sup> No doubt, the period covered by the researcher, as well as the different areas and goals analyzed, do not make it necessary for him to closely follow the processes we mentioned.

Some of the studied problem have not remain unnoticed by Russian scientists.<sup>10</sup> Y. Reznik attempted to interpret the sociological analysis of society in the aspect of philosophical development of civil

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<sup>7</sup> Həsənov, Mehman. Azərbaycan Respublikasında demokratiyanın qərarlaşması və inkişafında çoxpartiyalılığın rolu: / siyasi elmlər üzrə fəlsəfə doktoru dis. / - Bakı, 2013. -28 s.

<sup>8</sup> Abbaszadə, N.M. Azərbaycan milli dövlətçilik tarixinin yeni inkişaf mərhələsi (2003-2017-ci illər) / tarix üzrə fəlsəfə doktoru dis. avtoreferatı. / Bakı, 2022. - 26 s.

<sup>9</sup> Əlirzayeva, F.M. Azərbaycan Respublikasında dövlət idarəçiliyinin innovativ inkişafının səciyyəvi xüsusiyyətləri / siyasi elmlər üzrə fəlsəfə doktoru dis. avtoreferatı / Bakı – 2023, 26 s.; Məmmədli, N.N. Müasir şəraitdə vətəndaş cəmiyyətinin formalaşmasında siyasi institutların yeri və rolu / fəlsəfə üzrə elmlər doktoru dis. avtoreferatı. / - Bakı, - 2024. - 24 s.; Ramazanova, S.N. Azərbaycan qadını ailədə və ictimai həyatda (gender münasibətlərinə etnoqrafik baxış): / tarix üzrə fəlsəfə doktoru dis. avtoreferatı. / - Bakı, 2024. - 35 s.

<sup>10</sup> Канунников, А.А. Гражданское общество в условиях европейского интеграционного процесса: / дис. доктора политических наук. / - Москва, 2017. - 460 с.; Маммадов, М.М. Особенности модернизации постсоветских политических режимов: / дис. на соискание ученой степени кандидата политических наук. / М., - 2017. - 196 с.

society.<sup>11</sup> V. Vityuk analyzed the issues of civil society formation.<sup>12</sup> The work of V. Khoros, which reviews general approaches to civil society, is also in great interest.<sup>13</sup>

It is possible to find lots of studies of Turkish scientists related to the topic. Thus, in his book "Civil society in the tradition of liberal and totalitarian thought", I. Dogan emphasizes the civil society as the multifaceted interaction of free and equal citizens that cannot be solved with the help of the state in the conditions of the market and democratic legal statehood.<sup>14</sup>

Gokhan Tuncel, who problematizes the relationship between civil society and politics in his work "Civil Society and the State", examines the relationship between civil society.<sup>15</sup>

In the book "Civil Society and the State"<sup>16</sup> authored by O. Çahan, he examined the organization and characteristics of civil society, classical and modern concepts of it. Necdet Aksoy in his book "Civil society and pressure groups"<sup>17</sup> revealed the social technology of solving civil society conflicts.

In addition, we should note the importance of the processes that took place in the socio-political life of the Azerbaijan Republic in 2016-2020, the works analyzing their results, author's writings,<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> Резник, Ю.М. Гражданское общество как объект социологического анализа: / автореферат дис. Кандидата философских наук. / -М., 1990. - 21 с.

<sup>12</sup> Витюк В.В. Становление идеи гражданского общества и ее историческая / В.Витюк М.: Юнити, - 1995. - 91 с.

<sup>13</sup> Хорос, В. Гражданское общество: как оно формируется (и сформируется ли) в постсоветской России // - М.: МЭИМО, 1997. №5, - с.90-96.

<sup>14</sup> Doğan İlyas. Sivil Toplum Özgürlükçü ve Totaliter Düşünce Geleneğinde / İ.Doğan. Alfa yayınları. - 2003. - 307 s.

<sup>15</sup> Tuncel G. Sivil toplum ve devlet / G.Tuncel. Bilsam yayınları, - 2011. - 352 s.

<sup>16</sup> Çahan Ö. Sivil toplum ve devlet / Ö.Çahan. Orion. Kitab evi ders kitapları. - 2016. - 350 s.

<sup>17</sup> Aksoy, N. Sivil toplum ve baskı grupları / N.Aksoy. Kaknüs yayınları, - 2008. - 270 s.

<sup>18</sup> Azərbaycan Prokurorluğu 100 illiyini yeni uğur və nailiyyətlərlə qeyd edir // Azərbaycan. - 2018, 28 sentyabr. - s.4.; Azərbaycanda parlamentarizm ənənələri inkişaf etdirilir // Olaylar. – 2017, 25 aprel. - s.15.; Gəncəli N. Gəncənin Avropa gənclər paytaxtı seçilməsi Azərbaycan gənclərinin uğurudur // Palitra. – 2016, -

especially the President's decrees, orders, laws, other official documents and articles for our research.<sup>19</sup>

We must separately mention the importance of the works published in the Russian Federation about the processes that took place in the social and political life of the Azerbaijan Republic in 2016-2020. Particularly, we would like to focus on one of them. M. Ozerov's monograph gives detailed description of the work done by İlham Aliyev to make Azerbaijan a modern, strong state, starting from the first days of his rule.<sup>20</sup>

Close attention was paid to the paid attention to the progress, results and importance of the processes that have taken place in the social, economic and political life of the Azerbaijan Republic since 2003, and this once again proves that the conclusions we reached are reasonable.<sup>21</sup>

It must be noted that articles related to various aspects of our research problem are included in articles on Internet resources. We have applied to some of them during the research.<sup>22</sup>

But our research topic has not been investigated separately or comprehensively in the book, author's writings and other types of

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5 may. - s. 4.; 44 Günlük Qarabağ Müharibəsi: Mülahizə və nəticələr / Bakı: Beynəlxalq münasibətlərinin təhlili mərkəzi, – 2021. - 36 s.

<sup>19</sup> Cəfəri, Rəşad. Azərbaycan idmanında İlham Əliyev missiyası // Azərbaycan. – 2014, 31 iyul. - s. 2.; Həsənov, Ə.M. Möhtəşəm zəfər salnaməsi: Prezident İlham Əliyev hələ uzun illər xalqı öz arxasınca daha yüksək zirvələrə və böyük qələbələrə doğru aparacaq // Azərbaycan. – 2018, 13 oktyabr. s.1-2.; Кузнецов, Олег. Война за Карабах 2020 года: год спустя / О.Кузнецов. – Баку: - 2021. - 40 с.

<sup>20</sup> Озеров, Михаил. Ильхам Алиев: я верю в мой Азербайджан / М.Озеров. - М.: Бослен, - 2007. - 352 с.

<sup>21</sup> Azərbaycanca iqtisadi islahatların həyata keçirilməsi xüsusiyyətləri və problemləri / Elmi Əsərlər toplusu. XX buraxılış. - Bakı – 2020. - 200 s.; Azərbaycan multikulturalizmi. Məqalələr toplusu. 2014-2023 / Azərbaycan Respublikası Prezidentinin İşlər İdarəsinin Prezident kitabxanası. - 275 s.; Zəfər günü. Elektron məqalələr. 2033 s.

<sup>22</sup> Azərbaycanca siyasi mədəniyyətin inkişafında yeni mərhələ başlayıb: [Elektron resurs] / URL: <https://unikal.az/news/9576>; Гасанов А. Молодежная политика азербайджанского государства вступила в новый этап. [Elektron resurs] / URL: <http://interfax.az/view/6306>

research that we mentioned.

**The object and subject of the research.** The object of the study is the main processes that took place in the social and political life of the Azerbaijan Republic in 2016-2020. The subject of the research is the study of radical changes and their consequences created in various spheres of social life.

**Research goals and objectives.** The main purpose of the research is to analyze the main features and results of social and political life during the research years, to study the role of different categories of the population, including women and youth, political parties and social organizations in this process based on the research taken from experiences of both world states and the Azerbaijan Republic. In order to achieve our goal, we have defined the tasks that we must perform during our research as follows:

- to determine the main areas and directions of socio-political processes;
- to explore intellectual and theoretical perspectives on the creation of civil society;
- to analyze the problems related to the participation of women in the management of the state and society;
- to analyze theoretical and practical issues related to ways of increasing the level of participation of young people in various areas of social life;
- to examine issues related to the influence of new aspects in the system of relations between the state and opposition parties on the political life of the society;
- to clarify the influence mechanisms of political parties on the development of civil society;
- To determine the main principles of the strategic approach of the President of the Azerbaijan Republic Ilham Aliyev to the development of civil society;
- To investigate issues related to the impact of the solidarity created in the civil society during the 44-day Patriotic War on the increase of the international reputation of our state.

**The source base of research.** Foreign and local publications related to the democratic political regime, civil society, their

interaction, the formation, development and activity of civil society, its interaction with the government were used in the preparation of the dissertation. The following publications served as the main source: works and articles of foreign researchers and local scientists related to the democratic political regime and civil society, the Constitution of the Azerbaijan Republic, numerous books containing the speeches of the national leader Heydar Aliyev, as well as civil publications that talk about the President Ilham Aliyev's purposeful policy regarding the further improvement of the society's activities and legal state-building.

**The research methods.** Systematic and synergistic approach methods are important in the study of such a complex problem as the socio-political life of modern society. Special research methods such as analysis, synthesis, induction, deduction, systematic, structural-functional, comparative-historical analysis methods, as well as general logical methods such as political analysis and forecasting were used in conducting the research. Our goal is to achieve the scientificity of our analysis and conclusions.

**The main theses to be defended:**

- The fact that various state and public institutions play a decisive role in the process of creating a multilateral civil society, which is seen as the culmination of the most fundamental processes of social and political existence.
- Increasing the number of women working at all levels of state administration, and giving a new direction to the essence of political and social processes with the increasing involvement of young people in social and state administration by the addressing gender equality.
- The help of non-governmental organizations which are the cornerstone of the development of civil society in helping the government to take appropriate measures in order to solve the problems that concern the society.
- The importance of governmental support for the creation and expansion of civil society and its institutions.
- The influence of political parties to the formation and growth of civil society, the interaction between the state and civil society.

- The reviewance of the goals and activities of non-governmental organizations, that become an important force in the rise of the civil society of Azerbaijan and play an important role in the development of the international and cultural relations of the state.
- The consideration of increasing the importance of civil solidarity as a component of the comprehensive strategy applied to protect the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, supportance the fair positions of our people abroad, and reviewance to the historical victory of our people in the Patriotic War.

**The scientific novelty.** In the years covered by the research, the role of the progress and results of social and political processes in the further progress of our state through the strengthening of democratic values and the formation of civil society has been studied in detail.

The main conclusions we reached in the process of our analysis are:

- how socio-political processes affect the formation and application of the idea of socio-economic development of our state was investigated, its forms were analyzed and summarized;
- the NGO network is defined as a unique and necessary element in the civil society improvement system;
- the contribution of legal changes to the development of civil society within the framework of Azerbaijan's transition to a legal-democratic political system was investigated;
- The directions of the current policy in this field, including the achievements of the strategic course of President Ilham Aliyev regarding the transformation and further development of the mighty and strong Azerbaijan into the leading state of the region were presented in an argumentative manner;
- The initial characteristics of the modern stage of socio-political processes in the Republic of Azerbaijan were revealed, the path and tendencies of this process were determined.

**Theoretical and practical significance of the research:**

It would be useful to use the main provisions and results of the dissertation in the following directions:

- in conducting future research on the subject and holding scientific-practical conferences;

- in teaching special courses on the history of the Motherland, international relations and political science in relevant faculties of higher schools, giving lectures and conducting seminars, preparing textbooks and teaching aids.

**Approbation of the dissertation.** The main conclusions reached by the author in the process of researching the topic were presented to the scientific community by finding their reflection in the articles published in the republican and foreign press. The dissertation work was carried out at the "History of Azerbaijan and Eastern European Peoples" department of Sumgayit State University, and was approved in the preliminary discussion.

**The dissertation structure.** The dissertation consists of introduction, three chapters covering nine sub-chapters, conclusion and used literature.

**The name of the organization where the dissertation work was completed.** Sumgayit State University.

**The total volume of the dissertation.** 128 pages and 207047 printing marks.

**The volume of structural sections:** Introduction - 18451, Chapter I - 61751, Chapter II - 58922, Chapter III - 55541, Conclusion – 12382 printed pages.

## II. THE MAIN CONTENT OF THE DISSERTATION

In the "**Introduction**" part of the dissertation, the relevance of the researched topic is substantiated, the level of development, goals and tasks of the research are taken into account, the theoretical and methodological foundations, scientific novelty and scientific-practical importance of the research are explained.

The first chapter of the dissertation is called "**Expansion of legal democratic reforms and impact on social life**" and consists of 3 sub-chapters. In the first sub-chapter entitled "**The main directions of the development strategy of the Azerbaijan Republic**", a brief overview of the socio-economic development path of the modern republic after the restoration of our state independence was taken into

account.

In 2016-2020, the main direction of the state policy in Azerbaijan was the creation of a transparent public relations system and a democratic society. Political pluralism has replaced it as a prerequisite for the socio-economic progress of the country.

The President of the Azerbaijan Republic announced the Development Concept "Azerbaijan-2020: a vision of the future" for 2016-2020. This idea had a great impact on the direction and nature of the socio-political processes in the republic.<sup>23</sup> The fact that our nation has entered a new stage of development has necessitated the development of such a concept. At present, we can say with satisfaction that the objectives set out in the Concept have been fully fulfilled.

During 2016-2020, the improvement of infrastructure accessibility in the regions, the increase in the use of information technologies, the creation of new regional development centers, tourism zones, production clusters in territorial priority economic areas, and the socio-economic development of regions that take into account the unique competitive advantages of each region have been accelerated.<sup>24</sup>

The implementation of a certain part of the tasks arising from the Decree of the President of the Azerbaijan Republic on the approval of the "2015-2025 Development Strategy of Azerbaijan's youth" has helped to promote healthy and active youth and maximize their opportunities to engage in sports.<sup>25</sup>

One of the most urgent problems in terms of the main principles of the development plan of the Azerbaijan Republic is the development of civil society. Today's reality is that Azerbaijan's rapid socio-economic development and protection of national interests are possible on the basis of further development of democracy, modernization

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<sup>23</sup> "Azərbaycan 2020: gələcəyə baxış" İnkişaf Konsepsiyası: [Elektron resurs] / URL:<http://agdam-ih.gov.az/az/azerbaycan-2020-geleceye-baxis-inkisaf-konsepsiyasi.html>

<sup>24</sup> Abdullyeva, F. "Azərbaycan 2020: gələcəyə baxış" İnkişaf Konsepsiyası: yeni hədəflərə çağırış // Mədəniyyət. - 2014, 4 iyul. - s.5.

<sup>25</sup> "2015-2025-ci illərdə Azərbaycan gənclərinin İnkişaf Strategiyası"nın təsdiq edilməsi haqqında Azərbaycan Respublikası Prezidentinin Sərəncamı // Azərbaycan, 2016, 27 yanvar. - s.1.

of relations between the state and civil society institutions, and increasing the efficiency of the activities of non-governmental organizations.

The second subchapter of the first chapter is called "**The role of legal reforms in the democratization of public life.**" It is reported that one of the main differences in the content of the new stage of development of our statehood in 2003-2020 is that legal democratic reforms became intensive and covered all areas of state building. In this regard, the years 2016-2020 are of particular importance. Since 2016, legal and democratic reforms in Azerbaijan have been aimed at solving various problems in different areas of society both individually and completely.

During the implementation of legal-democratic reforms the president İlham Aliyev particularly emphasized that reforms in the country are carried out boldly in both the political and economic spheres. The position of the head of state is fully justified that *"political and economic reforms, economic growth and democratization processes should be carried out in parallel and complementing each other. Otherwise, if the economic situation does not improve, if our economic plans are not implemented, of course, there can be no question of creating a fully democratic society in Azerbaijan."*<sup>26</sup>

In 2016-2020, as a result of successive legal and democratic reforms implemented under the initiative of the Azerbaijani state and the leadership of its leader, the sufficient capabilities of our state in the field of democratic values and state building have led to the fact that the name of our state is on the same level as the names of states that have such influence.

Ensuring the continuity of the measures taken in the direction of the implementation of the "National Action Plan for the Development of Open Government for 2016-2018", approved by the Decree of the President of the Azerbaijan Republic dated April 27, 2016, has given

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<sup>26</sup> Həsənov, Ə.M. Möhtəşəm zəfər salnaməsi: Prezident İlham Əliyev hələ uzun illər xalqı öz arxasınca daha yüksək zirvələrə və böyük qələbələrə doğru aparacaq // Azərbaycan. - 2018, 13 oktyabr. s.1.

effective results.<sup>27</sup>

The most important result of Ilham Aliyev's statehood strengthening policy in 2016-2020 is to bring it to today's high level of development, ensure and preserve political and economic stability.

At the stage of the development of our national statehood covering the years 2016-2020, the reliable and fully mature, ideological, political, economic and legal foundations of state building suggest that the level of development achieved by our state and people, taking into account the results achieved in the research years, it will ensure Azerbaijan to become a pioneer among the most democratic, more civilized and highly developed states of the world in the future.

In the last sub-chapter of the first chapter entitled "**The influence of a multi-party system on the increase in socio-political activity**", it is noted that all political parties in the Republic Azerbaijan are free to participate in the presidential, parliamentary and municipal elections.

No doubt that the free activity of political parties in each of the years 2016-2020 was very important in terms of reflecting the goals and aspirations of each social class and group.

The 2020 election campaign to the Parliament of Azerbaijan took place in the conditions of active citizens, including political parties. The monitoring of the election process by a large number of observers showed that the elections to the Parliament were in the public interest.<sup>28</sup>

In these years, issues of strengthening the participation of political parties in political life have been one of the important directions of the political line of the state, and the course of political reforms that serve to achieve the goal has remained unchanged. Ilham Aliyev said that *"as you know, the new stage of reforms started after the presidential elections of 2018. I announced these reforms at the swearing-*

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<sup>27</sup> Açıq Hökumətin inkişafına dair 2016-2018-ci illər üçün Milli Fəaliyyət Planının təsdiq edilməsi" haqqında Azərbaycan Respublikası Prezidentinin Sərəncamı // Azərbaycan. - 2016, 28 aprel. - s.1.

<sup>28</sup> Azərbaycan Respublikası növbədənənar parlament seçkiləri. 9 fevral 2020. DTİHB Seçki Müşahidə Missiyası.Yekun Hesabat // <https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/b/d/463506.pdf>

*in ceremony, in this hall. We implement them consistently and they are reflected in everyday life. It also shows that, there is no difference between our words and our deeds as it always been."* <sup>29</sup>

Thus, our analyzes showed that political parties, various societies and public associations, as elements of the political system of the society, as subjects of political activity, have significantly increased the percent of participation in the country's political life.

The second chapter of the dissertation is called "**Strengthening of Azerbaijani ideology in the social and political life of the country. Gender equality**" and consists of three subchapters. The first subchapter entitled "**Strengthening the ideology of Azerbaijanism and increasing socio-political activity**" shows that the gap between the state and society arises when the unified ideology of the state ignores the interests of the individual. For a while, even when totalitarian governments switch to democracy, people's perceptions of basic societal ideals such as morality and spirituality change. It was proved by the events that took place in the first years of Azerbaijan's independence.

The President of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev has effectively developed and preserved the intellectual ideals and guiding principles of the concept of Azerbaijanism, which was founded by Heydar Aliyev. Starting from 2003, the Ilham Aliyev's period in the development of the ideology of Azerbaijanism continued between 2016 and 2020 with confidence, great energy and progress.

On June 3, 2016, at the IV Congress of World Azerbaijanis in Baku, which brought together more than 500 diaspora representatives and guests from 49 countries, the President of the Azerbaijan Republic Ilham Aliyev asked them to play an active role in social and political life and said: "*First of all, of course, we want Azerbaijanis living in the world to never lose their ties with their historical homeland. Let them be in constant contact and be connected with Azerbaijan*".<sup>30</sup> To

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<sup>29</sup> Əliyev. İ. İnkişaf – məqsədimizdir. Yüz birinci kitab. fevral 2020 - mart 2020. / İ. Əliyev. - Bakı: Azər nəşr, - 2020. - s.277.

<sup>30</sup> Əliyev İlham. İnkişaf məqsədimizdir. Yetmiş dördüncü kitab. may 2016 - iyul 2016 / İ. Əliyev. - Bakı: Azər nəşr, - 2018. - s.176-177.

his mind, there should be strong relations between diaspora organizations and embassies and these relations should be strengthened.

It should be noted that as a result of the Mehriban Aliyeva's activities, the First Vice President of the Azerbaijan Republic in 2016-2020, the Heydar Aliyev Foundation has implemented methodical and continuous measures in order to raise awareness about the Khojaly Genocide, one of the greatest tragedies of humanity. By the Mrs. M.Aliyeva's initiative, Azerbaijani schools known as "Karabakh" are already operating in several countries.<sup>31</sup>

As a result of the work done by our state in the direction of the better organization of the Azerbaijani diaspora, the foundation of strengthening the relations of our compatriots with their historical homeland, promoting the ideology of Azerbaijanism, national unity, and protecting the interests and moral principles of the nation were laid. These initiatives also played a major role in the formation of state policy in our country.

In the second half of this chapter entitled "**The Importance of Ensuring Gender Equality in Increasing Socio-Political Activity**", it is first mentioned that in the days we live in, the equal representation of men and women in the process of making and implementing important political and economic decisions in order to increase comprehensive development and bring people to a decent well-being the duty to provide are actual.

In terms of gender equality, there are also some features of the international experience that the Azerbaijan Republic has benefited from. The higher representation of women in the parliaments of different countries does not mean that the same situation exists.

In the last 20 years, under the leadership of the President of the Azerbaijan, Republic Ilham Aliyev, as a continuation of the work done since 1993 in the field of solving women's problems, in 2016-2020 years, the work on ensuring gender equality by local management structures has entered a new stage of progress. In 2019, the number of men elected to local self-government bodies was 61 percent, and the

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<sup>31</sup> Azərbaycançılıq ideyasını, həmrəyliyi və milli maraqları hər zaman uca tutan görkəmli dövlət xadimi: [Elektron resurs] / URL: <https://azerbaijan.az/news/2151>

number of women was 39 percent. According to the information as of January 1, 2021, from employees working in the municipal service, 1700 out of 6000 are women and 4300 are men.<sup>32</sup>

When talking about this issue, it is necessary to emphasize one aspect that Mehriban Aliyeva, the First Vice-President of the Azerbaijan Republic, the Vice-Chairman of the New Azerbaijan Party, the President of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, has done work that will be an example to many social and political figures during both research and previous years. Mehriban Aliyeva's role in the world recognition of Azerbaijani culture, music, art, literature, and history is undeniable. In most countries First ladies benefit from her activities and use her experience.<sup>33</sup>

Thus, our analyzes showed that the increasing of involvement of women in political parties and politics in general was one of the most important achievements in our social and political life in 2016-2020.

In the last subchapter of the second chapter of the dissertation named "**The role of youth in social and political life in the Republic of Azerbaijan**", it is stated that in the life of every nation, youth and the youth movement play an important role in the establishment of socio-economic relations.

During the research years, the current situation in the field of youth policy in the Azerbaijan Republic allows us to make a number of important judgments.

Ilham Aliyev said: "As active members of our society, young people play a key role in the strengthening of our country. I highly appreciate the activities of young people. Both at the international level and within the country, I see that today growing young people are connected to the people and the state. This is very important. Young people should be educated in the national spirit."<sup>34</sup>

One of the main conclusions of the work done is the creation of

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<sup>32</sup> Ailə, Qadın və Uşaq Problemləri üzrə Dövlət Komitəsi sədrinin çıxışı. Azərbaycan Respublikasının Milli Məclisi. 27 dekabr 2021-ci il. /

<sup>33</sup> Azərbaycana şərəfli xidmətin mükəmməl örnəyi // Azərbaycan. 25 avqust 2024. s.7.

<sup>34</sup> Əliyev İlham. İnkişaf məqsədimizdir. Yetmiş ikinci kitab. dekabr 2015 – fevral 2016 / İ. Əliyev. - Bakı: Azər nəşr, - 2018. - s.200.

necessary economic, legal and organizational opportunities for the formation and activity of youth organizations in the republic.<sup>35</sup>

More than 60% of those who recruited to state institutions are young people. 28 percent of the members of the municipality, i.e. 4303 members of them are young people. 326 of them are head of municipality. 11 youth organizations of Azerbaijan have been accepted as members of international organizations.<sup>36</sup>

The President Ilham Aliyev signed the Decree "On the approval of the youth development strategy of the Azerbaijan Republic for 2015-2025".<sup>37</sup> This program covers a long period and shows that youth policy can be planned over a large period of time.

Another state document is the decree of the President of the Azerbaijan Republic dated September 15, 2017 on the approval of the State Program "Youth of Azerbaijan in 2017-2021". Here, specific tasks have been put forward to ensure the active participation of young people in various fields of sports, and it has been stated that the Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Azerbaijan Republic should coordinate the implementation of the measures provided for in the State Program approved by Part 1 of this Order.<sup>38</sup>

Azerbaijani people have repeatedly witnessed that the head of our state knows all successes and problems of athletes in detail in his meetings and dialogues with them.

Ilham Aliyev said that *"our athletes have very strong moral foundations. They are a sample to young ones. I am sure that young*

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<sup>35</sup> Гасанов А. Молодежная политика азербайджанского государства вступила в новый этап. [Elektron resurs] / URL: <http://interfax.az/view/6306>

<sup>36</sup> Сеидзаде, Мирагиль. Молодежная политика-составная часть государственной политики Азербайджанской Республики: особенности и основные направления // Право и политологи, - 2016. - № 34, - с.48-52. с.51.

<sup>37</sup> 2015-2025-ci illərdə Azərbaycan gənclərinin İnkişaf Strategiyası'nın təsdiq edilməsi haqqında Azərbaycan Respublikası Prezidentinin Sərəncamı. 26 yanvar 2015-ci il // Azərbaycan. - 2015, 27 yanvar. - s. 1.

<sup>38</sup> "Azərbaycan gəncliyi 2017–2021-ci illərdə" Dövlət Proqramı'nın təsdiq edilməsi haqqında Azərbaycan Respublikası Prezidentinin Sərəncamı. // Azərbaycan. – 2017, 16 sentyabr. s.1.

*athletes will try to look like the ones who sitting here”.* <sup>39</sup>

The last third chapter of the dissertation called "**A new stage in the formation of social-political activism and civil solidarity**" consists of three sub-chapters. The first sub-chapter is entitled "**The effect of the increase in social and political activity on the process of building a civil solidarity society**" and it is noted that during the years of Ilham Aliyev's rule, modern democratic, legal and secular state building in Azerbaijan, as well as the civil society organization which is directly connected with the name of the national leader Heydar Aliyev construction has entered an important stage. That's why, the works completed between 2016 and 2020 were specially mentioned.

Ilham Aliyev's fourth presidential election was particularly significant. After the constitutional reform, the term of the presidency was extended to seven years. In the fourth presidential election held on April 11, 2018, people voted for Ilham Aliyev with 86.02 percent and elected him as president for seven years this time. At the swearing-in ceremony held on April 18, Ilham Aliyev defined his new goals.<sup>40</sup>

The people of Azerbaijan have always closely united around the President of the country Mr. Ilham Aliyev, especially in 2016-2020, and supported their irreplaceable leader. The President of the country, Ilham Aliyev, with his leadership skills and political will, successfully continued the political course of the great leader Heydar Aliyev and made positive contributions to the all-round development of our country. It is an indisputable fact that independent politics is possible if there is decent politics, enough courage and a clear strategy for the future of the country.

The second sub-chapter of the last chapter entitled "**Struggle for the restoration of territorial integrity and strengthening of socio-political stability in society**" states that the Second Karabakh conflict began on September 27, 2020, and more than 4 years have passed since then. All points are present in this date, which is the beginning of the 44-day road that will lead Azerbaijan to victory.

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<sup>39</sup> Əliyev İlham. İnkişaf məqsədimizdir. Səksən birinci kitab. iyun 2017 - avqust 2017. / İ. Əliyev. - Bakı: Azərneşr, - 2019. - s.178.

<sup>40</sup> Heydərov, Fəttah. Liderlik örnəyi // Azərbaycan. -2018, - 4 may. - s.1.

The decisions of the UN Security Council, which world powers kept on paper for 28 years, were resolved by Azerbaijan. It was once again brought to the world where concepts such as justice and international law exist and aims are achieved.

The entire term of İlham Aliyev's presidency is considered as a preparation period for the liberation of our country from occupation. During these years, Azerbaijan has created a strong legal basis for conflict resolution. The Commander-in-Chief said, "The people of Azerbaijan believe in me. Relying on this, I take all the necessary measures, manage our country with confidence, in all areas, including military construction".<sup>41</sup>

The Azerbaijani National Army launched a counterattack along the entire front on September 27 to recapture the territories occupied by the Armenian army during the First Karabakh War in the early 1990s and to stop Armenia's attack on Azerbaijan. Thus, on September 27, the 44-day battle for the liberation of our ancient and historical territories from occupation - the Patriotic War, the Second Karabakh War and the "Iron Fist" operation began.

The international world witnessed that all citizens, from children to adults, supported the president, united to defeat the enemy in the 44-day Patriotic War. All happenings, of course, demonstrate that citizens understand their duty and unite as a fist for national interests.

As a result, in response to Armenian aggression the National Army started the operation and the 30-year longing for Karabakh ended in just 44 days. The fact that our patriotic boys repelled the attack of the Armenians, and then launched a counterattack to inflict crushing blows on the enemy, demonstrated the determination of our people to win.

On November 8, after 28 years of longing, the liberation of Shusha – the heart of Karabakh, by our brave army was one of the most important victories of Azerbaijan in the Second Karabakh War. "We won our historical Victory with the blood of our 3000 martyrs, with the bravery of our veterans and other warriors. In this regard, it is no coincidence that the day when Shusha was freed from occupation

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<sup>41</sup> Əliyev İlham. İnkişaf məqsədimizdir. Yüz doqquzuncu kitab. dekabr 2020 - fevral 2021 / İ. Əliyev. - Bakı: Azər nəşr, - 2021. - s.233.

was established as Victory Day, and September 27, when the Second Karabakh War began, was established as Memorial Day".<sup>42</sup>

The second Karabakh war showed that important progress has also been made in the field of instilling a sense of patriotism in our youth. Of course, improvements were made in the army construction, the technological supply, combat prowess, professionalism, living and general service conditions of the personnel. But at the same time, Armenia should realize that this is certain, Azerbaijan will continue to grow stronger and our military power will increase."<sup>43</sup>

In conclusion, let us note that the Turkish world as a whole is proud of our victory, it is not only the victory of our people. We created a new reality in the region.

The last sub-chapter of the dissertation entitled "**The importance of elections in increasing the activity of citizens in social and political processes**" states that in 2016-2020, significant successes were achieved in all areas of social life in the Azerbaijan Republic. Participation of citizens in socio-political processes was observed with a significant increase in their activity.

Early parliamentary elections in Azerbaijan were held on February 9, 2020, at a time when the country was involved in top-down reforms.

Several different features of these elections can be noted. This demonstrated that the interest in the elections by all sections of the population in the country is quite high. Therefore, the registration of more than 1.3 thousand people as candidates in 125 single-mandate constituencies, that is, more than ten candidates for one deputy mandate, as well as the number of representatives of different political parties and the number of citizens who put forward their candidacy at the same time, were among the different aspects.<sup>44</sup>

At the same time, these elections mean that the opposition

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<sup>42</sup> Məlikli, Günel. Prezident İlham Əliyev Azərbaycanı yeni zirvələrə aparır // Xalq qəzeti 2021. - 25 dekabr. - s.16.

<sup>43</sup> Əliyev İlham. İnkişaf məqsədimizdir. Yüz on üçüncü kitab. iyun 2021 - avqust 2021 / İ. Əliyev. - Bakı: Azər nəşr, - 2021. - s.35.

<sup>44</sup> Дульман Павел. В Азербайджане выбрали новый состав парламента / <https://rg.ru/2020/02/09/v-azerbajdzhane-vybrali-novyj-sostav-parlamenta.html>

political parties in the country will gain another opportunity in terms of promoting their action platforms among the population based on the analysis of their failures in the previous elections.

President of the Azerbaijan Republic Ilham Aliyev said: *"I think that the election process as a whole was successful, and the results of the elections reflected the will of the people of Azerbaijan. The main issue is that the people of Azerbaijan were satisfied with these elections, and the events observed after the elections show this once again."*<sup>45</sup>

The elections held in Azerbaijan in the last decade have been under strict control by the international community. This also means an increase in the level of citizens' approach, attitude and active participation in these elections as one of the indicators of positiveness in social and political processes.

In the "**Conclusion**", based on our analysis, we have expressed our thoughts about the results and importance of socio-political processes that lead to the further development of Azerbaijan, and at the same time we have expressed some suggestions and recommendations.

- While highly appreciating the significance of the achievements attained, it should not be forgotten that in an increasingly globalized world, ensuring the national and regional security of Azerbaijan is not limited solely to attaining high socio-economic development indicators but also largely depends on maintaining political stability within society.
- During the years of research, several meetings and consultations between political party leaders, their representatives, and the ruling authorities have taken place; however, it is necessary to establish and implement new, more transparent forms of dialogue.
- In the process of conducting comprehensive reforms in the system of public administration, the adoption of advanced international practices must be ensured.
- New programs should be developed to define the upcoming objectives of the state's youth policy.
- The representation of competent young individuals in leadership

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<sup>45</sup> Əliyev. İ. İnkişaf – məqsədimizdir. Yüz birinci kitab. fevral 2020 - mart 2020. / İ. Əliyev. - Bakı: Azər nəşr, - 2020. - s.264.

positions across various administrative structures should be further enhanced.

- Gender equality policies should be advanced, and the practice of appointing women to leadership positions within local and state governance structures, particularly in high-level decision-making bodies, should be further expanded.
- Additional comprehensive programs should be adopted to accelerate the restoration of the liberated territories beyond the initially planned timeframe and to ensure the return of internally displaced persons to their homelands.
- By further strengthening the country's defense capabilities, reliable protection against potential security risks must be secured.
- Additional financial resources should be allocated to enhance the social protection of the families of martyrs and war veterans, as well as to implement new forms of financial support for the activities of the "YASHAT" Foundation.

**The content of the dissertation is covered in the following published articles of the author:**

1. Azərbaycan Respublikasında çoxpartiyalılıq sisteminin ictimai-siyasi fəallığın artmasına təsiri. SDU Elmi xəbərlər jurnalı. Sosial və humanitar elmlər bölməsi. Sumqayıt. 2023. Cild 19, №3. s.51-55.
2. The Importance Of Legal Reforms In Strengthening Azerbaijan's Statehood (2016–2020). Міністерство освіти і науки України Таврійський Національний Університет імені В.І.Вернадського. Вчені записки Таврійського Національного Університету імені В.І.Вернадського. України імені В.І.Вернадського. України. 2023. №4. с.98-103.
3. Azərbaycan Respublikasında gender bərabərliyi probleminin həllinin ictimai-siyasi fəallığın artmasına təsiri. Tarix və onun problemləri. Bakı. №4. s.141-144.
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