

İCTİMAİ ELMLƏR

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THE UNFORGETTABLE LEADER OF THE PEOPLE OF AZERBAIJAN

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Two factors are essential for achieving freedom and independence: historical conditions and a strong leader. In the second half of the 1980s, the Soviet empire began to collapse. One of the main roads leading to independence – the historical conditions – had already matured. There was a need for a strong leader for the people, who could assess events correctly and make logical decisions, and this phenomenal figure was Heydar Alirza oglu Aliyev, the architect and founder of the modern Independent Republic of Azerbaijan. Long in advance, Heydar Aliyev anticipated the collapse of the Soviet empire and put the path to the restoration of the state independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Today, the independence of Azerbaijan is in very strong hands. Under the leadership of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, and Hero of the 44-day Patriotic War, Ilham Heydar oglu Aliyev, our republic is strengthening its state independence each day. As the National Leader said: "State independence of Azerbaijan is permanent, eternal, and irreversible".

Keywords: Heydar Aliyev, Ilham Aliyev, Independent Republic of Azerbaijan, science, education

2023 was declared the "Year of Heydar Aliyev" with the decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev dated 29 September 2022.

Historical documents and the witnessed events prove that two factors are essential for achieving freedom and independence: historical conditions and a strong leader. The people of Azerbaijan achieved state independence twice in a century: at the beginning and the end of the 20th century. Yet, they managed to sustain their independence only in the latter case, mainly due to these two factors.

The Azerbaijan People's Republic, established in May 1918, did not last long and fell consequent to the invasion by the Red Empire. On the night of 27-28 April 1920, the Parliament of Azerbaijan People's Republic handed over power to the Provisional Revolutionary Committee of Soviets. In fact, it was an occupation of an independent country. The stubborn resistance attempts of the state members of the Azerbaijan People's Republic were in vain, since the historical and political conditions that arose after World War I did not allow it.

Thus, the October Revolution of 1917 in Russia followed by the occupation of Azerbaijan by the Soviets, which strengthened well thanks to the Baku oil and other natural resources of our country, crossed out the independence ideas of the Azerbaijani people for the next decades. Despite the 23-month lifespan of The Azerbaijan People's Republic, it conferred the first-ever women's suffrage in the East, implemented several important reforms, and was noted in the pages of history by giving our people a taste of freedom.

In the second half of the 1980s, the Soviet empire, named the "prison of the peoples", the pseudo-voluntary union of fifteen sovereign and independent states, began to collapse. One of the main roads leading to independence – the historical conditions – had already matured. There was a need for a strong leader for the people, who could assess events correctly and make logical decisions, and this phenomenal figure was Heydar Alirza oglu Aliyev, the architect and founder of the modern Independent Republic of Azerbaijan.

Long in advance, Heydar Aliyev anticipa-

ted the collapse of the Soviet empire and put the path to the restoration of the state independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan. At a time when the Soviet Union was still powerful, those who talked or acted for independence were severely punished or executed. Notwithstanding, Heydar Aliyev drew the contours of the future independent Azerbaijan deep within his heart, and gradually strengthened the economy and power of Azerbaijan.

Heydar Aliyev knew that the main way to progress the Azerbaijani people was through education, science, and culture [1]. Both in 1969-1982 and the period of independence 1990-2003, the Great Leader directed a large part of his activities in this direction to realize his goal. Both periods of Heydar Aliyev's leadership of Azerbaijan were years of development of science, education and culture, as in many other fields. The National Leader said: "Educating our youth in educational institutions based on the moral values of our people, the issue of educating morally healthy and pure people should occupy an important place in educational institutions" [2, 76].

In 1970-1980, on the initiative of Heydar Aliyev, more than 17,000 specialists were trained for Azerbaijan in more than 50 cities of the USSR. He recalled that period in the years when his genial personality founded the new, independent Azerbaijan: "Today, it can be said with full confidence that Azerbaijan's state sovereignty and economic independence, systematically increasing foreign economic relations, and deeper integration into the world economy is based on the potential of the national economy, which was founded in 1970-1985" [3, 6-9]. This proves once again that the foundation of an important stage in the transformation of the Azerbaijan SSR into the Independent Republic of Azerbaijan was laid in those years under the leadership of Heydar Aliyev.

As the future-based ideas of the Great Leader that no one could foresee, come true, we witness how essential was the development of science, education and military.

In 1971, a military-oriented "Specialized Boarding School" was established by the decision of the Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan. On 24 November 1997, by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the boarding school was renamed to Military Lyceum named after Jamshid Nakhchivansky. Heydar Aliyev made a speech in this solemn ceremony. In 1971, there were two military-oriented boarding schools in the USSR, named after Nakhimov and Suворov, respectively. At that time, it required great courage to open a military school in any of the allied republics other than Russia. Only Heydar Aliyev could do it. Some disagreed with this action. They were based on training centres that prepared alternative soldiers. However, the students of this school, which was established 52 years ago with the determination and foresight of Heydar Aliyev, are today the mainstay of the military power of the Independent Republic of Azerbaijan. Among the students of the Military Lyceum, there were quite a few who have been awarded the honorary title of National Hero of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Particular attention was given to the increase in the number of Azerbaijanis among scientists. In 1972, the Nakhchivan and Ganja Science Centers and Sheki Regional Science Base were organized under the Academy of Sciences. In addition to the increase in the number of intellectuals, there was also a qualitative change in its composition [4, 269]. The foundation of the wide network of scientific and educational institutions operating in our republic today was laid under the leadership of Heydar Aliyev in those years [5, 4-9].

At the people's will and insistence, Heydar Aliyev tirelessly carried this responsible and heavy burden on his shoulders on the way to the restoration of the State Independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The national leader's historic arrival from Moscow to Baku on 20 July 1990, and to Nakhchivan on 22 July will live in people's hearts for centuries. This "journey" written in golden letters in the social and political life

of our country and people, and the foundation of our national statehood and independence that began with it, will always be remembered. After this trip, events began to unfold in a completely different direction. The national leader lived those difficult days together with the people in the city of Nakhchivan, where he was born.

On the day he arrived in Nakhchivan, the Great Leader also held a meeting in Azadlig Square of the city with the participation of more than 80,000. This was no ordinary speech. Every sentence of Heydar Aliyev was a short, perfect thesis of a very difficult but honourable path leading Azerbaijan to independence.

On 30 September 1990, Heydar Aliyev was elected People's Deputy of Azerbaijan SSR and Nakhchivan ASSR. Decisions made at the first session of the Supreme Council of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic held under his chairmanship on 17 November, became an event that created a historical turning point in the social and political life of not only Nakhchivan, an integral part of Azerbaijan, but of Azerbaijan as a whole. At the meeting, historical decisions "On changing the name of the Nakhchivan ASSR", "On the supreme state authority of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic", "On the state symbols of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic", "On giving a political assessment to the events of January 1990" were adopted. The words "Soviet Socialist" were removed from the name of the Nakhchivan ASSR, and the name of the Supreme Soviet was changed to "The Supreme Assembly of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic". The three-coloured flag of the Azerbaijan People's Republic was accepted as the state flag of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, and a legislative initiative was taken to adopt this flag as the official state flag [6, 34-38]. All of them demonstrate that the restoration of Azerbaijan's independence started from Nakhchivan under the leadership of Heydar Aliyev.

After Heydar Aliyev was elected as the Chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic on 2 September 1991, democratic changes, important decisions related to national statehood and bigger measures began to

be implemented. Under the leadership of Heydar Aliyev, the Supreme Assembly of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic adopted decisions "On the status of the armed forces located in the territory of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic" and "On the organization of the defence and protection of the borders of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic". The State National Defense Committee of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic was established by a decision dated 7 September 1991. The withdrawal of Soviet troops from the territory of Nakhchivan began, and the last Russian soldier left the territory on 29 September 1992. On 28 May of the same year, the "Bridge of Hope" built on the Aras River between Nakhchivan and the brotherly Republic of Turkey was opened. Heydar Aliyev's visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran on 22-26 August and the documents signed there played a major role in the development of future relations with the neighbouring country. On 3 December, the Shahtakhty-Poldasht floating bridge was commissioned over the Aras River between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic [6, 38-59].

Heydar Aliyev gave a political and historical assessment of the "Border Movement" at the session of the Supreme Assembly held on December 16, 1991. On the same day, December 31 was declared the Day of Solidarity and Unity of the World Azerbaijani people, and to annually celebrate this day as a holiday in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic.

On 21 November 1992, at the constituent conference of NAP, held in Nakhchivan, a decision was made to establish the political party, and Heydar Aliyev was unanimously elected as its chairman.

With the return of Heydar Aliyev to political power in June 1993, state independence was strengthened in Azerbaijan and the foundation of today's comprehensive development was laid.

Heydar Aliyev always paid paternal care to the development of science, education and culture during his leadership of the Independent Republic of Azerbaijan. On 21 May 1998, during a meeting with the members of the Society

of Specialists, who received higher education in foreign countries, the National Leader recalled the times he led the Azerbaijan SSR with the words: "...the people I sent to study outside Azerbaijan in the 1970s and 1980s are [like] my own children. Perhaps you don't know how much I suffered to organize this work... In those years, each republic was allocated a certain place for young people to study in different cities of the USSR. I learned in 1970 that 50 places were allocated to Azerbaijan for this purpose, and no one was interested in this task. I observed that only 25 per cent of those young people on the list were Azerbaijanis by nationality... In 1975, I increased the number of students to 600, and then each year, setting to 700, 800, 900..." [7, 18-19].

As Heydar Aliyev said on 31 August 1999, in a meeting with the education workers and students of the republic: "Any state that wants to ensure the development of its country and bring its nation's science and culture up to world standards, should pay more attention to education, strive for the development of education, create all education opportunities" [8].

Alongside the other fields of science, Heydar Aliyev also cared about the ancient history, archaeology, and ethnography of Azerbaijan, always promoted this field of science, education and culture, and was proud of the centuries-old history and statehood traditions of his homeland. In particular, the training of national archaeological personnel was one of the important issues.

As can be seen, the restoration of state independence, which was founded in Nakhchivan in 1990 as a result of Heydar Aliyev's tireless

activities, ended with the adoption of the Constitutional Act "On the restoration of state independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan" on 18 October 1991, after discussions in the Supreme Council of Azerbaijan.

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AZƏRBAYCAN XALQININ UNUDULMAZ LİDERİ**A.Q. Seyidov**

Azadlığa, müstəqilliyə qovuşmaq üçün iki şərt əsasdır: -tarixi şəraitin yetişməsi və güclü, xalqı arxasınca aparacağı bacaran liderin olması. XX əsrin 80-ci illərinin ikinci yarısında sovetlər birliyi çökməyə başladı. Artıq müstəqilliyə aparən əsas yollardan biri – tarixi şərait yetişmişdi. Sadəcə, xalqı arxasınca apara bilən, məntiqi qərarlar verməyi bacaran güclü liderə ehtiyac duyulurdu – bu nəhəng sima Müstəqil Azərbaycan Respublikasının memarı və qurucusu, Ümummilli Lider Heydər Əlirza oğlu Əliyev idi. Heydər Əliyev SSRİ adlanan imperiyanın tezliklə dağılacağını çox-çox əvvəldən hiss etməklə yanaşı, Azərbaycan Respublikasının dövlət müstəqilliyinin bərpasına gedən yolunun məhz bu illərdən başladığını görürdü.

Bu gün Azərbaycan Respublikasının Prezidenti, Zəti-aliləri, Silahlı Qüvvələrin Ali Baş Komandanı, 44 günlük Vətən müharibəsinin Qəhrəmanı İlham Heydər oğlu Əliyevin rəhbərliyi altında respublikamız günü-gündən öz dövlət müstəqilliyini möhkəmləndirir. Ümummilli Liderin söylədiyi kimi: “Azərbaycanın dövlət müstəqilliyi daimidir, əbədidir, dönməzdir”.

Açar sözlər: Heydər Əliyev, İlham Əliyev, tarixi şərait, Müstəqil Azərbaycan Respublikası, elm, təhsil

НЕЗАБВЕННЫЙ ЛИДЕР АЗЕРБАЙДЖАНСКОГО НАРОДА**А.Г. Сеидов**

Два фактора необходимы для достижения свободы и независимости: исторические условия и сильный лидер. Во второй половине 1980-х годов советская империя начала разваливаться. Одна из главных дорог, ведущих к независимости, – исторические условия – уже созрела. Для народа был нужен сильный лидер, умеющий правильно оценивать события и принимать логичные решения, и этой феноменальной фигурой стал Гейдар Алирза оглы Алиев, архитектор и основатель современной Независимой Республики Азербайджан. Гейдар Алиев заранее предвидел крах советской империи и проложил путь к восстановлению государственной независимости Азербайджанской Республики.

Сегодня независимость Азербайджана находится в очень крепких руках. Под руководством Президента Азербайджанской Республики, Главнокомандующего Вооруженными Силами, Героя 44-дневной Отечественной войны Ильхама Гейдар оглы Алиева наша республика с каждым днем укрепляет свою государственную независимость. Как сказал общенациональный лидер: «Государственная независимость Азербайджана постоянна, вечна и необратима».

Ключевые слова: Гейдар Алиев, Ильхам Алиев, Независимая Азербайджанская Республика, наука, образование