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MULTICULTURALISM IN AZERBAIJAN IN THE CONTEXT OF MODERN GLOBALIZATION

Abstract. Multiculturalism is a necessary means for the dialogue of cultures and civilizations. It is impossible to establish a dialogue of cultures without studying the essence, characteristics, history and achievements of other cultures. Recently, Azerbaijan has become one of the traditional venues for international intercultural events. The article deals with the role of Azerbaijan in the dialogue of cultures and civilizations in the context of modern globalization, the importance of the International Humanitarian Forums, which laid the foundation of the Baku process. At the same time, it is noted that tourism is one of the most effective areas uniting different cultures and peoples in modern times.

Key words: multiculturalism, civilizations, forum, religious diversity, tourism.

Introduction. Multiculturalism is classified as “multiculturalism” in the scientific literature, i.e. a society that embraces many different cultures. It is aimed at the protection, development and harmonization of the cultural diversity of people of different nationalities and religions in a certain country and the world as a whole and their integration into the national culture of minorities and states. Multiculturalism is the embodiment of tolerance as a humanist and democratic theory or ideology. Humanism, a high culture of individual and international relations, mutual understanding, mutual enrichment, friendship and cooperation between people are impossible without a multicultural society. Multiculturalism is a necessary means for the dialogue of cultures and civilizations. It is impossible to establish a dialogue of cultures and civilizations without

studying the essence, characteristics, history and achievements of other cultures and without tolerant attitude and mutual understanding to them. In fact, renouncing multiculturalism is a way of leading misunderstanding, confrontation, national and religious conflicts. In general, the active discussions held in the international arena on the topic of dialogue among civilizations, international conferences and symposiums held in different countries in recent years inform how important the idea of dialogue among civilizations is in the 21st century. Undoubtedly, the opposite circumstance of this is a war between civilizations, which would mean the end of our world. Therefore, this issue has been repeatedly raised by the UNO, UNESCO and other international organizations, as well as many heads of state, the need to solve global problems through the joint efforts of all world peoples has been emphasized, the necessity for such a dialogue for peace and tranquility, mutual enrichment of cultures has been shown.

The interpretation of the main material. Today the most important issue of humanity is to create an environment of dialogue between East and West and in other cases between Islamic and Christian civilizations, to ensure the mutual exchange of progressive values related to them. Development of international cultural and humanitarian cooperation and achievement of mutual understanding between the peoples are one of the main priorities of Azerbaijan's foreign policy [1, p. 172].

The UNO's declaration of 2010 as the "Year of the Rapprochement of International Cultures" showed increasing aware of the role of culture in the modern world by the international community. Harmonious cultural dialogue is not only an important means in resolving interstate conflicts, but also one of the main conditions for national development, state security and prosperity [2].

Recently, Azerbaijan has become one of the traditional venues for international intercultural forums. The holding of the 1st and 2nd World Intercultural Forums in Baku in 2010 and 2012 with the support of UNESCO, ISESCO, the UNO Alliance of Civilizations, the Council of Europe and its North-South Center is a clear example of this. The organization of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th Baku International Humanitarian Forums and other prestigious meetings during 2011–2018 laid the foundation of the Baku process and proved once again that Azerbaijan has made a concrete contribution to the development of global intercultural dialogue and cooperation. Conceptual, ideological and practical aspects of intercultural dialogue were discussed and obstacles in dialogue were considered in these forums. President of

the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev said in his speech at the 6th Baku International Humanitarian Forum: “Representatives of different religions and peoples have lived in Azerbaijan as a family in peace, tranquility and kindness for centuries and this policy continues today. The state policy of Azerbaijan in this direction is very effective and leads to good results. Our historical past and culture show that representatives of different religions have always lived very comfortably in Azerbaijan as a family. Our historical and religious monuments show our ancient history and at the same time show that Azerbaijan has become a native land, a native place for the representatives of different religions” [5].

The role and importance of Azerbaijan in the dialogue of cultures and civilizations can be understood and defined through taking into account the peculiarities of its historical development. First of all, the formation and development of our country as a cultural areal is closely related with its geographical and geopolitical conditions and its system of values. Azerbaijan has interacted with different cultures and civilizations for centuries due to its location at the junction of Eastern and Western civilizations and it is no coincidence that the territory of our country is one of the rare places where major world religions (Islam, Christianity, fire-worship) coexist peacefully. This common position of Azerbaijan, which organically unites Eastern and Western civilizations, has led to its constant tendency to synthesis of the values of both civilizations in its system of values. As a result of such a unique interaction, our people have gained a rich experience of communication with different ethnic groups and cultures. It is the result of this unique interaction that besides Azerbaijan takes an active part in the dialogue of cultures in the international arena, it continues successfully this dialogue within it. As academician R.Mehdiyev noted that although there are certain standard requirements of the democratization process in the modern world, each country's unique national mentality, historical, socio-economic, political and cultural development peculiarities, unequal starting opportunities are taken into account [4, p. 296].

The formation and development of a multicultural society is determined by the peculiarities of historical evolution, specifically by social factors. It should be noted that democracy plays an important role in the formation and development of a multicultural society, to be more precise, democracy creates favorable conditions for the evolution of a multicultural society. Multicultural society has existed primarily in the democratic countries of Western Europe

and North America. The high level of tolerance, morality and democracy in these countries has created favorable conditions for the spread of ideas of multiculturalism.

Peculiarities of the historical development, geographical position and ethnic composition of the population of Azerbaijan have created conditions for the existence of different religions here. Paganism, Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam and many other religious beliefs have been able to spread to a certain extent in the country and interacted with each other at different times. In addition, tolerance, religious, national and racial tolerance are inseparable peculiarities of our national mentality. As a result, the nations have lived as a united and friendly family, tolerant relations have been formed between ethnic and religious communities, national, racial and religious discrimination hasn't been allowed and people of different religions have worked in peace and tranquility for centuries and even today in Azerbaijan.

Also the role of tourism in intercultural dialogue should be emphasized. Tourism is one of the most effective ways to unite different cultures and peoples in modern times. Today, tourism is one of the fastest growing industries on a global scale. Mass tourism is also becoming one of the main factors of intercultural relations and dialogue between peoples. Modern political and socio-economic relations have created more favorable conditions for the development of tourism in comparison with previous periods. The uniqueness of the historical, cultural, national and religious traditions of different peoples and historical and cultural monuments remain an important attractive factor for the representatives of other nations. Azerbaijan with a rich historical and cultural heritage and favorable conditions has great prospects for development in the field of tourism. The growing attractiveness of Azerbaijan as a tourist country also has a positive influence on increasing its prestige in the international arena besides creating conditions for the development of the tourism industry, the expansion of infrastructure and information and communication systems in the country [6].

Today, Azerbaijan is a country distinguished by its ethnographic diversity. Besides the representatives of different nationalities, ethnic groups such as Tats, Talysh, Molokans, Avars, Lezgins, Mountain Jews and Sahurs live in its territory. Although the representatives of these ethnic groups consider themselves as Azerbaijani, each group has preserved its own elements of different cultures. This culture is reflected in everyday life, handicrafts,

cuisine and various ceremonies. If we organize tourist trips to ethnic regions, visitors to our country will have an opportunity to get acquainted with the ethnographic peculiarities and rich culture of Azerbaijan. Today, tourist trips to ethnic regions are one of the most applied fields in the world [7, p. 73].

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan İlham Aliyev has considered the development of tourism in the country as a priority area and signed very important documents in this direction. Today, Azerbaijan is already recognized as a country of tourism in the international arena. It is no coincidence that international tourism exhibitions are organized in Azerbaijan every year and countries with experience in the tourism field participate in these exhibitions. Special permits (licenses) were given for more than 80 hotels and hotel-type objects only in 2015. Today, the ideas of multiculturalism can be implemented in a positive direction in the development of regional tourism in Azerbaijan. The development policy of tourism that has been pursued in our country in recent years gives confidence that this sector will become one of the leading sectors of the country's economy. At the same time, it promotes the role of tourism in intercultural dialogue and the wider promotion of Azerbaijan's national and cultural achievements around the world [3].

Azerbaijan is a country with a rich history and ancient culture. There are more than 6 thousand historical and architectural monuments in our country. Most of them are located on the ancient caravan roads along the Great Silk Road passing through the territory of Azerbaijan and are still amazing today. The rock paintings of primitive people in the caves of Gobustan (60 km west of Baku), pre-Islamic ceremonial buildings – fire-worship temples, towers, Albanian churches and temples at the top of the mountains, magnificent castle walls and castles, as well as a large caravanserais, magnificent palaces, memorial rites and other buildings of the period of Islamic culture can be shown as an example of these monuments. Medieval memorial buildings are represented by mausoleums along the Silk Road.

Conclusion. Azerbaijan supports all international initiatives that promote rapprochement between civilizations and acts as an initiator and participant in this dialogue in some cases. In this regard, our country is making a worthy contribution to international dialogue within the UNO, UNESCO, ISESCO, OSCE, the Council of Europe, the CIS and other special international structures and forums. At the same time, the initiatives put forward by our country, which is a supporter of cooperation, peace and

security in the region and around the world, increase its prestige more in the international arena. Holding these events in Azerbaijan, where there is national and religious patience and tolerance, is also a clear proof that our country is an example to the world. Azerbaijan's rapid development, domestic and foreign policies that serve the interests of all mankind and its growing prestige in the world have a positive influence on the frequent holding of international events in our country that serve progress, peace and security. In its turn, these are factors that contribute to dialogue and mutual understanding in a globalizing world.

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MÜASİR QLOBALLAŞMA ŞƏRAİTİNDƏ AZƏRBAYCANDA MULTİKULTURALİZM

Multikulturalizm mədəniyyətlərin və sivilizasiyaların dialoqunun zəruri alətidir. Digər mədəniyyətlərin mahiyyətini, xüsusiyyətlərini, tarixini və nailiyyətlərini öyrənmədən mədəniyyətlərin dialoqunu qurmaq qeyri-mümkündür. Son dövrlərdə Azərbaycan beynəlxalq mədəniyyətlərarası tədbirlərin keçirildiyi ənənəvi məkanlardan birinə çevrilmişdir. Məqalədə müasir qloballaşma şəraitində Azərbaycanın mədəniyyətlərin və sivilizasiyaların dialoqunda rolundan, Bakı prosesinin əsasını qoymuş Beynəlxalq Humanitar Forumların əhəmiyyətindən bəhs olunur. Eyni zamanda müasir dövrdə turizmin müxtəlif mədəniyyətləri və xalqları birləşdirən səmərəli sahələrdən biri olduğu qeyd olunur.

Açar sözlər: multikulturalizm, sivilizasiyalar, forum, dini müxtəliflik, turizm.

Фергана Гусейнова (Азербайджан)

МУЛЬТИКУЛЬТУРАЛИЗМ В АЗЕРБАЙДЖАНЕ В УСЛОВИЯХ СОВРЕМЕННОЙ ГЛОБАЛИЗАЦИИ

Мультикультурализм является необходимым инструментом диалога культур и цивилизаций. Не изучив сущности, особенностей, истории и достижений других культур, диалог культур построить невозможно. В последний период Азербайджан превратился в одно из традиционных мест проведения международных межкультурных мероприятий. В статье говорится о роли Азербайджана в диалоге культур и цивилизаций в условиях современной глобализации, о значении международных Гуманитарных Форумов, заложивших основы Бакинского процесса. Вместе с тем, отмечается, что туризм на современном этапе является одной из эффективных отраслей, объединяющих различные культуры и народы.

Ключевые слова: мультикультурализм, цивилизации, форум, религиозное разнообразие, туризм.