

SADIG GURBANOV

A LEADER
TRANSCENDING
TIME

HEYDAR ALIYEV'S
GOVERNANCE AND SUCCESSION
PHILOSOPHY

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Heydar Aliyev's governance and succession philosophy

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This book is dedicated to creating the political-philosophical foundation of Aliyev studies based on the analysis of the underlying principles and provisions of the political philosophy, practical activity of the Great Leader Heydar Aliyev. The book is devoted to the study of Heydar Aliyev's life path, political career, political activity during the Soviets and independence periods, activities in the field of public administration, economic building, cultural construction and formation of national ideology and domestic and foreign policy. For the first time, philosophical principles and scientific-theoretical propositions on the philosophical nature of Heydar Aliyev's politics, the formation of the ideology of Azerbaijanism and its transformation into the ideology of the world's Azerbaijanis, building of a legal state and civil society, the unity of domestic and foreign policy and serving national interests, and challenges in the establishment of peace and tranquility in the country and the world are summarized and systematized. The book is pivotal in deeply revealing the political-philosophical aspect of Aliyev studies, as well as the related issues of political philosophy.

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INTRODUCTION

The history of humanity is a chronicle of the lives of powerful personalities who left an indelible mark on the fate of their people, rich in struggles. Every nation is proud of its historical figures and respects the heritage created by them. Heydar Aliyev, the architect and founder of Azerbaijan's modern state did tremendous and irreplaceable work for the independence and development of our country, thereby influencing world and regional processes; he is a genius whom we will always be proud of and remember with pride. This rare genius achieved the eternal and irreversible nature of our independence, which we regained at the end of the 20th century. Thanks to his unparalleled services, he won the status of the National Leader in the state consciousness of the people. The Great Leader Heydar Aliyev, capable of influencing world politics, has done extraordinary things for the Azerbaijani people and statehood. Heydar Aliyev is not only a historical personality who solves the fateful problems of the people and the state of Azerbaijan but also a personality who creates history.

Heydar Aliyev lived a life of leadership since the beginning of his activity and went down in history as a great politician, a powerful head of state, extensively knowledgeable of our literature, history, and culture, in a word, a universal, encyclopedic intelligence, thinker, and great personality, thanks to his statesmanship. Azerbaijan has taken its rightful place among the countries of the world. From this point of view, the interest in Heydar Aliyev's personality and political activity has

always been high. Over the years, different aspects of his great activity are attracting the attention of researchers even more.

The famous Kyrgyz writer, the pride of the Turkic world, Chingiz Aytmatov, has the following thoughts about the strong personality, which have a deep meaning and provide ample material for researchers of the Great Leader's political legacy: "Heydar Aliyev is indeed a historical, even legendary personality. It was the same in the Soviet era, and it is the same in today's CIS space and in the conditions of the modern world, which has become much more difficult. Heydar Aliyev has always been at the service of his people. Heydar Aliyev demonstrated readiness for the most urgent challenges of the modern era, a feature that many of his peers and even younger political figures could not do, as a result of Heydar Aliyev's rich political experience and breadth of humanitarian outlook, stability, tolerance, culture, and enlightenment reign in Azerbaijan. All these are the main factors that will ensure the modern development and progress of the Azerbaijan state. Heydar Aliyev is one of the greatest leaders of the 20th century. He is one of today's founders of the new history of modern democratic Eurasia."¹

In this sense, revealing the philosophical essence of Heydar Aliyev's policy is pivotal and essential. Thus, Heydar Aliyev's views on political strategy and methodology problems, statehood and national ideology, and philosophical-theoretical heritage is a guiding and valuable world of thought that affects the development of social-philosophical and political thought of Azerbaijan and constitutes a special stage. These precious words of our honorable President Ilham Aliyev, spoken with great respect and attention, will always keep their high value: "The ideas generated by Heydar Aliyev are still alive today.

His policy is underway, and his philosophical ideas show the main directions of the program of strengthening our modern Azerbaijan.”

Heydar Aliyev, a well-known figure in the political world of the modern world, the conqueror of the National Leader and Great Leader peak, attracted the attention of humanity and confirmed his genius with his political and statecraft activities. As a great personality, Heydar Aliyev lived a meaningful life for Azerbaijan’s political, social-economic, and cultural-spiritual development and showed invaluable wisdom in carrying out our state affairs in a genius way.

Genius - in addition to having high thinking skills, the perfect behavior acquired by the owners of intelligence and power in their life paths, possessing national and spiritual values, the ability to master the secrets of human ideas, the most profound knowledge they perceive, passing it through the filter of thought and understanding is the ability to apply.

The philosophy of the genius Heydar Aliyev’s policy manifests a whole, holistic philosophical system in deep layers. Heydar Aliyev’s philosophical system as a social, ideal, national-philosophical outlook is “a perfect scientific-theoretical system that reflects the reality of Azerbaijan, all areas of its social-political and cultural-spiritual life.”²

The main goal of Aliyev studies researchers is to uncover the foundations of this conceptual system by analyzing the ideas and practical activities of the extraordinary phenomenon Heydar Aliyev at the level of theoretical thinking. Studying, interpreting, and conveying it to the younger generations is necessary. Against the background of Heydar Aliyev’s political successes and constructive activities, there is a need to put his political enlightenment activities in the foreground.”³

Thanks to Heydar Aliyev's intense mental and physical work and foresight, Azerbaijan's socio-economic and political landscape began to change significantly.

I.Huseynova showed that Heydar Aliyev had a special place in the history of Azerbaijan as the head of state during the Soviets and independence periods: "One of the important aspects that distinguishes this period is that Azerbaijan has grown up a world-famous head of state and political figure such as Heydar Aliyev. Heydar Aliyev's personality and activities were formed in the social and political environment of the former USSR and Azerbaijan in the second half of the 20th century. He was recognized worldwide as a professional politician, political figure, and statesman. His life path is a model school that embodies high human and moral qualities as a rich, meaningful, and capable political leader, and an influential historical figure.

An important quality distinguishing Heydar Aliyev as a leader is that he led Azerbaijan in two political systems and devoted all his activities to the rise of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the cultural development of the people in accordance with the socio-political requirements of each era.

All the political and statesmanship activities of Heydar Aliyev are the history of the development and strengthening of modern Azerbaijan, the Azerbaijani people, and national statehood. The chronology of his life and activities is a bright page of a significant historical period.

Upward and progressive trends in our country's economic, social-political, and cultural-spiritual development distinguish the periods of Heydar Aliyev's leadership of Azerbaijan. He is the only personality-leader in the history of Azerbaijan who has risen to the top of the political leadership of a super-state like the

former USSR and has shown through his practical activities that he is a world-renowned leader who is the most prominent and influential among the world's well-known state and political figures."⁴

After the First Republic, Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, was overthrown by the Bolsheviks, Azerbaijan became one of the allied republics. "In fact, if there was no Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, there would be no Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic established after the Bolshevik invasion, and Azerbaijan would remain a province of Russia. If there had been no Azerbaijan SSR, perhaps the current Republic of Azerbaijan would not have been created when the USSR collapsed. Therefore, it would be more precise to look at our history of the Soviet era as the first republic in succession with the history of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic and the Azerbaijan SSR as the second republic. Although Azerbaijan was not an independent state during the Soviet era, certain attributes of statehood were preserved."⁵ The independent Republic of Azerbaijan, whose architect was Heydar Aliyev, is the third republic.

"The era of Heydar Aliyev's leadership in the Azerbaijan USSR in the second republic in the 1960s-1980s skillfully solved the fateful problems of his people, carefully and purposefully prepared the economic and cultural base for future independence, without conforming to idealism, and was working for the people before his eyes within the conditions of the time."⁶

When the researchers were talking about the general methodological problems of the study of the periods of Heydar Aliyev's governance, they emphasized that the study of the history of the people and the official statehood in unity and the meaning of "Azerbaijani history" correctly means the historical

meaning of the people who founded the state in the territory where they lived, both politically and geographically, and the rich history of our people. They show that it contains statehood traditions and ancient history.

The state traditions of Azerbaijan prove that the ancient states that existed in the territory of Azerbaijan, the great empires of the Middle Ages, the khanates and republics that were independent state institutions, the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic and the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic, and today's independent Republic of Azerbaijan are also separate independent manifestations of national statehood. These states are also separate parts of a larger single historical process. As long as the country called Azerbaijan exists, the page created by Heydar Aliyev will live together with our history. This was when Heydar Aliyev opened unique development perspectives in Azerbaijan's national, spiritual, cultural, political, and economic life in the second half of the 20th century. It was when Azerbaijan, our motherland, paid its debt as a person-citizen with dignity. This historical period needs to be studied profoundly, scientifically, and theoretically. This historical period in the second half of the 20th century in the history of Azerbaijan's national spirituality and national thought deserves to be comprehensively studied under the general name of the Heydar Aliyev stage.

In the political philosophy of the genius Heydar Aliyev, who successfully continued the state independence of Azerbaijan, the concept of the revival of the history of Azerbaijan, the restoration of history, and ensuring its integrity occupy a central place. "Heydar Aliyev did not limit himself to fulfilling the honorable task of strengthening the independent state of Azerbaijan, ensuring the irreversibility of its independence,

ensuring the continuity of the modern stage of our statehood history, but also he did purposeful work in restoring our historical consciousness, uncovering the ancient roots of statehood traditions and contributing to our modern history." To a greater extent, this special attention is a manifestation of the desire to rely on history to strengthen the sense of citizenship and love for the nation, the state, and the homeland in today's national state-building and lay the path to the future on firmer, deeper foundations.⁷

Azerbaijan's people have given the world's history such influential and brilliant personalities as Javanshir, Babek, Shamsaddin Eldegiz, Muhammad Jahan Pahlavan, Gizil Arslan, Uzun Hasan, Shah Ismayil Khatai, Nadir Shah. Heydar Aliyev characterized the heroism of these outstanding personalities as "a school of patriotism, the embodiment of the integrity and unity of the motherland" and showed that their lives and activities further developed the love of the country and statehood of our people, turning it into the most critical and most hopeful goal of life.

In the 20th century, a rare and genius personality, such as Heydar Aliyev, grew up in the history of Azerbaijan. Among the world's Atatürk, Washington, Nehru, De Gaulle, and other historical figures, the personality of Heydar Aliyev took his glorious and worthy place.

With his genius thinking, Heydar Aliyev divided the history of Azerbaijan in the 20th century into four stages: the first stage covers the period from the beginning of the century to the October Revolution. The second stage - 1918-1920 years - covers the period of the existence of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, as well as the years 1920-1922, when the Azerbaijan SSR, which gained independence from a formal point of view,

existed. The third stage is when the Azerbaijan SSR existed as part of the federal state (1922-1991), and the fourth stage from 1991 is the formation and development stage of the third republic, the independent Republic of Azerbaijan. The third and fourth stages are named after Heydar Aliyev. The beginning of the independent state building of Azerbaijan is taken from 1969 when Heydar Aliyev came to power.

In Heydar Aliyev's political philosophy, it is necessary to study the complex approach to politics, the concept of national statehood and national ideology, the unity of politics and economy, cultural heritage and national-spiritual values, democratic values, in short, the contributions of this genius to the theory and practice of the revival of Azerbaijan are critical political-philosophical and moral issues.

"The cornerstone of Heydar Aliyev's political philosophy is the national interest, national revival, political modernization, intensification of the activities of government institutions, increase in civic activity of the population, democratization of governance, creation of a moral consensus on the common tasks of the state and society."⁸

According to M.Mammadov, Heydar Aliyev, who is the creator of persistent politics oriented towards victory, led to the achievement of our country's political, economic, cultural, and spiritual independence, strong protection of national interests, ensured irreversibility and eternity in these directions.

Azerbaijan pursues an independent political course per its interests, developed by Heydar Aliyev. In all spheres of relations with all states, Azerbaijan first acts out of its national interests. However, this should not affect the interests of other states.

"Heydar Aliyev does not isolate politics from economy, culture, national and moral values. His comprehensive

personality preparation and high intellectual level in all fields allow the comprehensive implementation of the entire political course.”⁹

The pivotal importance of President Heydar Aliyev’s political-philosophical heritage for Azerbaijani society brings to the fore the need to study and interpret this heritage.

“The distinctive personality of the country’s President, the flexible and pragmatic policy implemented by him for the sake of bringing Azerbaijan to international unity, for the sake of consolidating Azerbaijan’s statehood, creating a qualitatively new atmosphere in the entire spectrum of interstate relations, have long been recognized by politicians and publicists all over the world and attracts the attention of philosophers, historians, and sociologists.

The President’s speeches are examples of political enlightenment that rely on willpower and require perseverance. His speeches are full of precision and justify lofty ideas and noble appeals. All the speeches of the creator of democratic statism, the only truly successful model of the state of Azerbaijan, which expresses the state consciousness, are distinguished by these qualities. He achieved the celebration of the will of the state in his activity. The citizens of the republic ensured that the values such as independence, secular state, republicanism, democracy, human rights, and national spirituality he declared were fruitful.”¹⁰

Heydar Aliyev’s political philosophy should be studied in the unity of his biography, history, politics, and mutual relations of society. Only in this case can the philosophical essence of the great Leader’s policy be revealed, and future generations can clearly understand his political-philosophical legacy.

Heydar Aliyev, the founder of the national ideology, put forward the idea of Azerbaijanism as a strategic line of the Azerbaijani state. The idea of Azerbaijanism put forward by Heydar Aliyev expresses a perfect philosophical conceptual system.

Heydar Aliyev, the founder of the Azerbaijani state and ideology of statehood, turned Azerbaijanism into a guiding ideology in all spheres of public life. Thanks to this genius's political and statesmanship activities, Azerbaijanism became the national-political ideology of the Azerbaijan state.

S.Khalilov points out Heydar Aliyev's role in the development of national ideology and socio-political opinion to a considerable extent as a part of the construction processes in society in the independent Republic of Azerbaijan: "The process of establishing the independent state of Azerbaijan was accompanied by the preparation of its ideological and political foundation. Here we should mention the exceptional role of the National Leader of Azerbaijan, Heydar Aliyev. Special studies will be conducted to reveal the philosophical content of his socio-political activity. Nevertheless, the ideas he put forward also determine the level of contemporary philosophical thought. From this point of view, the selection and publication of Heydar Aliyev's aphorisms can be considered an important event for contemporary philosophical thought. "Heydar Aliyev's services in shaping our national ideology and developing the ideological and political foundations of Azerbaijanism deserve special attention."¹¹

Heydar Aliyev's extraordinary personality, combined with his unique practical politics and organization, wisdom, and philosophy in social and political life, "for the first time in

history, raised practical politics and organizational work to the level of a systematic school."¹²

Valuing Heydar Aliyev's school of politics as a "political education institute," they show that it is the main factor in the improvement of man and society: "Heydar Aliyev's personality and the school of politics serve as an example of a school of high public education and political perfection for everyone working in the field of practical-political administration."¹³

They are not mistaken in calling the Constitution of Azerbaijan, Heydar Aliyev's architect, a "manifesto of human rights," "the basic law of a strong state." The adoption of the Constitution is an important step forward in the process of building a legal state and civil society. Articles dedicated to human rights and freedoms in the Constitution make up more than a third of its total volume. After the adoption of the Constitution, democratic values began to be established in our country.

Heydar Aliyev highly valued historical inheritance and national moral values in the cultural heritage of Azerbaijan. In his speech at the First Congress of World Azerbaijanis, Heydar Aliyev said: "What unites all of us, Azerbaijanis, is our national identity, our historical roots, our national-spiritual values, our national culture - our literature, art, music, poems, songs, and the traditions that belong to our people."¹⁴ Heydar Aliyev always declared that every child of our people should learn more deeply about their historical past and the cultural heritage they inherited and feel great pride and be proud of it.

As the supreme goal of independence, Heydar Aliyev worked to restore national, cultural, and spiritual values, self-awareness of our people, self-ownership, self-sacrifice, and civic skill. He persistently fought for political, economic, cultural, and moral independence.

Ilham Aliyev, a worthy follower of Heydar Aliyev's policy, who passed a tremendous political school, won the people's sympathy and love with his multifaceted activities, and was elected President, is an outstanding politician and political figure who strives for comprehensive progress of Azerbaijan and the rise of its democratic image in modern conditions.

Thus, the political-philosophical legacy of Heydar Aliyev is of great importance in terms of studying the modern social-political, cultural-spiritual life of Azerbaijan. One of the essential features characterizing Heydar Aliyev's policy, the wise way of thinking and attitude of this genius is his rise to the level of scientific-philosophical thought: "With any event, to move from the only to the particular, from the particular to the general, rise to the level of theoretical propositions, scientific-philosophical ideas, and it is to look again at the object of analysis, the event, from the height of philosophical thought."¹⁵

Studying the ideological-theoretical and practical heritage of Heydar Aliyev is one of the essential tasks of modern Azerbaijani social science, especially political science, and philosophy. These sciences aim to determine the main philosophical principles of Heydar Aliyev's political and practical activity and reveal his philosophical essence.

The study of Heydar Aliyev's multifaceted political-philosophical heritage and practical-practical activity, the formation of the science of Aliyev Studies, the creation of a whole political-philosophical system based on the political-philosophical ideas, principles, scientific-theoretical propositions that form the basis of this new research direction, modern Azerbaijan, it is relevant and necessary to investigate social-political, economic, cultural-spiritual issues in the light of Heydar Aliyev's political-philosophical ideas.

This book attempts to create the political-philosophical foundation of Aliyev studies based on analyzing the main principles and provisions of Heydar Aliyev's political philosophy and practical activities. Therefore, the basis of the research is the works of specialists in socio-political philosophy, history of philosophy, economics, cultural studies, political theory, and sociology who study Heydar Aliyev's legacy in Azerbaijan and the West, Russia, and other countries in the post-Soviet space.

Heydar Aliyev's theoretical heritage and various aspects of his practical activity, his life path, political portrait features, personality, family life, separate moments of his life, his political activity during the Soviet and independence periods, statehood activity, his magnificent activity in the field of economic, cultural construction and formation of national ideology, domestic and foreign policy were examined by individual authors, historians, writers, scientists, political scientists, economists, sociologists, philosophers, and public figures, such as S.Khalilov, M.Alasgarov, M.Gasimli, Y.Mahmudov, A.Maharramov, I. Huseynova, M.Alizade, N.Khudiyev, R.Mustafayev, Irfan Ulku, F. Abdullazade, A.Akhundov, V.Abdullayev, Sh.Gurbanov, N.Jafarov, M. Mammadov, Z.Mammadov, K.Heydarov, A.Guliyev, G.Ahmadov, B. Akbarov, Sh.Askerov, M.Mardanov, A.Abbasbeyli, A.Khankishiyev, S. Ibrahimov, B.Askerov and others.

These studies have examined Heydar Aliyev's phenomenon, political and practical activities from political-ideological, subjective, historical, economic, cultural, and other facets.

In this book, for the first time, the philosophical essence of Heydar Aliyev's policy, his comprehensive approach to politics, his integration of political, socio-economic, cultural

and spiritual aspects, the unity of ideas of statesmanship and statesmanship in different moments of history, in different structures and regimes, with politics the unity of socio-economic bases, the formation of the ideology of statehood and national ideology - Azerbaijanism, its transformation into the ideology of Azerbaijanis living in the Republic of Azerbaijan and all over the world, the historical inheritance of our national culture, the synthesis of national and universal, Western and Eastern values of today's generation, the practical importance of theoretical heritage, the integration of citizens with democratic values, the world economy and culture of Azerbaijan in the building of a legal state and civil society, the unity of domestic and foreign policy and serving national interests, the establishment of peace and tranquility in the country and the world, philosophical principles and scientific-theoretical provisions were summarized and systematized, essential factors influencing the formation and development of the science of Heydar Aliyev theory, political-philosophical provisions were revealed and primarily interpreted. The set goal determines the scientific-practical importance of the book. The results obtained during the analysis can allow a deeper understanding of the processes of statehood, socio-economic, cultural, and moral democracy, legal state, and civil society in Azerbaijan.

The book is of great importance in deeply revealing the political-philosophical aspect of Aliyev's studies, as well as the related issues of political philosophy.



CHAPTER I

HEYDAR ALIYEV'S LEGAL REFORMS STRATEGY CRITICAL FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The essence and principles of Heydar Aliyev's political philosophy are considered a clear example of a comprehensive approach to politics; thus, this genius is called "the patriarch of politics," "the giant of politics."

Since politics is a science, rich in extreme subtleties, those who implement it must have high intelligence, political intelligence, and skillfully understand the course of development and change of societal events. Managing society and people intelligently and correctly is a real art and a political skill. The political morality of those who govern the state with wisdom should be valued as the national wealth of the people they belong.¹⁶

In this sense, Heydar Aliyev's policy has been accepted as a valuable moral wealth of our people. N. Tusi's words about politics in the book "Akhlagi-nasiri" sound valuable and modern. As to him, there is a need to take specific measures to organize social work to prevent arbitrariness and extravagance, all of which are called "politics."

It would be correct to mention that the Great Leader clearly understood the wisdom of Eastern policy. It has a more ancient history in China, Turan, and Iran, where the politics in the East are ideally pursued, in general, in the Far and Middle East. In this context, Heydar Aliyev considered it essential to fulfill the most demanding, heaviest, mental, and physical strength requirement of political responsibility by prioritizing the principle of understanding to be deeply familiar with the political history or historical politics.

"They called the need to take measures to make everyone sit in their place, to give their share and not to encroach on the

rights of others, to force them to perform the work assigned to them in the process of social work."¹⁷

N. Tusi considers fair, wise, honest politics that improve people as "divine politics," and based on the works of Aristotle, he mentions four types of politics: country politics, victory politics, wisdom politics, and community politics.

According to him, country politics should lead to the increase of virtue of the people. Victory politics is the measure taken against mean people. As a result of the wisdom politics, people's professions and arts should flourish. Community politics refers to the rules and regulations formulated based on fair conscience to govern the public.

The country's politics spreads all the rest of the policies among the population and governs each class with its policies, thus controlling their internal capacity and the transformation into external work. So, this is the politics of policies.

N. Tusi argued that the policy has a comprehensive character, the close interaction of the country and public politics, and the need for the politician to have the most exceptional talent and ability. "Politics sometimes refers to decided cases (contracts, agreements), sometimes to bad judgments, to issues such as country and city management."

N. Tusi connects the implementation of politics with the name of individuals with a sublime inspiration "with a special talent in understanding, virtue and enlightenment" and shows that only they can determine what the circumstances require and thus prevent "quarrels and disagreements." He showed that according to the expression of ancient scientists, such people were called "owners of the law".

Plato pointed to such people in the fifth article of his book "Politics" and said: "These are strong, great, and extraordinary people."

Aristotle said: "They know the unseen. They have miracles."

People with mental judgments were called "judge absolute" in ancient times. Plato called them the world's wise men. Aristotle gave them the name of the public figure, that is, the presence of the public, the person who needs his service, and others like him.

The Leader should try to maintain law and order and invite people to order; for this, he should be given the right to make necessary changes in laws following the time's requirements and the time's ruling.

Heydar Aliyev was a living example of a comprehensive approach to politics, combining domestic and foreign policies and presenting political, economic, spiritual, and cultural aspects in unity. At the end of 1994, in his televised speech, Heydar Aliyev showed the necessity of conducting foreign and domestic policy in a unified and comprehensive manner and the necessity of conducting it without mistakes, accurately and consistently: "The situation has made it so that we walk our policy on a thin thread, and any in a moment, as a result of a small mistake, everything can be turned upside down. This is why we should build our steps on this thin wire so that neither external nor internal influences stumble us and we can finish our planned work at a high level."

Heydar Aliyev was one of the brilliant politicians who did not allow the element of risk in politics. George Washington, Franklin Roosevelt, Winston Churchill, Charles de Gaulle, Konrad Adenauer, Ataturk, etc., who made great contributions to world politics. Heydar Aliyev's school of politics, which is compared to great politicians, impressed the world and made Heydar Aliyev a prominent political leader in the history of democracy, politics, and diplomacy of our time.

“His extraordinary personality, great talent as a politician and statesman has a deep impact on all of us.”

Indeed, it would be appropriate to mention the policies of the Turanian generals that brought them together from afar. Because Heydar Aliyev’s thought began to form in Nakhchivan, which is considered the gateway to the Old East. European politicians whose names were mentioned in those times also started to strengthen the value of their national consciousness. The sphere of influence of the value of Heydar Aliyev’s national consciousness has also been increased by deriving conclusions from the political tensions during the Second World War. At that time, his strongest political school was to withstand the political influence similar to Mustafa Kemal Pasha.

Interest in the phenomenon of Heydar Aliyev does not decrease over the years but has increased more and more. In many articles published locally and internationally, in the works of researchers, we see new aspects of Heydar Aliyev’s policy and skillful management skills.

Heydar Aliyev is called by many a master of power and a giant of politics. “Heydar Aliyev is a genius who worked in extremely complex and contradictory historical conditions of the 20th century. A period of more than half a century of Azerbaijan’s history is closely connected with the personality of Heydar Aliyev, his way of struggle, and great constructive activity. Heydar Aliyev is the founder of the new Azerbaijan. He is a Great Azerbaijani, an incomparable lover of his country, his native land. “Heydar Aliyev, besides being a genius son of his people, is also a rare personality who has risen to the ranks of the most powerful historical figures in the world, an Azerbaijani genius of world history.”¹⁸

They show that natural personal qualities played an exceptional role in the development of Heydar Aliyev as an unusual personality and incomparable world politician. These qualities were:

- physical solid health;
- unusual memory;
- ability to withstand high mental and physical stress;
- excessive demands on oneself;
- approach any job with great enthusiasm and confidence;
- high analytical knowledge and ability to analyze;
- the ability to look at everything from ordinary life events to supreme state issues in the manner of scientific-dialectical analysis;
- being simple and mild;
- the ability to dialogue with anyone, regardless of their level, and a high self-management culture;
- concentration of inner firmness and fearlessness, high conviction and decisiveness, strong confidence and prudence in one personality;
- to have strong nerves, patience, and self-control, behave freely in the tensest and emergency situations, and make more correct decisions.

With a comprehensive approach to politics, Heydar Aliyev tried to turn Azerbaijan into a prosperous country and one of the most civilized countries of the world by creating a unity of high culture of behavior in politics, words, and deeds in politics, politics, and morality.

With a comprehensive approach to politics, Heydar Aliyev succeeded in preserving the country's national values and the moral health of the people by safely and successfully taking the ship of his country called the state out of the storms of the era of

global upheavals. During his thirty-four years at the forefront of politics, he was recognized worldwide as one of the outstanding politicians of the 20th and 21st centuries, a political leader of the modern era. Prominent political figures highly valued him as a genius politician.

Heydar Aliyev as a politician, political Leader, “a leader with a precise, clear, consistent policy and position” (Islam Karimov), “a world-class genius politician” (Eduard Shevardnadze), “politically strong, logical, intelligent, a person who delivers quickly what he aims, in a word, an undoubted leader” (Zbigniew Brzezinski), “a genius born every thousand years” (Bulent Ecevit), “the eldest son of the Azerbaijani people, a wise politician of an international scale” (Igor Ivanov), “a very famous person who plays a very big role in world politics” (Keizo Obuchi), “historical, legendary person” (Chingiz Aytmatov), “father of the Azerbaijani nation, patriarch of world politics” (Boris Oleynik), “strong personality, very smart politician” (Jan Perren), “the master of political chess” (G.Singh), “a wise politician with undeniable authority” (Alexi II), “a personality who gained great influence in the world’s wise political arena” (L.R. Johnston).

Heydar Aliyev’s politics became more robust and more conquering when combined with his high oratorical talent and genius understanding. He had original, unique methods in this field:

- being able to convey to the listener or interlocutor with a particular skill the relevance of the discussed topic and his/her confidence in it;
- along with the grammatically fluent, complete, and original construction of the speech, the quotations and shreds of evidence are expressed in their place with particular emphasis;

- the tone, speed, emotion, etc. of the conversation according to the level of the listeners, the personality of the interlocutor, the content and importance of the issue being interpreted to achieve the desired effect by choosing the form elements correctly, etc.¹⁹

Heydar Aliyev, with extraordinary foresight, well understood that those who live with the act of reaching the peak of genius live their lives with the integrity of their convictions. When a person wants to confirm his personality image, he strengthens his ability to understand and completely erases indifference and selfishness from his memory.

Heydar Aliyev, who began to live with the belief of living an original life, retained sight of the manners of his ancestors, their life path, wise actions, conversations, and admonitions. The sole purpose of this mental confirmation was to demonstrate national pride, purity of national beliefs, and national values and direct them to the goal. Heydar Aliyev, who lived and carried the heaviest and most sacred burden of consciousness, received mental strength from the wisdom of the social environment of our great and ancient homeland, Nakhchivan.

As we mentioned above, Heydar Aliyev not only grasped his national wisdom in Nakhchivan, where he was born and grew up, where he received his primary education but also acquired the highest contributions created by Eastern sages by being closely familiar with this world of thought.

Compulsory strategic moves according to the historical conditions and requirements of each century and period emerge. Here, mental power and a unique way of thinking play an irreplaceable role. As a power holder, Heydar Aliyev made a special effort to master the strategic views and actions of the leaders of the Turkic world.

Since Heydar Aliyev was familiar with the strategy of conquering hearts and minds, and not with the strategy of bravery and conquest, which conquers countries, even in the most difficult and dangerous moments, relying on his understanding, power, knowledge, and skills, he skillfully fought with difficulties, in the bosom of the state and statehood. He spent his intelligence, understanding, and intellect studying its hidden secrets with all its subtlety.²⁰

The famous German philosopher Hegel also called the people whose ideas and goals are the most universal and essential, world-scale historical figures. Azerbaijani philosopher S.Khalilov considers "seeing the situation in a complex way," that is, a complex approach to politics, to be a characteristic feature of Heydar Aliyev's genius: "The most important thing is not to solve one of the issues at the expense of the other, but to solve all of them together or alternately. Heydar Aliyev's phenomenal memory and playing the role of living history help significantly."²¹

It is not difficult to imagine the mental tension this genius politician faces, who prefers complex political thinking to solving an important issue. Despite severe and numerous problems arising in the country, he determined the solutions to the most challenging issues with exceptional patience and restraint. Making a mistake would lead to further problems. Therefore, the owner of an influential genius always remembered to use the power of his intelligence and his way of thinking in unity. Therefore, a complex way of thinking in politics can be considered a physical quality that determines the high level of the politician's moral quality and the value of special decency.

Heydar Aliyev's comprehensive approach to politics is valued as a strategic and methodological principle of

Azerbaijan's economic, political, and social rise and integration into the world.

According to the Doctor of political sciences Rovshan Mustafayev, Azerbaijan started an outstanding development in 1997-2003 thanks to Heydar Aliyev's far-sighted policy: "First of all, all areas of the country's life were intellectualized, and the basic foundation of social, economic, political-cultural development was laid. The policy of technological development was carried out on the basis of those tasks. This was required by the realities of the 21st century, and those factors were comprehensively considered. The idea that the main wealth of the country's potential power is human intelligence came to the fore, and the human factor was taken as one of the main principles of progress. Natural resources and geographical position were auxiliary factors in realizing those principles. The main line of Azerbaijan's path of development was based on this principle."²²

As a result of Heydar Aliyev's comprehensive approach to politics, the Eurasian model of Azerbaijan's development path was created. The unparalleled achievements of this path are as follows:

- A direction was taken toward the intellectualization of all spheres of Azerbaijan's political life;
- state interests were clearly defined;
- necessary conditions were created for the formation of the middle (economic) class, which is the guarantor of the state;
- the development of the technological base was defined as the superior direction of the state policy;
- national values stood above inter-group, inter-ethnic, and inter-class contradictions;
- a course on mastering world experience was taken to achieve success.²³ Azerbaijan began to scurry towards development. In

the world of politics, Heydar Aliyev demonstrated his principles, patriotic stance, objective assessment of events, national bigotry, perseverance, courage, care and foresight, wisdom, truthfulness, intransigence against injustice, ingenious practical activity, etc. distinguished by its qualities.

Hazrat Amir al-Momineen Ali Ibn Abu Talib used to say that a wise person puts everything in its proper place.

In the early days of the formation of the Islamic religion, Arab politicians struggled to achieve the spread of this religion. The foundation of widespread spread of the modern state of Islam also began in those times. The Islamic world was created thanks to a very finely thought-out policy. It is no coincidence that during the time of the powerful Turanian general Amir Teymur, Islam gained extraordinary power in Central Asia. He prayed for a month and no one could stop him. Thus, Amir Teymur thought about the attack plans for a month and then decided.

The values defined and enjoined by Hazrat Ali, who had a share in the spread of Islam in the Middle Ages, were concentrated in Heydar Aliyev, the king of the political world: "A useful state is better than the mind, the reason is a measure, good character is a close friend, manners are an inheritance, ability is a leader, good deeds are acquisitions, trade as a reward, asceticism as steering clear of the forbidden, knowledge as thinking, worship as fulfilling obligations, faith as shyness and patience, and nobility as knowledge."²⁴

Political geniuses like Heydar Aliyev "have great ranks in the sight of God. God will give them knowledge, and their spirit will strengthen them; they make difficult tasks easy; they are considered to be of the world's people while they are spiritually exalted. These are the caliphs that God created on earth."²⁵

The great philosopher Tusi, speaking about the types of politics, highly valued the virtuous politics called "imamate": "The purpose of this people can be perfected, and the result can be brought to happiness. He preaches justice to the people, looks at the subject as a friend, and fills the city with works that benefit the people. People benefit from peace, calmness, helping each other, friendship, justice, loyalty, chastity, kindness, and the like."²⁶

Heydar Aliyev "having high moral qualities such as wisdom, courage, chastity, and justice, gained world fame with his internal and foreign policy.

Heydar Aliyev could capture the spirit of the times in politics and act according to the circumstances. He had the talent to follow the course of events and foresee and make decisions at the right moment.

The Italian philosopher Machiavelli, who justified politics as an empirical science and was far ahead of his time with his teachings, showed that the highest goal and central problem of politics are to find an image of action that corresponds to the character of the time and the specific conditions at the moment of decision. Proceeding from this, he wrote that politics does not end with the mere appropriation of general orders. It is impossible to talk abstractly here because everything changes depending on the circumstances."²⁷

Heydar Aliyev's complex approach to politics:

- state, national, societal, and individual interests form a unity;
- politics and morality, economy and property, political and moral culture, and political and moral relations are organically combined;
- principles of democracy, humanism, tolerance, and social justice have been undermined;

- political-ethnic, dialogue culture, pluralism of political, economic, and social life, and pluralism of ideas is aimed at the formation of an active type of consciousness;

- Orientation to serious, solidly structured, and institutionalized state power; it constitutes characteristic features such as the realization of the control of political and legal institutions over the state.

The ultimate goal of this policy is to:

- create an ideal legal and civil society within the existing concrete social structure;

- Raising the internal and external reputation of Azerbaijan, realizing its political reality;

- to combine ways and means, efforts, and attempts to achieve these goals following the interests of the whole state, the people, and the whole world.

In Heydar Aliyev's political philosophy, the highest requirements of political morality are subject to the interests of the state and the people. Even in his time, Machiavelli understood the interests of the state as the salvation of the motherland and wrote that when it comes to the salvation of the motherland, it is necessary to forget everything and protect its existence and freedom."²⁸

Heydar Aliyev's ingenious intelligence, complex policy implementation, and wise political philosophy have dominated their thoughts. Azerbaijani researcher Nizami Jafarov in his work "Turkish World: Chaos and Space," drew attention to the fact that Heydar Aliyev's political activity as a world-famous politician, political philosophy, and the world of personality are in unity: "Heydar Aliyev is a truly extraordinary person who is a school in every period and every phase, lived a lifetime, created a magnificent portrait of his perfect image, distinguished by clear

lines, not only in the imagination of the people of Azerbaijan and the Turkic people but also in the imagination of the people of the whole world.”²⁹

The personality of Heydar Aliyev, his political activity, and his historical school of politics played an invaluable role in Azerbaijan’s social and national consciousness.

As a leader with civic activism, determination, principles, comprehensive training, deep knowledge, broad political and cultural worldview, he gained great respect among the people by leading all the complex processes of the world and by his intelligent decisions.

Wise men became wise because they understood the responsibility of wisdom. After all, they deeply understood this responsibility. The category “Responsibility of Heydar Aliyev,” the most extraordinary personality of our time, combines many points.

The responsibility of statehood of Heydar Aliyev, who ruled the state, was confirmed before the nation. Political responsibility only comes from a strong mind, deep understanding, and comprehensive intelligence. These personal factors are necessary to get to know the subtleties of politics. Politics is measured by grasping human ideas in detail, feeling the power of intelligence, and understanding the power of thoughts. The strategy of preserving and strengthening statehood requires extreme political responsibility.

Heydar Aliyev was a personality who opened a page in history as one of our generals who implemented the tactics of statehood with full political responsibility.

The affirmation of national reason, national insight, and national pride values political responsibility. Here, it is necessary to take a stand with national intelligence in front of the world’s

influential intellectuals. This requires political responsibility since the tremendous political mind realizes the thought in the national life.

Politics also serves to understand statehood with its deep intricacies. Understanding the secrets of statehood with all its intricacies is conditioned by ingenious thinking, prudent behavior, and the responsibility to understand what the intelligence of the person in front of you is capable of.

Politics is also a brain exercise of thinking like a chess game to anticipate moves and eliminate checkmate. Factors determining intelligence also play a unique role since intelligence is the ability to escape a complex and challenging situation instantly.

In the early and middle ages, this political flexibility existed with all its activity in the commanders of the Turkish empires. That is why empires connecting East and West existed in most periods. On the other hand, it created the basis for the management methods of empires. The mentioned political flexibility is one of the constituent parts of the complex salvation ideas introduced by our great Leader in politics.

The world's influential political figures and heads of state accept which political Leader it is to understand the approach to him along with the value given to this personality. Approaching the issue from this aspect is also a political responsibility.

Heydar Aliyev confirmed his authority in front of world politicians through his political responsibility and excellent practical work.

The intellectual power of historical figures played an invaluable role in raising and forming Heydar Aliyev, who was pure in his convictions and whole in character. This is also the result of his cognitive power.

Heydar Aliyev worked to achieve a bright future for

Azerbaijan as soon as possible with his comprehensive policy, attention, and ability. In his politics, Heydar Aliyev solved the vital problems of Azerbaijan with a sense of citizenship, determination, and competence. "Besides, taking into account the trends of history and the dynamism of life, he urged everyone to be proactive, get ahead of the times, and learn the habits of keeping up with it. In this situation, he looks like a savior who leads Azerbaijan to a bright tomorrow. Furthermore, the people followed and tried to support their savior's sobriety, purity and determination, good intentions, determination to always listen to the voice of his conscience and fight for truth and justice, and his thirst for freedom, happiness, and independence."³⁰

As a result of Heydar Aliyev's complex policy:

- Construction and development period in our country;
- Holistic change on the national level in all areas of society;
- Organization of democratic state structures in the political field;
- Establishing a market economy in the economic field;
- Practical works carried out to return to national traditions in the spiritual field.

Heydar Aliyev revealed the internal potential of our native Azerbaijan with his consistent domestic and foreign policy, innate talent, and extraordinary organizational and management skills. He showed to those who did not see our people as capable, talented, business-minded, and high-minded nations and counted on those who did not.

Heydar Aliyev's comprehensive approach to politics, strong memory, logical judgment, and thought-provoking ideas could anticipate the world's processes and politics. Heydar Aliyev, who worked with severe mental stress until the end of his life, became an example and school of politics for future

generations, an ideal personality, and an outstanding politician.

Playing the role of a political school, Heydar Aliyev's personal qualities, politics, and position in society form a unity and allow us to reveal some aspects of the essence of Heydar Aliyev's political philosophy:

- The main reasons for the regularity of Heydar Aliyev's political-practical victories are the proportionality of the qualities of the individual physical and biological-genetic initial conditions given by nature to his public-social position in life. Also, as these initial condition elements develop and improve due to increased life experience, the probability of the result's reliability increases.³¹

A. Khankishiyev defined the characteristic features of Heydar Aliyev's political school as follows:

1. Isolation of politics from illusion and adventurism, minimizing the possibility of risk, correct assessment of objective reality, in-depth study of the mutual relations of the subject, object, and post-objective factors of politics, the randomness that may even slightly negatively affect the realization of any political issue, neutralization of factors with additional precautionary measures are the most valuable and characteristic feature of Heydar Aliyev's political school.

2. Correctly determining the central issue in the set of various political problems and issues plays an essential role in the effective resolution of secondary or other additional problems depending on the main issue. Therefore, the timely solution to the leading political problem is considered the most important object of attention in the Heydar Aliyev school of politics.

3. Ensuring its dynamism by not having a dogmatic attitude to any issue and always directing practical policy to the path of dialectical development.

4. Ensuring the fundamentality of politics by basing it on truth and justice;

5. As a result of the organic coordination of domestic and foreign policy, obtaining a balanced policy mechanism is constantly kept in the spotlight as the main criterion of political and economic stability;

6. In solving political issues by using time effectively, the correct regulation of political activity following the requirements of objective reality, a comprehensive analysis of the situation in the domestic and foreign spheres, and keeping the conditions under control are guidelines for applying preemptive or waiting tactics in taking these or other political steps. acceptance as a factor;

7. Implementation of near and far policy coherently was the basis of the mechanism of practical politics applied by Heydar Aliyev with an incomparable subtlety and precision in matters of strategy and tactics.

8. Heydar Aliyev's policy was based on the principles of true practical democracy and collective management.³²

The following are the successes achieved as a result of the targeted complex internal and foreign policy conducted by Heydar Aliyev:

- A genius leader with intellectual level and management experience came to power to preserve our independence. Considering our historically existing traditions, a new and unique theory, and structure of statehood was created. Coordination and regulation of all socio-political trends inside and outside the country have strengthened.

- The foundations of legal state-building were laid in the country, and security and law enforcement agencies were established in a form typical for a democratic society.

- Those in power, benefiting from Heydar Aliyev's political philosophy and management experience, created the unity of the people, the country they began to implement the ideas of the great personality for the sake of freedom and happiness.

- At present, democratic reforms are being carried out in the field of economy, and small businesses and farms are developing more and more. National-ethnic conflict is not allowed in our republic because patriotism and Azerbaijanism are brought to the fore. Political power was established in the country. Creation of civil solidarity, regulation of salaries and allowances, correct implementation of economic reforms, and organization of social protection of the population - the consistent policy of Heydar Aliyev continues in our republic.

- As a result of consistent and purposeful policy in the complex system of international relations, Azerbaijan maintains its economic and political interests.

- There has been a fundamental change in building an army that can defend its lands with honor. Today, Azerbaijan is an independent state with a strong army.

- By ensuring Azerbaijan's geopolitical interests, the state's strategic oil policy was determined.

- Political stability has been established in the country. Against the background of this stability, sufficient foreign investment has been attracted to Azerbaijan.

- The implementation of signed international oil agreements gave Azerbaijan the mandate to become a superpower in the Caucasus region, along with economic efficiency.

- The rampant inflation in the country has been prevented. The rate of the national currency - the manat - has been stabilized, and significant steps have been taken toward the social protection of the population.

- Economic reforms have been launched, the stages of privatization have been implemented, and the population's bread, energy, and transportation problems have begun to be solved.

- The first Constitution of our independent state, which will meet the democratic principles of the world, has been adopted.

- An election law compatible with a free, democratic, multi-party system was adopted, and parliamentary elections were held following this law.

- The fundamental truths about the Karabakh problem have been communicated to the whole world community, and critical steps have been taken to solve the problem.

- Important and decisive steps are taken in different areas of the republic's social and political life. Reforms in science, education, healthcare, and other fields are slowly bearing fruit.

Thus, the complex of Heydar Aliyev's political philosophy includes economic policy, legal reform, military building, political, cultural, language policy, national policy, diaspora policy, the strategy of the Turkic world community, diplomacy, international cooperation, political course on the Nagorno-Karabakh problem, social policy, agrarian politics, environmental politics, and others.

In Heydar Aliyev's political philosophy and domestic policy, the concept of foreign policy complemented domestic policy as the main leading factor. Heydar Aliyev expressed the main essence of domestic and foreign policy: "We have defined a valid, well-thought-out foreign and domestic policy that will stabilize the internal situation in Azerbaijan, and we ensure their implementation. The foreign policy of Azerbaijan is peaceful; it is a policy of maintaining mutually beneficial relations with all countries of the world, maintaining peace and security, being

friendly with neighbors, living in peaceful conditions, creating friendly relations with all other countries, and extensive cooperation in all fields. We are consistently pursuing this policy and will continue to pursue it.”

Several studies have shown that newly independent states that lived through the post-Soviet period, including Azerbaijan, face important conceptual tasks in the field of forming the main directions of national foreign policy:

First, there was a need to correctly assess the country’s new situation and positions within the world community’s framework.

Secondly, Azerbaijan, standing at the intersection of geopolitical interests not only of powerful states but also of other states of the continent, should implement a balanced foreign policy considering the interests of the East and the West first all, the national interests.

Foreign policy had to acquire a new socio-historical quality, it was necessary to implement a typical foreign policy that also provided the practical interests of the state and every citizen.

Thirdly, national foreign policy should be an essential means of ensuring the national security of the general state policy. At this time, Azerbaijan had to demonstrate its readiness for mutually beneficial cooperation with all East and West countries.

The main issue in foreign policy was to convey the truths of Azerbaijan to the world, including Azerbaijan, in the sphere of economic interests of major countries.

It is worth noting that the unity, essence, and directions of Heydar Aliyev’s domestic and foreign policy consist of the following:

- Protection of national interests, goals, and advantages of the state;

- Protection of the country's economic, political, military-political sovereignty, territorial integrity, and inviolability of its borders;
- Protection of rights and freedoms of all citizens;
- Directions of cooperation with countries of the world community, creation of the base of foreign policy strategy.

Novruz Mammadov notes that after the restoration of Azerbaijan's state independence, one of the crucial issues was the determination of the foreign policy based on national interests and the course of its implementation. "When determining the course of foreign policy, our country took as a basis, first of all, the duties of protecting its national interests and becoming a leading state in the region, on the one hand, and maintaining equal, cooperative relations with the main actors of the world and with other neighboring countries interested in the region, on the other hand. This course was determined in 1993 - under the conditions of aggression against Azerbaijan, continuous pressure from various sides, and ongoing uncertainty within the country. In such a complex and contradictory situation, the country needed a wise politician with a strategic mindset to choose a culturally inclusive sovereignty strategy. National Leader Heydar Aliyev, who ensured the delicate harmony of the country's domestic and foreign policy, became a wise political figure for Azerbaijan."³³

In his speeches, political thoughts, and actions, Heydar Aliyev showed the unity of foreign and domestic policies, that they are integral parts of the national policy: "One of the main tasks facing our republic is the implementation of a smart, competent foreign policy that can protect the interests of Azerbaijan on a global scale. There are great tasks ahead. Our foreign policy is in the first place. It should aim to ensure

the state independence of Azerbaijan. The task is to create and develop equal, mutually beneficial relations with all the world's countries, to use these relations effectively to strengthen the international positions of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and to develop the economy, science, and culture of the republic."

Ziyafat Asgarov notes that from the first days of independence, the Republic of Azerbaijan joined many international and regional organizations and began to establish diplomatic relations and relations with those organizations while simultaneously with a number of countries of the world. "In 1993, as a result of the return to power of the National Leader of the Azerbaijani people at the latter's insistence, significant changes took place in the field of foreign policy as well as in other areas of the country's life. At that time, there was a great need for developing and practically implementing a scientifically-based foreign policy course for the young state, which had just gained state independence. Heydar Aliyev, who has a great experience of statesmanship and is deeply familiar with the political events and processes taking place in the world, designed the foreign policy course of the Azerbaijani state, which was in a tough and complex period and environment."³⁴

S.Gafarova states that Heydar Aliyev's foreign policy course laid the foundation for a new stage in the development of Azerbaijan: "After the return to power of National Leader Heydar Aliyev in 1993, the crisis in foreign policy stopped as well, and a new stage began for Azerbaijan in the truest sense of the word. National leader Heydar Aliyev knew the country had solid potential. It was necessary to direct this potential, determine the development directions of the state, and apply it. Courage was needed for this, and then political skill and diplomatic skill, which, in any case, was not difficult for a leader

with a rich experience of statesmanship and political skill, such as Heydar Aliyev. Heydar Aliyev misled those who viewed Azerbaijan as a “polygon.” He stopped the civil war inside the country, prevented the pressure of international powers, and laid the foundation for a genuinely independent foreign policy course independent of anyone. Establishing high-level relations with strong international organizations and benefiting from these relations following the interests of our state is one of the essential directions in Azerbaijan’s foreign policy. One such organization is the Council of Europe. The basis of establishing high-level relations with this organization and its structures is one of the critical directions of the foreign policy course set by the National Leader of the Azerbaijani people, Heydar Aliyev. “³⁵

Speaking about the formation of the foreign policy directions of the independent Republic of Azerbaijan, N. Novruzov notes that Heydar Aliyev created the general lines and primary methods of foreign policy. He projected his political and diplomatic skill-based methods to solve domestic problems into foreign political activity. The embryos of the “balanced foreign policy course” that everyone is talking about now were formed at that time. “Heydar Aliyev clearly defined the duties and priorities of foreign policy in this complex situation. The Great Leader briefly spoke about those duties on October 10, 1993, at the swearing-in ceremony for the election of the President. The Great Leader declared: “One of the main tasks facing our republic is the implementation of a smart, competent foreign policy that can protect the interests of Azerbaijan on a global scale. There are great tasks ahead. Our foreign policy should focus on ensuring Azerbaijan’s state independence in the first place.” For this, the National Leader set the goal of creating equal relations as an essential task. The geopolitical meaning of

this thesis is profound. Ensuring the independence of the state is brought to the center. This means that Azerbaijan will resolutely protect its independence from now on. Azerbaijan's foreign policy ultimately ensures the harmony of solid state and society models. Maintaining balance with all foreign partners along the way may not always be possible. At the modern historical stage, this is not the primary condition.³⁶

Because geopolitical and geo-economic processes change so rapidly that there is no need to form any static situation. With this logic, the balance model should also be updated. Here, the primary condition is always to be open to cooperation and form a relations system within civilized rules. In that sense, balance means building a dynamic, flexible, and balanced system of relations. The complementarity of a strong state and a strong society finds its confirmation in this dynamism. It is an exciting, relevant, and essential provision. It is an example of perfectly connecting foreign policy with the philosophy of state-building and social development. If this task was set before it, it was necessary to develop the field of diplomatic service of Azerbaijan, the methods of diplomacy, and adapt it to the pace of internal development. For this, first of all, it was necessary to clarify foreign policy tasks at a more concrete level.

Heydar Aliyev is the founder of political diplomacy, the most important and leading aspect of politics and the "working mechanism of politics."

Heydar Aliyev, who regulated the working mechanism of politics with a special genius, had to show special skill in replacing the blindness of our national diplomacy with the thought-provoking influence of the political diplomacy of the East and the West. We can also mention that our national diplomacy (Sara Khatun), formed over many centuries, had to

confirm its strength. Taking this into account, they considered the Great Leader to be the renewed strength of our diplomacy. Of course, it had to be. All nations have territories, states, and statehood. Nevertheless, national thinking plays a key role by forming the national diplomacy school level, being deeply familiar with the historical roots of these factors. Heydar Aliyev also honored his debt to our history in this regard.

Analyzing the practical activity of President Heydar Aliyev in the field of political diplomacy in comparison with world diplomacy, the researchers paid attention to some original and progressive aspects. Political diplomacy of Heydar Aliyev:

- It is constructive diplomacy, its diplomatic negotiations are based on logic, objective reality, truth, and all issues are approached from the position of political determinism;

- His high intellectuality and flexibility distinguish him. Heydar Aliyev, who has many years of political experience and high analytical analysis ability, paid particular attention to the objectivity of information and the cleanliness of diplomatic channels;

- By studying and keeping under control the interests of economic and political circles of world countries or state groups, constructive political and economic measures were prepared and implemented;

- Heydar Aliyev developed a mechanism of political diplomacy following the location of the Republic of Azerbaijan in a unique geopolitical situation and paid particular attention to its implementation. Communication with individual states or groups of states was adjusted and developed considering the geopolitical situation, national characteristics, position in world politics of those countries, etc. At that time, diplomatic and political relations were based on the principle of differential

approach. From this point of view, the following countries can be mentioned as the main directions of political diplomacy:

1. Western European countries
2. Eastern European countries
3. Russia
4. America
5. Turkic world countries
6. Islamic countries

The professional diplomacy of Azerbaijan, created and developed by Heydar Aliyev, is a systematic, progressive political diplomacy and is an integral part of the unified policy school he created.³⁷

Thanks to the complex policy course conducted by Heydar Aliyev, Azerbaijan overcame all the difficulties of the modernization period and globalization. It took the line of political, economic, cultural, and spiritual integration into the world community.

In the era of globalization, Heydar Aliyev's policy is an example of achieving the unity of political and moral values in the development of Azerbaijan, the unity of nationality, and humanity in politics. Heydar Aliyev used to say: "We do not want to be like any other country in the world. We have our own national and moral values. We need to protect them, keep them, use them effectively, spread them, and develop them. The unity and synthesis of universal and national-spiritual values are the present and future of our nation."³⁸

Under the conditions of modern globalization, which requires the creation of a unified world economy and political, social, cultural, and economic system, cosmopolitanization of national consciousness, and internationalization of national state institutions, Heydar Aliyev's complex policy is not only a

means of self-preservation but also a means of joining the world.

Because “the internationalization has entered its final stage, the world is united not only in a philosophical sense, but in reality (E. Kochetov) being a part of the modern globalized world, while preserving Azerbaijan’s national existence, national mentality, traditions, customs, national-historical heritage, and also uses the achievements of the West. In such a situation, Heydar Aliyev’s complex policy acts as a unity of brilliant ideas and actions that saved Azerbaijan from economic, political, cultural, and moral divisions, from losing its national existence and melting into the global world in the globalized world.

As a result of Heydar Aliyev’s policy, Azerbaijan has successfully used the political, economic, spiritual-financial, and scientific-technical potential of globalization, as well as creating mutually beneficial relations with the countries of the world, simultaneously using the opportunity given to national interests, protecting the security of the state and well-being of the population.

Heydar Aliyev, who prefers to understand the insidious intentions of internal subversion and external aggression, was able to prioritize benefiting from his rich work experience. The owner of an influential genius, who was aware of the dangers of provocation and aggression, focused on his father’s intention from the sound of every step taken. Heydar Aliyev, who followed the processes with special attention, observed the actions, and was “armed” with a rich experience of statesmanship, had to use his political skills to eliminate threats skillfully.

National and national security interests, which express the homogeneity of the nation’s genetic and cultural interests based on traditions and political behavior, are among the main factors

in globalization. In the internationalized world, states' political and legal systems are converging, and mutual relations are deepening. States can ensure their national security as a result of cooperation.

As a result of Heydar Aliyev's comprehensive policy, Azerbaijan protects its national security and national interests in the political, economic, ecological, and humanitarian spheres.

Researchers focus on the unity of national and international or universal aspects of interdependence in the context of globalization.

Suppose the national aspect involves meeting the national interests and internal needs of the states involved in interdependent relations. In that case, the international or universal aspect includes the provision of common interests related to the state's own national interests - peace, security, and environmental protection issues.

In such a situation, the President reconciled the policy of internal state-building and protecting national independence with the policy of developing foreign political relations: "The work we do in foreign policy, both in the social-political and socio-economic fields, is based on national ideology."³⁹

Heydar Aliyev's policy highlighted the characteristics of the transition of Azerbaijanis from an ethnic entity to a political nation, considering globalization, democracy, and what is happening in people's thoughts.

Modern political scientists consider the political nation the highest peak of national development.

Apparently, the nation's existence is related to its level of national consciousness. Two levels of national consciousness exist. The initial level of national consciousness is the stage of ethnic consciousness, which includes national language

and culture, material and household elements, national psychological feelings, national self-consciousness, national character, national mentality, etc.

A high level of national consciousness, that is, to the level of political (theoretical) national consciousness, includes the national idea, national ideology, political Leader pursuit, political culture, national self-awareness, a single national territory, and political-geographic unity, a single national symbols, the idea of a national state, political national institutions-political parties, society, the concept of a single homeland, etc.⁴⁰

Political events in the life of Azerbaijanis - the restoration of Azerbaijan's independence, the realization of independent statehood, the national ideal, the ideas of independence and freedom, the ideology of national Azerbaijanism, the search for a unified leadership, the acceptance of Heydar Aliyev as the National Leader, the rise of political culture, the creation of a unified state by Heydar Aliyev, acceptance of nation-state symbols, implementation of political parties, freedom of opinion, freedom of speech, pluralism, and freedom of consciousness indicate that this nation has already formed as a "political nation." Heydar Aliyev's policy was essential in developing Azerbaijanis as a political nation.

Some authors mistakenly claim that we are still on the path of development from an ethnic nation to a political nation and that the process of "national formation" has not been completed. A.Taghiyev correctly writes: "Such claims feed the mill of Armenian propaganda. They spread false and false claims to the whole world that Azerbaijanis are not a nation, but only a collective community."⁴¹

A.Taghiyev justified the formation of Azerbaijanis as a political nation and came to the following conclusion:

1. A political nation is a stage in which a nation has mastered political consciousness and political ideology and has created a specific national state apparatus and other political institutions in its development.

2. Since the emergence and formation of the political nation go through the stage of the ethnic nation, then these elements live for a long time. Today's socio-political changes in the life of the Azerbaijani people prove this.

3. Azerbaijanis have been formed as a political nation since the beginning of the 20th century, and they have developed the necessary socio-political, economic, and moral factors for this.

4. Today's political processes taking place in the life of the republic have arisen and developed under the influence of both internal and external factors, and they will be accompanied by further maturation and integration of the nation in the future (the political phenomenon of Heydar Aliyev is a decisive factor in this process).

5. The nation's political development and formation are measured by its level of patriotism (the role of Heydar Aliyev's personality and politics as a leader in the education of the patriotism of the Azerbaijani people is immense).

6. The solidarity movement of the world Azerbaijanis, the celebration of the solidarity day on December 31 every year, creates confidence that Azerbaijanis will be able to take their place in the unity of the world nations shortly. In this complex and challenging process, the ever-expanding movement of diasporas living abroad allows calling the 21st century the "century of the unity of Azerbaijanis" (Heydar Aliyev's policy plays a vital role in this process as well).

Heydar Aliyev's policy is a reliable national security provider in modern globalization. Thanks to Heydar Aliyev's

policy, Azerbaijan lives within its means. It is ready to defend itself as an independent subject of international relations by ensuring its political, economic, informational, military, cultural development, and ideological security.

In modern Azerbaijan, he implements national security, state security, independence and sovereignty, the unity of the people and the government, the people-Heydar and the people-Ilham, and carries out reconstruction and restoration works in our territories liberated from occupation.

Heydar Aliyev's policy is a merciless shield against global and local threats to the national security of the Republic of Azerbaijan. These dangers are:

- Violation of territorial integrity of the country by Armenian separatists, acts of aggression;
- Activities of those who want to come to power illegally;
- An attack on the unity of the Azerbaijani people;
- Strengthening of negative socio-economic processes in the society (deterioration of the material and moral condition of the population, crisis that may occur in the field of science and education);
- Creation and development of events that can provide an incentive for social parties;
- Rise of separatism tendencies in individual regions;
- Information about the activities of foreign and internal forces interested in disrupting political stability in Azerbaijan, all of these and the struggle against them, is widely reflected in President Heydar Aliyev's speeches, articles, and letters, as well as in his works published in recent years.

At the end of the 20th century, the genius Heydar Aliyev, who declared that "the path of true peace and stability in front of Europe" had been opened, and who contributed to the culture

of peace in the era of globalization, clearly understood and correctly evaluated the processes taking place in world politics, and filtered the wise logic of thinking, and influenced world politics conducted. "Heydar Aliyev's policy is a policy of peace. However, peace policy should not be thought of as stopping the struggle. The struggle of political concepts and ideologies is going on here."⁴²

The struggle between political concepts and ideologies takes place over national interests. That is why national intellectuals, ways of thinking, intelligence, and understanding are opposed in these struggles. We can note with full responsibility that Heydar Aliyev was the Leader who created our national ideology with his historical power. He had an invaluable and unique talent for using the secrets of our national ideology in these struggles. Ideological struggles depend on the wealth of ideas; the "weapon" of those who appear in ideological struggle is the wealth of national ideas. This wealth of national ideas was also a characteristic of the Great Leader and was the measure and value of his personality intelligence.

Heydar Aliyev's policy is an independent, peaceful policy consistent with national interests. Heydar Aliyev, who considers independent policy to be the main symbol and main indicator of Azerbaijan's independence, said while speaking at the 1st Congress of World Azerbaijanis: "Despite facing many difficulties both in foreign relations and within Azerbaijan, we conduct an independent policy in the world, protecting our independence.

Azerbaijan is a peaceful country. We have established economic, political, social, scientific, and humanitarian relations with all the world countries at the necessary level: we are creating them, developing them, and will continue to do so.

However, Azerbaijan will never retreat from its independent policy."⁴³ The main essence of Heydar Aliyev's complex policy is reconciling economic, political, cultural, and moral interests. One of the most important successes of Heydar Aliyev in big politics was undoubtedly to increase the intensity of economic interests in the region and to invite the big powers to the level of economic interests by blindly distancing them from pro-Armenianism.

All the steps taken by Heydar Aliyev at the level of international politics were aimed not only at a fair solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh problem but also at strengthening the independence of Azerbaijan in general and ensuring its irreversibility for all times.⁴⁴

The greatness of Heydar Aliyev's political genius lies in the fact that he attracts attention both as a shaper of the political elite in Azerbaijan and as a phenomenal political leader taken separately.

"In our opinion, the unified study of Heydar Aliyev's personality, both as the founder, teacher, and leader of the political elite in Azerbaijan politics and also as a phenomenal individual, is of particular importance in terms of the theoretical aspects of the foundations of modern, modern and civilized statehood as a great political heritage."⁴⁵

Heydar Aliyev is the shaper of the political elite in the sphere of power.

In modern Azerbaijani society, the political elite is the main attribute of politics.

Heydar Aliyev was a politician recognized as a civilized state builder who combined responsibility and life experience for his decisions with his deep intelligence, knowledge, and sharp thinking.

Heydar Aliyev was a political leader with exceptional talent and political thinking in the world political arena. All the characteristics of political leadership were combined in his personality, the ability to organize and manage, reduce all manifestations of conflicts to a minimum, and his communicative, creative ability. Heydar Aliyev was upright and morally pure in life and politics, caring, political will, and courageous.

Heydar Aliyev was a charismatic leader and the National Leader of Azerbaijan. Charismatic leaders are uncritically accepted by the population and have great influence in society. Charismatics are such leaders that the people always accept them because of their personal qualities, regardless of their presence in the political Olympics.

Heydar Aliyev's political school is a higher education school for the politicians who came after him, an educational center that reflects real life and has high moral and humanistic qualities. The socio-political requirements of this school are as follows:

1. Management work should be carried out in a planned manner and built on real opportunities and means. The manager should know his job perfectly and should be aware of the general economic and political life;

2. Special attention should be paid to the correct selection and placement of personnel and each employee's rightful place. Personnel issue is the most critical issue of state policy. Because the staff is the visible side of the state and is always in front of the people;

3. Each person should be a builder and creator in his workplace. This requirement first applies to managers who determine their field's mechanical and economic policy. On the other hand, in the current conditions of our republic, the work

of economic, political, and state building and the difficulties put forward this issue as the demand of the time;

4. The manager should be an exemplary personality for those around him and his subordinates with his business acumen, skills, cultural level, and high moral qualities;

5. Must be selected for the firmness of conviction and high principles;

6. In-depth study of the principle of social justice and defense of these principles in practical activity.

Thus, our wise Leader's strong intuition and many years of life experience allowed him to choose words from rhetoric, activity from zeal, loyalty from flattery, and democracy from demagoguery.

The aspects of the Heydar Aliyev school of politics, which have been approved and can be revealed in future research, have become the general policy concept of the modern Azerbaijan state, which was developed directly under the leadership of the President.

This concept forms the basis of Azerbaijan's economic and political management, foreign relations, state building, national interests, socio-economic reforms, and military-political doctrines. Therefore, studying this school of politics and its translation into foreign languages has an important political significance.⁴⁶

Apart from the political significance and essence, it would have created a ground to stop the power and capabilities of our political school, which was created based on our national thought, among the political schools existing in humanity. It is clear that the political dialogues conducted during the negotiations occur on a specific time basis. But by publishing the power of the national political school with all its subtleties in

different languages, it is given a lifetime to live for thousands of years. It is also essential to look at the translation principle from this perspective.

President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev shows that the ideas of the eternal Leader, Heydar Aliyev, are always alive: "Heydar Aliyev is not with us today, but his physical absence should not discourage us. His ideas live, his policy lives, his philosophy, the philosophy of Azerbaijanism and ideology live, and the modern Azerbaijan he founded and created lives and develops through him. It is the duty of all of us to take our native country forward in its way. It is the duty of all of us to keep his policy alive, strengthen Azerbaijan, and take it to the future according to his wishes."⁴⁷

Ilham Aliyev, a worthy follower of Heydar Aliyev's policy, successfully continues the policy of protecting state independence by accepting democratic values in the conditions of modern globalization.

"It is a fact that today's victories of Azerbaijan are a continuation of the great work embarked on by the Great Leader Heydar Aliyev. The political line of Heydar Aliyev, who confirmed himself to be a far-sighted statesman from the time he led the republic, laid the foundation of our current achievements with every work he did and every step he took, is confidently implemented by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev. President Ilham Aliyev, who is loyal to Heydar Aliyev's ideas and is guided by these ideas, who currently represents Azerbaijan with dignity around the world and whose name is mentioned alongside the world's leading politicians, from the first day he began to lead the republic, said that there is no alternative to Heydar Aliyev's ideas and Heydar Aliyev's political line. He certainly stated that by implementing

his strategy, he would ensure the rapid development of Azerbaijan."⁴⁸

Heydar Aliyev's comprehensive policy is a beacon of ideas and ideas that sheds light on the development path of Azerbaijan in the economic, political, cultural, and spiritual spheres, domestically and internationally, in the modern era.

"The objective summary of historical development shows that at the end of the 20th century, a new Azerbaijan was formed in our motherland. The Republic of Azerbaijan has already become an integral part of the world community. Azerbaijan is developing on the solid foundation of a democratic, legal, secular state. A real civil society is being built. Economically, it is becoming a developing and strengthening republic. Azerbaijan also contributes to cultural integration and globalization, which are the main trends of the new stage of world development. All these determine the main trends of the future development of Azerbaijan - development in the 21st century. It should be noted with pride that our National Leader, Heydar Aliyev, showed the development trends of the 21st century based on the successes of the 20th century with foresight. "⁴⁹

Historical roots of Heydar Aliyev's political philosophy

The political philosophy based on deep intelligence, great thinking, and unique understanding and benefiting from these historical factors confirms its rich power in political negotiations. It can be said that the size and value of politics is determined by the wisdom observed in politics. The confirmation of wisdom is determined by beautiful, fluent, and restrained speech. Here, conversational manners and enjoyment of conversation are

considered to be the primary condition if it is based on national, spiritual, and moral values. At the same time, there are people who collect and memorize what they hear from connoisseurs of science and art, and during conversations, discussions, debates, and conflicts, they say what they hear from others in such a way that the listeners listen with admiration. However, when they guide the path of truth, justice, enlightenment, and generosity, they remain confused because what they hear, memorize, and speak is not the product of their truth. Neither he nor others can digest such words and wisdom. We can give an example of Heydar Aliyev, who grasped the historical roots of political philosophy with all its intricacies and created a political school in his understanding, fully grasping the political responsibility concerning every delicate issue and not distracting it from his attention.

First of all, let's pay attention to one issue and remember that the responsibility starts from the family: the responsibilities of the father as the head of the house and the mother as the mistress of the house, and the children to understand what the duties are.

This primary responsibility that we have mentioned extends to the responsibility of those who appear in all levels and positions of society. The leader's responsibility for managing the state is confirmed before the nation and the state. It is essential to note that political responsibility derives power only from a strong mind, deep understanding, and comprehensive intelligence. It goes without saying that with these personal factors, it is possible to get to know the subtleties of politics. Politics is a system measured by grasping human ideas bit by bit, feeling the power of intelligence, and understanding the power of thoughts. The strategy of preserving and strengthening

statehood itself requires a solid political responsibility. It is an indisputable fact that Heydar Aliyev, as a historical figure, as one of our generals who carried out the tactics of statecraft with full political responsibility, protected our pride like the light of his eyes, confirmed our national and moral values in humanity with the strength of our state, and was a political leader who deeply understood political responsibility and did not make any mistakes. That is why he conquered the peak of a Great Leader by creating "Dade Heydar Palace" in hearts.

It is undeniable that Heydar Aliyev has a powerful mind and deep intelligence. He lived with the correct belief, words, and deeds until he had these personality qualities. Understanding the social and political life processes played an invaluable role in mastering these factors.

It is worth noting that Heydar Aliyev was not born as a politician or a statesman. He was born in an ordinary Azerbaijani family. As he matured and reached adulthood, he did not say he understood anything without realizing its essence. After thinking about it, he did not even think about the idea that he learned from perception. He thought more than necessary to understand actual events. He also had the talent of placing in his mind by comparing the results of the critical events to be firmly engraved in the memory. With a deep mind, high-level imagination, and robust thinking tools, he could memorize concepts and keep them firmly in his memory. He tried not to pay attention only to the issues that were necessary for himself but to master the issues that were important to the community, such as air and water.

Heydar Aliyev's dispelling the threat with the power of his intelligence was a civic duty that served the integrity of the

motherland. This is one of the factors determining the integrity of Heydar Aliyev's political beliefs.

Heydar Aliyev realized his civic responsibility in the most challenging period of our country when it fell into a whirlwind of contradictory and complex events when the forces trying to divide our country became seriously active, and the violation of territorial integrity became a reality. Thus our independence was seriously threatened, and Azerbaijan was isolated from the international world. Aliyev voted for the people's voice, obeying their demands and will, and agreed to lead Azerbaijan.

Heydar Aliyev made this agreement at the request and demand of our people and at the request of his conscience. His devotion to the motherland, deep love for his people, and the people's trust in him made Heydar Aliyev take this step to take on this excellent and sacred duty to protect the independence and freedom of Azerbaijan.

These personality factors, which are the basis of Heydar Aliyev's political philosophy, made him a noble, witty, whole-minded political figure.

Heydar Aliyev benefited from the political views of our commanders who lived in the early and medieval Turkic world with a unique skill. Let us pay attention to the answer of Shetun, the son of Kara Issik Khan, who became the Goyturk khan in the 6th century, to the letter of the Chinese khan: - I will send you taxes every year, I will spend all my time on you, I will listen to your words. However, when it comes to cutting off the hems of our clothes, cutting off our shoulder-length hair, changing our language, and adopting your laws, our traditions, and ancient customs come from a very distant past. I have not dared to change even a single one of them until now because

the Turkish people as a whole belong to the same heart!

It is easier to understand the political nature of Goyturk Khan Shetu's response to the Chinese ruler because the Goyturks are divided into two parts. The Chinese ruler also took advantage of this opportunity to think they were weak and wanted to capture Shetu Khagan, who had exceptional bravery and intelligence. Shetu tells the Chinese ruler that only I can be your slave. Nevertheless, the Turk, divided into two parts, has one heart, belief, faith, purpose, and power. As a continuation of this, Heydar Aliyev's political idea of creating a union of Turkish states began from the history of the VI century. The owner of this powerful genius: - I will forgive the one who insults me, but I will not forgive the one who insults my people, my nation!

- the history of the idea of the word "heart" is an echo of that period. Heydar Aliyev's filial debt characterizes this to the Turkic world and his desire to pay his identity-citizen debt to the Great Motherland.

Thanks to the integrity of the political views of our mighty commanders in all periods of our national history, the Turkish world has lived its glorious and glorious history. It is also known that Uzun Hasan's mother, Sara Khatun, as our first female diplomat, impressed those in front of her with her political moves in the political negotiations with the leaders of near and far countries. In the second half of the 20th century, and in the first three years of the 21st century, her son, our intellectual power, Heydar Aliyev, had the talent to repeat and confirm our mother Sara Khatu's defeat of those in front of her in these political processes. We can list as many examples as we want. We can only say that Heydar Aliyev could master the essence

of the Safavids' policy of creating and maintaining complete statehood. The complete realization of this political philosophy resulted in Heydar Aliyev's power to save our independent country from the danger of disintegration and integrate it.

The influential political figures of the world, the heads of state, accept which political Leader it is to understand the approach towards him in addition to the value given to that person. Approaching the issue from this aspect is also a political responsibility.

Heydar Aliyev's political responsibility is conditioned by his integrity of convictions, deep intelligence, and the extraordinary power of thinking. He did not make any political mistakes during his working years. His invincibility and invincibility confirm this in life.

We all know the troubles that befell independent Azerbaijan in the 1990s. Our country faced the most challenging situation because the incompetent heads of state of that time could not understand the essence of the unity of external aggression and internal sabotage due to their lack of experience. In 1993, our people also voted for the decisive decision of our intellectuals, "Salvation lies in the intelligence of a wise personality, Heydar Aliyev," and Heydar Aliyev came to power after the people's insistence. This return also clarified the rescue mission.

Let us focus on our comparison. In the 6th century, Goyturk Khagan Shetu; in the 15th century, the Safavids; and in the last ten years of the 20th century, the beliefs and political integrity of Heydar Aliyev challenged each other at the turn of the century.

When Heydar Aliyev came to power for the second time, he believed in the power of his understanding. The purity of conviction and wisdom is lived in this belief. He enriched his

political views thanks to the unity of these factors and others. Faith is also peace of mind, reassurance, consolation, and a confident and pleasant smile.

Let us give an example of another historical fact. When the Turkish khagan Gultekin turns 16, he becomes a brave husband. His father, Elteris, sees with his own eyes the disintegration of the magnificent Turkish state created by the Khaga. Seeing this situation, Gultekin strengthens his thinking to restore the integrity of the Turkish state. He prepares offensive plans by combining the power of his arm with his political activism. He cleans the state of Eltaris, which has a large territory, from enemies and restores the territory and power of the state. With this deed, he brings joy to his mother Umay's heart.

We have observed the same political activism in the powerful Turkish ruler Amir Teymur. He worked on the attack plans for a month, prayed for a month, and when he received the news of the blessings of Abubekir Tanbazi, he started the march, showing faith in God. His military victories are also known to us.

Our Great Leader only participated in the battle of ideas. Thus, he managed to impress those in front of him by relying on the strength of his political talent, the richness of his deep wisdom, and the confidence of his intelligence in the battleground of intellectual powers.

Here, it would be appropriate to mention that those who lead with all their political views and fundamental beliefs live their lives to see the state's territory and the people as a whole.

We witness these qualities as we carefully review the pages of our national history. Our heroic epic "Koroghlu" is also a product of the rise period of our thinking. This saga was formed

as an epic based on both philosophical-aesthetic and unique moral values. With his philosophical and political thoughts, the people raised Koroghlu to the top of the national hero, the protector of justice and truth. This hero created by the people is only the enemy of the oppressors. The territories he visited to preserve national unity are vast, but the language, thought, and belief is the same. The absolute truth is that Koroghlu follows Ghazan Khan's beliefs. Kazan Khan also fulfills the wise counsels and reminders of the wise Deda Gorgud. He does not hesitate to fight with those late to the Oghuz province. His belief was to keep the entire territory alive and the entire Oghuz state.

Such examples are enough in our annals that question our national history. Heydar Aliyev, who skillfully understood the political views of our commanders from these chronicles, enriched his political thoughts at the expense of the political activities of our personalities who were commanders in our national history. He managed to elevate himself to the peak of a politically mature personality. His most incredible faith was in the creator himself. This feeling has been completed in realizing his political philosophy, which began with faith in the supreme secret, wisdom owner.

The historical roots of Heydar Aliyev's political philosophy are a TREASURE OF MYSTERY originating from the Turkic world. This TREASURE is a complex of national and universal values with forty thoughts and values. Heydar Aliyev created a political peak on the national and human levels during his lifetime. Being the conqueror of this peak and grasping the peak is characterized by the fact that he has forty keys and is the master of all the secrets of the political world.

The main directions of Heydar Aliyev's statehood ideas

The idea of an independent, strong, free, democratic national state has historically dominated the national consciousness of the Azerbaijani people; independent states have emerged in the history of this nation, which has an ancient tradition of statehood.

The distribution areas of the names of settlements ensure statehood, determine the existence of the state, its territory, and borders, and are considered the most valuable source for our history. Our place names, which indicate the distribution areas of settlements, also reveal the history of the geographical area of our language's functional area and help solve the problems encountered in determining the history of our statehood.

So, if we compare today's country called "Azerbaijan" to a magnificent tree, we can clearly say that its ancient roots are Sumerian, Manna, Albanian, Hun, Khazar, Oghuz-Seljuk, etc. It consists of the foundations of statehood of Turkic-speaking tribes.⁵⁰

Coercion, which is the main element of political power, implements legal, generality, and sovereignty, performs internal and external functions, realizes territorial and state power - "full power on the whole country," determines the main directions of the development of society, reconciles the interests of individual society and the state. Providing the state institution has played an essential role in the history of the Azerbaijani people.

In Azerbaijan, which is the oldest center of civilization, the Manna kingdom in the 1st millennium BC is considered the first example of Azerbaijani statehood. In ancient times, independent and powerful states such as Atropatena and Albania, and later

the Shirvanshahs, Eldegizs, Karagoyunlu, Aghgoyunlu, and Safavids emerged in Azerbaijan. As a result of the aggressive policies of powerful empires such as Iran and Russia, Azerbaijan sometimes lost its state independence.

Our Great Leader Heydar Aliyev, who was able to protect our holy country, which was facing the threat of disintegration, as his life, appreciated the history of the statehood of Azerbaijan: "Our nation has a great, magnificent history. We can be proud of our history. Our nation has a history of great statehood. There have been great states in the land of Azerbaijan since ancient times. Medieval Azerbaijan statehood has given us beautiful examples in our history. The state of the Shirvanshahs, the state of the Atabays, the state of the Aghgoyuns, the state of the Karagoyuns, the state of the Safavids - these are all the history of the statehood of the Azerbaijani people. After that, the khanates in Azerbaijan also had the character of statehood. And finally, at the beginning of the 20th century, in 1918, the first Azerbaijan Democratic Republic was established. The period after that, from 1920 to 1991, was remarkable in the life of Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan has not become an independent state, but the people of Azerbaijan have gone through a significant development period.

Thus, there have been independent states in the land of Azerbaijan since ancient times. We are proud of it and can be proud of it.

Now the independent Republic of Azerbaijan is within the known borders of Azerbaijan. In the past, the states of Azerbaijan were on a broader area."⁵¹

Enlightened intellectuals in Azerbaijan, which was part of the Russian Empire in the 19th century, put forward different ideas of statehood. Zardabi defended the creation of an independent national state, and M.F. Akhundzade defended the

idea of a free political life in Azerbaijan based on the principles of people's democracy. A.Huseynzade, A.Aghayev, J.Afghani, as the founders of the ideology of Turanism, Turkism, and Islamism, viewed national statehood as a component of pan-Turkism and pan-Islamism.

At the beginning of the 20th century, they group the socio-political currents of thought operating in Azerbaijan as follows:

1. Enlightened democrats (J. Mammadguluzade, M. A. Sabir, O. Faig, A. Hagverdiyev, A. Nazmi, A. Gamkusar);
2. Islamists believed that the progress of the country is possible only with the help of religion;
3. The Turkists preached the unity of all Turkic peoples;
4. Westerners considered adopting the European state structure and democracy as the only way out;
5. Supporters of modernizing and developing democratically by combining Islamism, Turkism, and Westernism;
6. Those who preach Marxism-Leninism.

Although very few considered themselves Marxists, there was no unity among them. The Bolsheviks, distinguished by their rebellion and gathered around V. I.Lenin, occupied a special place.⁵²

Enlightenment democrats preached republicanism and indicated that seven types of freedom should be ensured in the Republic: 1) religion, 2) assembly, 3) association, 4) printing, 5) speaking, 6) forming political parties, 7) being of one language and action.

At this stage, the leaders of the democratic intellectuals of Azerbaijan put forward the concept of the Azerbaijani nation and statehood based on Islamic spirituality, the Turkish language, and the idea of modernization (Europeanization) the lifestyle.

In this period, ideas were struggled between “extreme progressives, extreme old-timers and new pan-Islamists.” Extreme progressives only accepted European democracy and way of life. Extreme old-timers categorically rejected innovation and modernity. The new pan-Islamists supported the idea of the unity of modernity with Islamism and nationalism.

Some of the Turkists (A. Aghaoglu) defended liberal principles, republicanism, and western-style democracy, taking into account national and religious characteristics.

The national liberation movement in Azerbaijan was based on the following ideas:

- To stand against the imperial ideology of Tsarist Russia;
- To achieve political and ethnic unity of the nation.

At the beginning of the 20th century, the idea of independent Azerbaijani statehood gained precedence in the national dialogue.

At the beginning of the 20th century, the idea of creating a national state emerged with all its sharpness in Azerbaijan. In this matter, Musavatists and Bolsheviks approached each other from opposite positions. The “Musavat” party was able to act more flexibly and actively than the Bolshevik organization and showed more political initiative. First of all, this party expanded its social base at the expense of Azerbaijani workers and peasants by putting forward the concept of creating a national Azerbaijani state and was able to attract most of the national intelligentsia to its side.

After the October coup, the struggle for a new government in Azerbaijan went in two directions. The Bolsheviks wanted to declare Soviet rule and keep Azerbaijan an integral part of Soviet Russia. The Baku Soviet and the Baku Council of People’s Commissars stood at the head of this line. They considered the

autonomy of Azerbaijan to be the autonomy of the Turkish bourgeoisie. The "Hummat" members of the Russian Bolshevik or Menshevik units stood in the same position as them. For one, the idea of the Azerbaijani national state was perceived as a betrayal of the revolutionary Russian democracy, and for the other, a betrayal of the revolutionary Russian proletariat. "Ittifad" considered Azerbaijanism harmful from the point of view of Islamic unity. "Ittifad" members were also fighting for life and death against "Musavat."

With the emergence of a new generation of ideologues acting as professional politicians in the public arena of Azerbaijan, serious changes took place in the content of the idea of national statehood. The national idea formed by the leaders of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, led by M.A. Rasulzade, based on Turkism, Islamism, and modernism, was strengthened with the slogan "For free, independent, democratic Azerbaijan".

Historically, Musavat's activity in national state building is divided into three stages:

1. Declaring national state-building was integral to Islamic freedom during its initial formation.

2. The stage of federalism, Azerbaijan's "realization of self-determination" within the Russian Federation.

3. Complete independence - the stage of complete separation from Russia.⁵³ ADR, our first national Republic, has taken over the historical memory of the people who returned and made a revolution in the true sense of the word in all spheres of socio-political, economic, cultural, and spiritual life.

As a state, relations with foreign countries were also established. The first Democratic Azerbaijan, which lived through these beautiful days, also proved that it could live independently. In fact, with the "Declaration of Independence" read in Tbilisi,

his eyes were on the victory of the Sejm of Azerbaijan, which is the literary, political, artistic, and legal center of the Caucasus. But the industrial city of Baku considered a complex area, needed to be more convenient. However, to separate Baku from the name “city of shipyards,” the Sejm had to choose Baku as the capital. The domestic policy conducted in this direction also resulted in failures, and the Bolshevik attack and occupation of Baku were carried out without any obstacles. Nevertheless, we know that it is necessary to note with particular pride that the establishment of the ADR, along with the realization of the idea of national statehood, proved that the people of Azerbaijan are capable of determining their destiny:

- ADR was the first democratic Republic in the Turkic and Islamic worlds. It established the democratic management method, i.e., the rule of the majority as well as the protection of the rights of the minority by law;

- State-building of ADR was carried out with democratic principles and legal bases; the main institutions of the legal state were formed;

- Eastern and South Azerbaijani lands of Transcaucasia were declared, and the integrity of these lands was fought relentlessly;

- In order to turn Azerbaijan into an economically and militarily strong state, great works have been planned, and some serious practical steps have been taken on this path;

- The nationalization of all areas of Azerbaijani society began.⁵⁴

Considering that the life of our state’s independence won in 1918 was not even 2 years, the respectable age of the independence we gained at the end of the century is a reason to be proud. Suppose we have to make a general assessment

of Heydar Aliyev's line of statehood based on his activities in recent years. In that case, we should consider the tremendous and dearer state independence that still exists today.

In 1918-1920, the idea of national statehood became a reality in the form of the ADR.

Azerbaijani social democrats and Bolsheviks put the idea of "Free, independent Soviet Azerbaijan" against the idea of national statehood of the ADR. This idea did not become a national idea. After the establishment of Soviet power in 1920, the natural course of national thought stopped.

The people were not only deprived of state independence but also fell under the ideological dictates of the Soviet socio-political structure, which did not allow for philosophical reflection, ethnological self-awareness, and national awakening. Only at the end of the 20th century the ethno-political conditions changed radically.⁵⁵

During the Soviet period, positive changes also occurred in the conditions of the administrative-command system:

- The political culture traditions of national statehood were formed. The establishment of a European model national state in Azerbaijan in the 20th century also happened. S.Khalilov shows three stages of the creation of national states in the world: the first stage, the national states formed in connection with the formation of capitalism in Europe; the second stage, the nation-states formed in the liberated colonies after World War II.

Heydar Aliyev's intelligence has left a deep mark in history, opened a dedicated page, implemented the ideas of statehood with full political responsibility, and has made him famous among the world states. Heydar Aliyev, who is the embodiment of deep statehood, kept the ideas of independence of our state alive for centuries and confirmed our national and

moral values in humanity, he was a genius head of state who deeply understood political responsibility and did not make any mistakes in state building and administration. Heydar Aliyev was a powerful head of state who could understand the secrets of statehood with all its intricacies, had wise thought and prudent behavior, and was pure in conviction and intact in character.

The responsibility of Heydar Aliyev, who ruled the state in statehood, found its mental confirmation before the nation. We can point out that political responsibility only comes from deep reason and insight, comprehensive intelligence.

The strategy of preserving and strengthening statehood itself requires a very strong political responsibility.

Heydar Aliyev is a personality who opened a page in history as one of our generals who carried out the tactics of statecraft with full political responsibility, who protected our pride with the light of his eyes, confirmed our political wisdom, national and moral values in humanity with the strength of our state, and was our political Leader who deeply understood his political responsibility and did not make any mistakes.

The restoration of the independence of Azerbaijan, which has ancient traditions of statehood, is valued as one of the most glorious pages in the history of Azerbaijan. Heydar Aliyev considered independence as the "dearest, most powerful" event for Azerbaijanis, a "historic" achievement, and pointed out that the more difficult it is to achieve independence, the more difficult it is to maintain it, making it permanent and eternal. Thus, three republics are known in the history of Azerbaijan: the first - the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic (1918-1920); the second - the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic (1920-1991); and the third - the Republic of Azerbaijan, established in 1991.

Y. Mahmudov writes: "Heydar Aliyev's periodization of the history of the 20th century is based on two main historical events that took place in this century - the Azerbaijan People's Republic that was established at the beginning of the century and the independent Republic of Azerbaijan that was established forever at the end of the century.

Thus, the history of the 20th century is divided into four stages: The first stage is the period of preparation of the historical ground for establishing the Azerbaijan People's Republic. This period can be called the eve, which ended in 1918 with the establishment of Azerbaijan People's Republic. The second stage is the Azerbaijan People's Republic period (1918-1920). The third stage is the Soviet period, which began with the April occupation of 1920—that period ended on October 18, 1991, with the adoption of the "Constitutional Act on Independence." The fourth stage is the period of independence that began in October 1991, or rather, the restoration of our independence."⁵⁶

The lost tradition of statehood was restored in the Third Republic. Our genius leader Heydar Aliyev made his invaluable contribution to the strengthening and perpetuation of this statehood: "We are proud that our generation was given the opportunity to restore the lost traditions of statehood at the end of the 20th century. Enriching the traditions of statehood in the Republic of Azerbaijan further strengthens our independence and makes it eternal, requiring us to use all our strength. I believe that our people, who have come out of many trials of history with dignity, will properly use all their opportunities for this higher goal and will be the total guarantor of the independent state of Azerbaijan today and tomorrow. It can be said with pride that it is Azerbaijan. The robust economic potential created in the 20th century and the army of great specialists play the role of a solid

base and a favorable ground for the implementation of the most promising actions of our people.”

An independent state of Azerbaijan has already been formed in our country, which has mastered the concept of national statehood, whose primary functions are management and the preservation of the socio-political structure of society, achieving economic stability, which has ensured the holding of democratic elections and the adoption of humane laws. New universal qualities have emerged in state-society, state-citizen and international relations.

Azerbaijan’s new national state, created by Heydar Aliyev, was formed from the close synthesis of universal and national values and their adaptation to specific historical conditions and periods. Independent Azerbaijan, the embodiment of Heydar Aliyev’s theoretical heritage, is on the path to successful development thanks to the consistent, principled, goal-oriented political determination of its great historical figure and wise statesman. The most remarkable and historically significant event in the history of the Azerbaijani people in the 20th century was the restoration of state independence. “Historically, the history of every nation has been embodied in the multifaceted activities of great political leaders and brilliant personalities who led it in a certain sense. A rare personality of the Azerbaijani people in the 20th century, one of the outstanding statesmen of the world, the Great Leader Heydar Aliyev, after the fall of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, emerged from the political reality and only in the form of an idea, the idea of national statehood, which glowed like a spark in the independence feelings of our people, precisely from the beginning of the 1970s of the last century. From the beginning until the end of the century, he brought a glorious reality as an independent state of Azerbaijan. He

ensured the indestructibility and democratic rise of this state and the permanence, permanence, and irreversibility of the independence of Azerbaijan. The years of leadership of this rare historical personality, a phenomenal political figure, who forever engraved his name in the modern history of Azerbaijan statehood, are regarded as a period of renaissance, national progress, national awakening, and finally, independent state building. The greatest result of Heydar Aliyev's political and state activity is the perfect national state, the independent Republic of Azerbaijan, which he directly led and bestowed upon our people."⁵⁷

Since 1969, in the conditions of socialist, communist, and Soviet statehood, the appearance of Heydar Aliyev as a leader in the political power of Azerbaijan was the beginning of practical work that could lead to successful and important results in every field of the Republic. After that, the place of Heydar Aliyev's ideas and personality appeared at all stages of the development of the Azerbaijan state.

Heydar Aliyev laid the foundation of national integrity and self-awareness in the renewal form of the national consciousness.⁵⁸ From 1970 onwards, the political developments in the field of formation and development of national consciousness in Azerbaijan should be considered essential steps for today's independence of Azerbaijan. At that time, Heydar Aliyev's services were invaluable in preparing personnel with national convictions, which are necessary for our today's independent statehood, and in planning a number of processes. In my opinion, it is related to the conduct of more holistic research about that period, about the history of the people.

There is a need to convey more objective information to the people about the works that were started in the 1970s.

Yagub Mahmudov divided the phase of our statehood, the communist regime in North Azerbaijan (April 28, 1920, to October 18, 1991) into the following parts:

1. The period of severe trials (1920-1969);
2. The first period of Heydar Aliyev's leadership in Azerbaijan: the great turn towards independence and the beginning of national awakening;
3. The second period of Heydar Aliyev's leadership in Azerbaijan: the winner of the struggle for liberation, the savior of Azerbaijani statehood.⁵⁹

During Heydar Aliyev's first and second coming to power, the path of Azerbaijani statehood is divided into the following stages:

Progress (1969-1982), stagnation (1983-1988), betrayal and moral degradation (1989-1992), denationalization and collapse (1982-1993), crisis, civil war (June 14-15, 1993), liberation moment (June 15, 1993), stabilization (1993-1996), gathering potential for a new revival (after 1996), modern development stage.

Yagub Mahmudov divides Heydar Aliyev's state-building activity into 6 periods in his article "Heydar Aliyev-Azerbaijani Genius of World History."

The first period covers the years from the 40s of the 20th century until he came to the leadership of Azerbaijan in 1969. The second period is the years of Heydar Aliyev's first leadership of Azerbaijan. This period covering 1969-1982 is the period of the great turn towards independence and the beginning of the national awakening.

The third period is the Moscow years of Heydar Aliyev's statehood (1982-1987).

The fourth period covers the years 1987-1990. In those

years, Heydar Aliyev lived for his native people, he looked for ways out for his homeland in the conditions of the collapse of the vast Soviet state, and with his rich statecraft experience and wise advice, he spent all his strength to get Azerbaijan out of the severe crisis it was in. The fifth period covers the years 1990-1993. Heydar Aliyev saved Azerbaijan from the danger of being erased from the political map of the South Caucasus. He started the liberation struggle of Azerbaijan. He took the first steps to our national independence in Nakhchivan. The sixth period covers the period from June 1993 to December 2003. This period is the years of Heydar Aliyev's second leadership of Azerbaijan. This period was essentially the period of the struggle for the preservation and strengthening of the state independence of Azerbaijan and the establishment of a new, independent Azerbaijan.⁶⁰

The researcher I.Huseynova recommends calling Heydar Aliyev's coming to power in June 1993, the glorious history of the independent Azerbaijan state, and the period from November 1993 until now the "Golden Age" rather than the second period of our independent Azerbaijan: "Formation of our National Army, the establishment of the regular armed forces of Azerbaijan, the implementation of urgent measures related to the defense of our lands, a ceasefire, the launch of political and diplomatic tools, etc. it coincides with that period."⁶¹

Considering the 20th century as the highest stage in the history of the socio-economic, political, and cultural development of Azerbaijan, Irada Huseynova identified three socio-political structures of Azerbaijan in this period: the tsarist absolutist establishment (1901-1917), the independent Azerbaijan People's Republic (1918-1920), the Soviet communist regime (1920-1991) and, finally, at the end of the 20th century

(1991, October), in addition to emphasizing that it underwent a democratic structure again, Azerbaijan was ruled by the tsarist government in the first period, an independent national state was created in the second period, and the Azerbaijan SSR in the third period notes that the independent, democratic, national state of Azerbaijan was created, and then the independence of the state was restored.

I.Huseynova attached great importance to Heydar Aliyev's activity as the head of state of the Azerbaijan SSR and the restored independence of Azerbaijan, "showing by his practical activity that he is a world-renowned leader who has a special role in the history of Azerbaijan in this period."

I. Huseynova, in her fundamental monograph "Founder of the Independent State of Azerbaijan", divided Heydar Aliyev's political and state activities into the following periods:

1. In the 1970s-1980s, the period of rapid development of Azerbaijan and the establishment of a solid foundation for the future independent Republic of Azerbaijan;

2. Heydar Aliyev is at the top of the political Olympics of the superstate - the USSR;

3. Nakhchivan period of Heydar Aliyev's state and political activities;

4. Heydar Aliyev's return to power in Azerbaijan (June 1993).

I.Huseynova distinguished this period in different directions:

1. Democratic, legal, and secular state-building in the Republic of Azerbaijan;

2. Implementation of the oil strategy and deepening of Azerbaijan's integration with the countries of the world community;

3. Implementation of socio-economic policy and economic reforms in independent Azerbaijan;

4. The main directions of Heydar Aliyev's foreign policy and the struggle of Azerbaijan;

5. Heydar Aliyev is the guardian of national and moral values and cultural building activity.

Svetlana Bayramova divided Heydar Aliyev's activity into three periods:

Period I - 1940-1987;

Period II - 1987-1990;

Period III - the period after the 1990s.

S. Bayramova characterized the first period as the period when Heydar Aliyev began to form as a personality and head of state, the second period as the period when he had to live under the persecution and pressure of the Soviet leadership, and the third period as the most active, qualitatively new period of statehood and political activity.

Fazail Agamali divided Heydar Aliyev's exceptional role in Azerbaijan statehood into three main historical stages:

1. The stage of illegal preparation of the 70s;

2. The stage of active struggle after the first half of the 90s;

3. The stage of completion and strengthening of state building.⁶²

Z. Garalov notes that Heydar Aliyev opened his eyes to the world, lived and acted in the environment of ideological, political, philosophical, economic, and social relations, which are the product of four different socio-political transitional periods:

The first transition: the collapse of the empire of Tsarist Russia, the establishment of the People's Republic of Azerbaijan;

The second transition: the fall of the APC, the creation and development of the Soviet empire;

The third transition: the collapse of the socialist camp and the USSR, Azerbaijan gaining its sovereignty, the search for a new socio-political structure;

The fourth transition: transition from socialism to market economy, open society (capitalism) system.⁶³

A. Valiyev shows the immense necessity of the Heydar Aliyev era for independent Azerbaijan in the following provisions:

First, the election of Heydar Aliyev as President on October 3, 1993, by the will of the absolute majority, was a turning point in our history. A new stage has begun in the life of Azerbaijan.

Second, towards the end of 1994, life began to take its course. Heydar Aliyev made a savvy move, stabilized the internal situation, and established the rule of law.

Third, on September 20, 1994, the “Contract of the Century” was signed. Azerbaijan opened its doors to the West, and investment and new technologies began to flow into the country, Azerbaijan became the Leader of the region as the author of substantial regional projects. Azerbaijan’s great geopolitical successes were based on Heydar Aliyev’s political skill, foresight, indomitable will, and right personnel policy. Heydar Aliyev’s doctrine and strategy of significant political, geostrategic, and international importance changed the face of the Caucasus and Eurasia in general.

Fourth, the construction of a legal, secular, civil, and democratic state and civil society in Azerbaijan began, and censorship and the death sentence were abolished. Heydar Aliyev became the main guarantor of freedom of speech, press, and activity in the country and a reliable guarantor of human

rights. In short, the era of Heydar Aliyev entered our history as a period of rapid establishment of civil society.

Fifth, complex socio-economic and legal-political reforms were implemented in the country after 1995.

Sixth, the state patronage of our national and moral values has strengthened considerably, and the status of our language has strengthened.

Seventh, Azerbaijan's international reputation increased significantly during the Heydar Aliyev era.

Heydar Aliyev entrusted Azerbaijan not only with a sovereign state, strengthened independence, progress, and freedom, but also with faith in the future and a ready-made program for future development - national existence and nationwide development program. Heydar Aliyev was a statesman. One of his greatest services to Azerbaijan's statehood is that he created a perfect school of political management and statehood after him and trained a strong leader in the person of President Ilham Aliyev.

Z.Asgarov conventionally divides the construction process of the modern Azerbaijan state into three periods:

- 1) The first period (1991-1993 years);
- 2) The second period (June 1993-1995);
- 3) The third period (from 1995 to the present day).

Z.Asgarov characterizes the first period as a period of political romanticism and shows the second period as the period of activity of National Leader Heydar Aliyev as the head of state and as a turning point in the development of our statehood. He notes that the main task of this period aims to solve the following issues:

- 1) To protect the state independence of Azerbaijan;
- 2) To ensure the normal functioning of administrative

management in the state apparatus at a time when there is a threat of civil war;

3) To protect the nation and the state from existing internal and external threats;

4) To create a normative legal framework that meets the requirements of the new social relations being formed in the country's economic, political, and other fields.

Heydar Aliyev fulfilled these duties with honor.

Z.Asgarov, who showed that it has continued since the adoption of our first national Constitution in 1995 until today, said that this period marked the creation of hundreds of laws and legal frameworks in developing the rule of law, democracy, and economy and in strengthening the stabilization of the socio-political situation in Azerbaijan (Heydar Aliyev).

Doctor of Philosophy Kamal Allahverenov closes the formation period of independent Azerbaijan's national interests with the name of Heydar Aliyev.

The formation stage of national interests covers the period before Heydar Aliyev - 1988-1994. The second Heydar Aliyev era covers the period from 1994-2003.

The evolution of national interests went parallel to the formation of national ideology and national security of essential elements of statehood.⁶⁴

The events that stimulated the development of ideas of independence in the history of modern Azerbaijan resulted in the strengthening of statehood, which formed the main line of Heydar Aliyev's political course. "It is a historical fact that the authorities in power in the first years of Azerbaijan's independence could not conduct an appropriate foreign policy course that considered the reality. In 1991-1992, the then leadership of Azerbaijan not only did not define and implement

the priority tasks, but on the contrary, it put the country in a difficult situation by implementing a very harmful policy internally and externally. With various irresponsible statements, Azerbaijan faced huge problems both internally and among its citizens, both in the region and in the outside world. The problems experienced in foreign policy can be observed with domestic arbitrariness, political crisis, civil conflict, the occupation of Azerbaijani lands by Armenian invaders one after the other, and the inability of the current authorities to do anything serious to prevent this, etc. Issues like these have become tragic moments for our statehood. Under the leadership of Great Leader Heydar Aliyev, the strategic and current tasks of Azerbaijan's foreign policy and representation in the system of international relations outlines and priorities of relations with the international world were determined. At the insistence of the people, after the return to power of the genius Heydar Aliyev, necessary measures were taken for Azerbaijan's participation in the system of international relations and gain unique positions, the country's interest to the outside world, its geopolitical and geo-economic importance was assessed on a daily basis, the international world in the South Caucasus, The areas of overlapping and intersecting interests represented in the Caspian region and Azerbaijan were defined.

Thus, taking into account all priorities, the balanced foreign policy strategy, the founder of which was National Leader Heydar Aliyev, began to be realized."⁶⁵

"These views expressed by President Ilham Aliyev with great confidence and determination at the official reception held on May 27, 2014, on the occasion of May 28 - Republic Day, are a tribute to the great personality Heydar Aliyev's services to the state and people of Azerbaijan, and the liberal ideology that he brought to our country once again shed light on the successes:

“The years 1993-2003 will remain in history as the years of stability and development. It will remain in history as a period that ensured the existence of Azerbaijan as an independent country. Today, we are conducting our activities within the framework of the strategy defined in those years and developing Azerbaijan.”⁶⁶

During these years, necessary steps were taken to strengthen statehood in Azerbaijan, and the modern state of Azerbaijan was created. “The years 1993-1995 were written in the history of modern Azerbaijan as a period of struggle for the preservation of state independence. The establishment of socio-political stability and the rule of law was the most important achievement of this period and created a favorable opportunity for our National Leader to start great works in state building, economic, social, and cultural life, and to carry out large-scale and consistent reforms. The implementation of modern state building in our country “After the establishment of the legal basis for the formation of state institutions and society model in accordance with human-democratic values, the independence of Azerbaijan was strengthened and became eternal and irreversible.”⁶⁷

It is necessary to implement the legal state and civil solidarity of the society, “separate groups and classes quickly rise to the level of interests and play an unparalleled role in the regulation of social and political processes and in solving fateful tasks: “The national state is such a historical type of statehood that certain period is an essential condition for the formation of a national-spiritual image, the development of multifaceted components of national life because the historical tasks facing the nation can be realized only with this type of statehood in a certain period.”⁶⁸

The genius of Heydar Aliyev, who realized all this in time, was able to turn the state of Azerbaijan into a supreme

organization of the nation with legal status.

According to the Austrian lawyer Hans Kelsen, the nation-state, arising from the necessity of having a country, nation and power, is a mature legal system. L.S. Sanisteban shows that the modern nation-state is the most widespread system on Earth.⁶⁹

These hypothesized periods confirm the implementation of the practical working styles of the constituent parts of Heydar Aliyev's ideology and become a reality. However, we note such an opinion that Heydar Aliyev relied on his ability to think by applying his theoretical and practical knowledge about the age limit. When he conquered the Moscow Kremlin, was elected a member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, and was appointed the first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, he was not yet 60 years old, but his political power was in turmoil. What would a Turkish Muslim do in the Political Bureau if he did not have the power of thought and the integrity of political convictions? Heydar Aliyev became the conqueror of the Kremlin due to his statecraft experience, political strength, power of understanding, and authoritarian personality.

"Heydar Aliyev, who had the opportunity to observe the global processes within the former empire deeply, foresaw that Azerbaijan would one day gain independence and took important steps that accelerated this process. It is worth noting that an important quality that distinguishes Heydar Aliyev as a leader from others is that his statecraft and political activity passed through the junction of two different social and political systems that were contradictory to each other, and he skillfully used the opportunities to create a social system of each era - following his political demands, he devoted his entire existence to the rise of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the spiritual and cultural

development of the people, and ensured the comprehensive progress of our country.”⁷⁰

From the 1970s onwards, Heydar Aliyev’s practical work should be considered selfless work for the development of the people of Azerbaijan from time to time.

It displayed a close logical connection and dialectical unity between the periods of Heydar Aliyev’s leadership of Azerbaijan statehood. In 1969, Heydar Aliyev’s invaluable leadership qualities, organizational skills, and intellectual talent were revealed.

“From the 70s of the 20th century, the political life of Azerbaijan and our society as a whole, thanks to the titanic efforts of Heydar Aliyev, gained new momentum and parameters of development and entered a new stage. In the tremendous historical stage that started then, Heydar Aliyev’s ideas remain the principal reality of our life, the cornerstone of our development. The confident victory of Heydar Aliyev’s political successor, Ilham Aliyev, in the presidential elections held in the country in 2003 and 2008 and the resolute support of the current policy by the people show that the Heydar Aliyev phase of our history continues and will continue for a long time to come. The formation of the conclusion about Heydar Aliyev’s stage in the history of Azerbaijan is based not only on the fact that he led Azerbaijan for a long time but perhaps even more on the rich content of this leadership. It can be said with complete determination and courage that the period of Heydar Aliyev’s leadership of Azerbaijan constitutes a memorable, most intensive stage of development in its history. In this sense, it would be a more accurate assessment example to call that period the years of the rapid and comprehensive rise of our history and the renaissance. During the period in question, Azerbaijan gained

the opportunity to concentrate its extraordinary intellectual and human potential and natural resources - in a word, national power - and turn it into an influential factor in the country's decisive progress, thereby entering a qualitatively new era of its history. This has undoubtedly entered our ancient and rich history as the stage of the creation of modern Azerbaijani society.⁷¹

Heydar Aliyev's state ideas, state administration, and statesmanship activities are a theoretical, practical school that defines Azerbaijan's political, economic, and cultural-spiritual development strategy.

The path to the top, considered sacred in the memory of the Azerbaijani people, is the path of Heydar Aliyev, a school of genius that created a particular page in the history of the national liberation movement and national spirituality of Azerbaijan.

Heydar Aliyev did everything correctly in political responsibility, administration, or, rather, in state administration. These characteristic features confirm Heydar Aliyev's political responsibility and characterize his personality. During those times, Heydar Aliyev confirmed his authority in front of world politicians with his political responsibility and excellent practical work.

The main direction of Heydar Aliyev's political-theoretical and practical activities during the Soviet era of Azerbaijan was to create economic, scientific-technical, and cultural potential for Azerbaijan to function as a fully independent state in the future. Even when Heydar Aliyev held a high position in the USSR empire, his main goal was not to protect the communist regime, but to serve his native Azerbaijan, to make even the impossible possible for the sake of Azerbaijan's independence.

Even at that time, Heydar Aliyev, thinking about independent Azerbaijan and the future of Azerbaijan, could tell the truth about whether or not he planned to use the helm of the USSR empire for this purpose.

At that time, the steps taken by Heydar Aliyev were so precise that it was as if he knew with his clairvoyant eyes that Azerbaijan would become independent shortly. All the construction works he carried out were planned for Independent Azerbaijan. In any case, the economic and cultural-spiritual potential gathered in the 70s plays a vital role in Azerbaijan's self-affirmation as an independent state in modern times.

In Soviet Azerbaijan, Heydar Aliyev brought national statehood ideas closer to objective political reality by reviving and developing the economy, rural economy, and culture. The main direction of Heydar Aliyev's administrative activities is to glorify Azerbaijan in the USSR and outside the USSR, promote it in the international world, increase its reputation, manage, nationalize personnel serving national interests in law enforcement and security agencies, and train the army of national intellectuals. was

The 70s and 80s are regarded as the "Renaissance period" in the history of Azerbaijan. Thus, when Heydar Aliyev worked as the head of the Central Committee in the Soviet era and later as the first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan, the problem of political power and the people was sharp, he had a step-parent attitude towards national intellectuals and personnel, national and moral values, our compatriots of Azerbaijan living abroad, in the USSR and isolation from the Turkish community in the world, living in the conditions of breaking relations with South Azerbaijan and Turkey, Heydar Aliyev's close attachment to the national moral

values of his family and the Azerbaijani people, his knowledge of the history of Azerbaijan and the world, the Turkish and Muslim world, etc. factors played a fundamental role in the formation of his views on nationalism and independent statehood.

Like all researchers, Professor Musa Gasimli shows that Heydar Aliyev became a nationalistic national leader by solving all the issues that formed the foundations of an independent state in the national, cultural, and spiritual spheres that were on the minds of the Azerbaijani people in the years of the communist leadership during the Soviet era: "Heydar Aliyev is the Leader of the Azerbaijani people. He was a prominent political and statesman, a communist leader of the Republic, who was born, grew up, and worked in the Soviet era, which was a part of his rich history. In addition to being a pragmatic, profoundly knowledgeable, logical, militant, courageous, tenacious party leader who resolutely fought for his principles and implemented internationalism, he was a national-spirited, nationalistic Azerbaijani political figure, a great statesman who created history and a national leader."⁷²

During the first years of political power, Heydar Aliyev created unanimity within the political leadership, national unity among Azerbaijanis, and unity between the people and the government.

US historians Collins and Sviatochovsky note that Heydar Aliyev united the political elite of Azerbaijanis during his rule.

During Heydar Aliyev's time, Azerbaijanis took a dominant position in political and economic life. National and military personnel were trained, historical-cultural and national-spiritual values were protected and developed, and science, literature, national art, literary heritage, mother tongue, and demographic development were taken care of. Azerbaijan's international

relations, relations with compatriots, and the Turkic world were established, its reputation increased, and the issue of South Azerbaijan came up.

Heydar Aliyev gave a perfect description of the state of Azerbaijani statehood during the Soviet period: “During this period, the people of Azerbaijan lost their independence under the communist regime, being part of the All-Union socialist state, but they did not completely lose their statehood. Many attributes of the statehood of the Republic of Azerbaijan remained and lived. The main point is that over seventy years, the people of Azerbaijan have passed a great historical path, the economy of the Republic has developed at high speed, and our people’s cultural and educational level has risen. Science, culture, and all spheres of life of Azerbaijan have developed, and great economic, social, and cultural intellectual potential has been created.”

Heydar Aliyev was aware of all the processes going on in our country according to the request of the organization he worked for during the period before he was elected the first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan. There is no need to explain this situation. No process could escape the attention of the Great Leader, who was working in an organization that demanded the heaviest responsibility with the strength of his consciousness and intelligence. That is why the country and its citizen, whose name aroused suspicion and surprise at the union level, became known worldwide by the signature of Heydar Aliyev until the 1980s. Let us note the fact that during his visit to Mexico, he was the Azerbaijani communist Heydar Aliyev himself who was able to climb and descend the 100-step peak in one breath. This fact can be mentioned as the clearest example of conquering the peaks.

Although the people of Azerbaijan adapted to the existing conditions at that time, at the same time, feelings of complete independence and complete freedom lived in their hearts. Regardless of the political regime, living under someone's servitude, our people have always aspired for freedom and independence."⁷³

During the first period of Heydar Aliyev's rule, a great turn towards independence and a period of national awakening began in the history of Azerbaijan's statehood. The talented politician and party figure, Heydar Aliyev, prepared the potential of today's state independence of Azerbaijan.

If Azerbaijan has such a rich scientific and cultural potential today, it is all based on the national building work carried out by Heydar Aliyev for several decades.

There were not a few painful moments when Heydar Aliyev ruled the state with the integrity of his personality in our country. As a wise and decisive politician in the complex, most serious, most difficult moments of state administration, Heydar Aliyev overcame difficulties and preserved his irreversibility, greatness, and dignity even in the most stressful times.

Heydar Aliyev took a position among the world politicians with his decisiveness and irreversibility, characteristics of the head of state.

In Azerbaijan, which gained independence in 1991, almost nothing was done to ensure political, economic, and moral independence. On the contrary, our country's economic, political, moral, and social were plunged into a crisis. Aggressors occupied 20% of our territory, and more than one million of our citizens became refugees and displaced persons in their land.

As a result of relentless political struggles for power, strife, looting of the country's material and spiritual resources, and the

coming to power of inexperienced, incompetent, incompetent and unprepared people, the situation in our country has reached the point of danger of losing its political, economic independence and statehood. Azerbaijan faced the worst disaster.

At a time when the forces trying to divide our country are becoming more active, the violation of territorial integrity has become a reality, there is a severe threat to our independence, and Azerbaijan is isolated in the international world, Heydar Aliyev, realizing his civic responsibility, voted for the voice of the people and agreed to lead Azerbaijan following their demands and will.

Heydar Aliyev's ability to overcome threats with the power of his intelligence was a civic duty that served the integrity of the Motherland. This can be shown as Heydar Aliyev's integrity of political beliefs and political responsibility towards the Motherland. Heydar Aliyev, realizing his political responsibility in the difficult days of the homeland, did not hesitate to throw himself into the fire to pay his citizenship debt as a worthy person. Devotion to the Motherland, Motherland, deep love for his people, and the people's great trust in him made Heydar Aliyev take on the sacred task of protecting the independence and freedom of Azerbaijan.

Until 1993, Heydar Aliyev, who understood the political processes in Azerbaijan with superior intelligence and wisdom, came to the aid of Azerbaijan at the most dangerous moment, when the country was divided. Until 1993, Heydar Aliyev followed the political games in Azerbaijan by comparison based on the experience of the historical past. Heydar Aliyev got a taste of Azerbaijan at the time of the most dangerous moment - the historical frauds and political games of those who did not want Azerbaijan's independence and the last limit of their political games could end in tragedy due to the civil war. Heydar Aliyev's

coming to power in 1993 saved Azerbaijan from the danger of disintegration.

As a result of Heydar Aliyev's wise foreign policy and titanic work, on January 17, 2001, at the representative level meeting of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, a decision was made to accept the Republic of Azerbaijan as a full member of the Council of Europe. Professor Sahiba Gafarova says that this event is of great importance from the point of view of Azerbaijan's international reputation: "This is one of the most outstanding achievements of the independent Azerbaijan state in the field of foreign policy, and it also reflects the essential features of our country's future development trends and European integration policy. It was an important event. Azerbaijan has officially started introducing itself as a European family member. On January 25 of the same year, an official ceremony dedicated to the admission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Council of Europe as a full member was held in Strasbourg. A large delegation led by our National Leader, Heydar Aliyev, participated in the ceremony. Great Leader Heydar Aliyev, who gave a long speech at that ceremony, commented on this historical event: "The admission of our country, located at the junction of historical roads, to the Council of Europe is a significant event for Azerbaijan and for this organization. We are ready to contribute to the pan-European treasure of values. These contributions will contribute to strengthening democratic stability in Europe and the Europeans' better and deeper understanding of the historical fate of the peoples of the East."⁷⁴

"Historical experience shows that the return of each nation to its national-ethnic roots in some favorable situation, getting a chance to protect its uniqueness based on the national-moral values and thought system it has cultivated for centuries, is

mainly conditioned by the extraordinary mission of the leader phenomenon. Heydar Aliyev, a rare figure of the Azerbaijani people in the 20th century, left the political reality after the fall of the Azerbaijan People's Republic. In the form of an idea, the thought of national statehood, which glowed like a spark in the independence feelings of the Azerbaijani people from the beginning of the 1970s toward the end of the century, became a glorious reality as an independent state of Azerbaijan, ensured the inviolability of the state, the democratic rise, the permanence, and irreversibility of the independence of Azerbaijan. If it were not for the measures taken by Great Leader Heydar Aliyev during the first leadership of our republic for the socio-economic and cultural advancement of Azerbaijan and the work done in the direction of the awakening of national consciousness, both openly and secretly, today, it would be not easy to talk about the existence of Azerbaijan as an independent state."⁷⁵

Heydar Aliyev, who grew up as a mighty genius and a politician with solid convictions as he deeply knew the secrets and intricacies of statehood strategy since he has been wise in the historical roots of the evil deeds of our country's enemies from 1993 onwards when disasters could result in the most severe tragedies engulfed my country when it gained independence. His mind skillfully using his strength and power, he began to use all his mental power again to save our state from the fear of fragmentation and disintegration.

Researchers define the main directions of Heydar Aliyev's statehood activities as follows:

- Strengthening of the independent state of Azerbaijan;
- Ensuring the irreversibility of independence;
- Ensuring continuity of the modern stage of Azerbaijan's statehood history;

- Restoration of the historical consciousness of the Azerbaijani people;
- Uncovering the ancient roots of the traditions of statehood and bringing them into our modern history;
- The desire to rely on history and build the path to the future on stronger, deeper foundations in strengthening the sense of citizenship in the work of modern nation-state building, the feeling of love for the nation, the state, the motherland;
- Balanced policy in state-building, irreversible implementation of balanced development concept;
- Creation of the state security system;
- Considering the protection of state independence as the primary goal of activities in political, economic, and cultural directions;
- Reconciliation of personal and state interests in state-building;
- Concurrence of state interests with national interests and individual interests; It is based on the principle “The people are not for the state, but the state is for the people”;
- Creation of statehood tradition, statehood ideology, statehood psychology, consciousness, and thinking;
- Connecting political independence with economic independence and serving national interests and cultural-spiritual independence;
- Restoration of a stable, strong state, the rule of law, order, and peace;
- Reconciliation of foreign and domestic policies and directing them to strengthen Azerbaijan’s independence and ensure its irreversibility at all times;
- Giving wide space to democratic methods, transparency, and creative initiative of personnel in administration;

- Establishing the market economy, eliminating the economic crisis, and ensuring progress in the process of national state-building;
- Implementation of consistent, purposeful measures in the direction of democratic, legal state-building, creation of a basis for decision-making of the fundamental principles of democracy, human rights, and freedoms in our country;
- Conducting democratic parliamentary elections based on a multi-party system, establishing the Constitutional Court, and holding municipal elections;
- Formation of civil society, implementation of democratization of all spheres of public life, pluralism of opinion, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, favorable conditions for the activity of political parties and public organizations, decisive determination of the democratic environment in our country;
- Determining the principle of social justice as the social basis of the independent Azerbaijan state, forming the social protection mechanism of the population following the requirements of the market economy, creating and developing the material and moral foundations of social harmony, social solidarity, and national unity;
- Implementation of the democratic, secular, legal, humanistic, unitary state structure of Azerbaijan in accordance with the Constitution adopted through a national referendum;
- Expanding the spectrum of democratic reforms, restructuring the judicial and legal system, creating a flexible mechanism in public administration, improving the health of the social and political environment, the activities of the state, authorities, and law enforcement agencies related to adverse situations, and strengthening the fight against inappropriate

inspections on abuse of office, bribery, and corruption;

- Investigating the efficiency of public administration, creating a management system and legal framework that meets international standards;

- Establishing the work of training specialists for the management field following modern requirements, increasing their professional level, organizing scientific research in public administration, and strengthening the provision of analytical information in that field;

- Formation of the institution of civil service and personnel policy in the state administration system, etc.

Heydar Aliyev realized the idea of statehood with his personal qualities as a head of state and a national leader. He embodied these ideas in the modern state of which he founded the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Heydar Aliyev was able to do sacred and historical work for Azerbaijan to live as an independent state among the nations of the world with the integrity of his personality and civic conviction. He formed the foundation of the independent state of Azerbaijan with his intelligence and the power of his mind. At that time, he moved away from revolutionism and romanticism and based himself on realism, responsibility, and innovation.

Heydar Aliyev preferred reformism to realize legal state-building and ensure European standards. Heydar Aliyev showed that even revolutionary changes do not immediately replace the old system with a new one. Revolutionary changes usually destroy the old system, but it takes years to create a very different system.

At one time, N.Tusi wrote about the seven qualities of the head of state: "The first is fatherhood. This is easily achieved by finding a way to the people's hearts, showing kindness to

everyone, and swallowing their anger.

Second-generosity. This is formed after training and purifying mental forces, moderating “anger” and strength.

Third-textuality. This decisive point of view is formed by innate will, profound judgment, correct thinking, great experience, and learning from the biographies of the past.

Fourth - complete perseverance. It is also called the determination of masculinity, the determination of kings. It is a complex virtue that combines proper judgment and complete will.

The fifth is to be patient. It is said to be able to carry on in hard days, in hopeless moments, in a hopeless situation. They say patience is the key to all things.

Sixth is the possession of wealth.

Seventh - faithful and righteous helpers.”⁷⁶

All these qualities are concentrated in the personality of Heydar Aliyev. As the Leader of our country, whose every inch of land is sacred, Heydar Aliyev was an elder and fatherly care for our country with his holy deeds.

And the light of the elder’s face, because it was the portion of the truth, made the cruelest hearts fragile and turned everyone to the path of truth.

Because the people of Azerbaijan respect Heydar Aliyev’s generosity and care for every fellow citizen, and citizen’s dignity, he has firmness, iron will, the ability to finish the work he started in the way he wants, to be decisive in the tensest moments, to take the right position, and to have a great experience. He accepted him as his savior and National Leader due to his perfect, wise personality and patience.

Heydar Aliyev used his world experience in state-building and built a democratic and legal state based on national and

universal values with his great political understanding and deep, wise philosophical thinking. He managed to organically combine the European model of state building, reforms, and democracy with national aspects with restraint and patience.

Heydar Aliyev ensured both directions of the development of the sovereignty of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the relative and absolute movement. Firstly, he took serious steps to consolidate all the institutions of Azerbaijan and the statehood and protect the territorial integrity and social stability. Secondly, he took measures to integrate Azerbaijan into the world community, to join civilization and the world economy. State sovereignty is classified in different ways in political and philosophical sciences:

- 1) characteristic of state power;
- 2) characteristic of the state as a whole;
- 3) the principle defining all aspects of state existence;
- 4) constituent part of state power;
- 5) the situation where the state is the only judge;
- 6) quality of the state;
- 7) state power.⁷⁷

State sovereignty includes economic and political sovereignty.

The space of sovereignty is the possibility of independent philosophical and political thinking, free thinking that expands its limits in the public consciousness. The state sovereignty developed by Heydar Aliyev is a social phenomenon aimed at ensuring the supremacy of the quality of government, its independence, unity, and solidarity of society.

Heydar Aliyev saw the successful result, the fruit of the work he would implement. For this, one of the most critical conditions is an iron will, patience, endurance, perseverance, not

forgetting factors such as taking wise steps, giving strength to memory, memory and mind, being careful and balanced when making all decisions, spending with the precision of a jeweler, gave priority to take wise steps.

Heydar Aliyev was able to lead independent Azerbaijan, which was experiencing a period of transition, to the path of development because he was a very experienced, encyclopedic knowledgeable, responsible, wise, and extraordinary personality.

Heydar Aliyev's statehood ideas and practical activity became robust, profound, and glorious when combined with the Great Leader's phenomenon of wisdom.

Heydar Aliyev saved Azerbaijan from the worst tragedies with his special restraint and logical judgments of his deep thinking. The Azerbaijani philosopher S.Khalilov highly appreciates the philosophical thinking of Heydar Aliyev and writes: "As far as any event is concerned, to move from the only to the particular, from the particular to the general, rise to the level of theoretical propositions, scientific-philosophical ideas, and look at the object of analysis, the event from the height of philosophical thought - this is one of the characteristics of Heydar Aliyev's way of thinking and his attitude to events."⁷⁸

The ancient Greek philosopher Plato pointed out the impossibility of getting rid of evil in states ruled by heads of state who do not master philosophical thinking, where state power and philosophy do not form a unity.

As S.Khalilov noted, Heydar Aliyev's comprehensive knowledge of Azerbaijan's history, science, culture, socio-political and philosophical thought, and deep philosophical thinking coincides with the notions of eldership, greatness, and leadership of the Azerbaijani people. Although Heydar

Aliyev did not write special philosophical treatises, his speeches are rich in deep philosophical propositions and wise sayings. Heydar Aliyev's philosophical views on many fields manifest a single philosophical concept in deep layers - the social ideal of a modern Azerbaijani, national philosophical outlook, and a perfect scientific-theoretical system.

The researchers identified the characteristic features applied by Heydar Aliyev in state-building as follows:

- Optimal use of power;
- Unity of mind and power;
- Keeping an optimal distance from the public;
- Finding the optimal ratio between whole and part;
- Unity of history and modernity;
- The ability to distinguish the main from the non-main, the higher goal from the current goals;
 - Relying on the unity of words and deeds, struggle, determination, and endurance to achieve the set goal;
 - Establishment of social justice in management.

The sages said that, in truth, rulership is suitable for a person who can treat the world when it is sick and protect its health when it is healthy because the ruler is the doctor of the world.

The foundation of the states was created based on a broad alliance of people united based on mutual help and labor. If this union is just, then the state is created rightly; if not, the state is created wrongly. A state can live long only based on justice. The first condition of justice is to create harmony between different classes of people. The second condition of justice is to appoint everyone according to their merit and talent.

The strengthening of the principle of humanism and social justice and the appointment and promotion of talented, capable,

worthy personnel who serve the national interest are the values that constitute the main essence of Heydar Aliyev's theory and practice of statehood.

When he came to power in 1993, by the will of the people, he did not discriminate; he kept most of the people who worked during the previous government. As a wise, genius, generous, broad-hearted National Leader, he attracted every citizen of Azerbaijan who could benefit the state and society to the work of the state and government.

Famous politicians, heads of state, cultural and religious figures of the world called Heydar Aliyev a world-famous politician, "the only person who can rule Azerbaijan" (Z. Bzejnski), "one of the greatest leaders of the 20th century, one of the founders of the new history of modern democratic Azerbaijan" (Chingiz Aytmatov), "the leader who laid the foundation of Azerbaijan's prosperous future" (Bill Clinton), "the man who made the Azerbaijani state known in the world" (Suleyman Demirel), "a politician with rich political experience, sharp logic and the talent to direct historical processes" (Oljas Suleymanov), "A wise and far-sighted statesman", "Republican leader with deserved respect and authority in Azerbaijan and the world" (Y. Luzhkov), "A great personality capable of untying all the knots of the people of Azerbaijan" (M. Rostropovich), "Azerbaijani leader who is always chosen by his words, his weight, and his weight in terms of influence on the processes taking place in the world politics arena" (Ilham Aliyev), "the leader of Azerbaijan for more than 30 years a citizen, personality, leader who carried his orphan on his shoulders and brought it out of the tests of history as a state and nation" (Mehriban Aliyeva), "the most important

figure in the South Caucasus for a long time, who protected the independence of Azerbaijan with his personal efforts, and helped Azerbaijan enter the 21st century as a modern state the leader who created an opportunity" (George Bush), "Not just a relationship, but a great friend of Russia, a giant of politics, whom I cherish and treat with love" (V.Putin), "With his wise management skills, visionary policy and determination one of the rare leaders of our time who brought his country and people out of war and difficulties to state building, stability, economic development and a better future" (Moshe Katsav), "a reformist, democratically oriented political figure who works tirelessly for the development of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the prosperity of its citizens" (Boris Trajkovski), "a politician standing in a row with the most influential figures of the world in the political history of the 20th century" (Sheikhulislam Haji A. Pashazade) "An outstanding politician, a leader of the 20th century, a phenomenon who played a major role for the independence and freedom of the Caucasus" (E.Shevardnadze), "he took an honorable place in Turkish and world history with the happiness and prosperity of Azerbaijan, his extraordinary services for peace in the region and the world. A strong leader of the people and state of Azerbaijan, a valuable statesman, an outstanding personality" (R.T.Erdogan), "A wise, visionary, influential statesman, an extraordinary personality who led Azerbaijan to the path of progress" (J.J. Shirak), "Determination of independence, a democratic politician who plays the role of a worthy bridge to create relations with the world to take a determined, democratic position" (O.L.Skaldart), "a world-class politician" (K.Narayana), "a wise leader who works in legal and secular state-building in Azerbaijan, an outstanding

statesman “, “Azerbaijan, who brought stability to his country during crises, created progress in the relations between our countries during his activity, and brought Azerbaijan’s relations with Europe even closer, great leader” (Tony Blair), “world-renowned prominent figure” (Kofi Annan), “politician, leader, wise person with rich experience” (Asgar Akayev), “a world-renowned politician, statesman, nation’s father”, “Architect of an independent, democratic state” (Ergun Yener), “A Turkish son with all his heart”, “A skilled head of state who made Azerbaijan known in the world, a perfect, intelligent, wise person” (Abel Maharramov), “Active, wise and fair” (Anatoli Solovyanenko), “an outstanding politician and statesman who laid the foundations of a perfect management school in Azerbaijan with his management culture, deep political knowledge, and diplomatic actions” (Khanhuseyn Kazimli), “acquainted with deep insight, discreet, the patient head of state, who expertly implements his measures, our savior who saved our people from troubles” (S. Asadov), “an outstanding statesman, far-sighted politician (G. Wilmanis), “far-sighted and talented, thanks to his management, Azerbaijan developed in all areas and today he reached an influential position as the head of the state” (Ahmed Nejdət Sezer).

Vasif Talibov, Chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, notes that “there are such personalities in history that to talk about their life path, it is necessary to talk about the history of a whole people, a whole country. Honorable Heydar Aliyev is one such personality. His meaningful life has become the political biography of independent Azerbaijan. Today, when we say Azerbaijan, we

think of Heydar Aliyev, and when we say Heydar Aliyev, we think of Azerbaijan. This is not without reason. Azerbaijan's historical and political destiny covering nearly 50 years, the revival, development, and progress in all spheres of social-political, socio-economic, and cultural life during these years are connected with the name of respected Heydar Aliyev.

If we consider the entire life of our National Leader, if we consider the meaningful path of his life, we will witness that a great life serves only one purpose: this is Azerbaijan. Our great Leader worked, fought, and won for the sake of Azerbaijan, whole, independent Azerbaijan, and Azerbaijanism."⁷⁹

In the Constitutional act of the Republic of Azerbaijan adopted on the initiative of Heydar Aliyev on November 12, 1995, the second chapter, called "Foundations of the State," defines the state of Azerbaijan, state power, statehood, the supreme purpose of the state, internal and external functions, state and society relations. Article 7 of the Constitution states: "The state of Azerbaijan is a democratic, legal, secular, unitary republic."

In the Constitution, the state power in Azerbaijan is limited by the law in internal matters and foreign matters by the provisions arising from international agreements. It is organized based on the principle of separation of powers; the powers of the President as the head of state are defined as the guarantor of state independence, territorial integrity, the succession of Azerbaijani statehood, inviolability, and indivisibility was declared. The state has armed forces, protects civilians, and cares for natural resources. Similarly, the state is responsible for developing various areas of society.

During the second period of Heydar Aliyev's rule:

- Since the foundation of the modern Azerbaijani state, whose architect was Heydar Aliyev, is built on sound foundations, it can be said with certainty that the independence of Azerbaijan is eternal, unshakable, irreversible;

- Heydar Aliyev's complicated and original path in the direction of the school of statehood is no longer the fate of anyone. In my opinion, this experience is the national wealth of our people. It is the duty of every honest Azerbaijani who loves his land and people and believes in its happy future to benefit from this wealth, to be fertilized by this school, to be nourished, and to take it as an example;

- As Heydar Aliyev's life path was turbulent and full of struggles, it always went from simple to complex in state administration and social and political events;

- Azerbaijani statehood was saved;

- Saved Azerbaijan from the threat of national-moral disintegration and extinction;

- Azerbaijanism, Patriotism, the name of our people and language, our unity of Turkish-Islam was restored, national consciousness rose;

- Azerbaijan's international influence and fame increased;

- The Republic of Azerbaijan gained the reputation of a democratic, legal, secular state in the world;

- The most democratic and perfect Constitution, the product of Heydar Aliyev's intelligence, was adopted;

- The period of internal socio-political stability and internal reforms began, and a democratic environment was formed;

- Our historical relations with the Turkic world were restored and strengthened;
- Our foreign policy was built on the principles of equality and mutual benefit;
- By implementing large international projects, Azerbaijan was removed from the economic blockade and was included in the ranks of developed countries;
- The eternal independence of Azerbaijani statehood has become a reality;
- Heydar Aliyev's return to power saved Azerbaijan from greater disasters, and statehood, which was in danger of being lost, was saved. Azerbaijan has embarked on the path of democratic development;
- Heydar Aliyev turned Azerbaijan into a country where freedom and independence, democracy and the rule of law, justice, and equality are established;
- Great Leader, restrained, selfless reformer Heydar Aliyev, the architect, established civil society in modern Azerbaijan. This means fair, equal opportunities and equal responsibility for every citizen of Azerbaijan. Happy families created by independent, free people act as the foundation of social welfare;
- Heydar Aliyev saw Azerbaijan as a society of reformers and citizens who are always on the move, looking for positive changes, striving for the future and innovation;
- The independent state of Azerbaijan, the architect of which was Heydar Aliyev, a political leader who grasped the strategy of statehood in all its intricacies, lived for the motherland, built an inviolable barrier to our independent country with his intelligence, was built on substantial foundations. Ilham Aliyev,

who continued that construction, has the strength and power to strengthen and further develop our statehood by starting his presidential activity;

- Despite his young age, Ilham Aliyev confirmed that he is the most worthy student of the Heydar Aliyev school by his works. He fulfilled his duty with dignity and duly carried out the tasks to be done as President by continuing the work and dreams of his father, who wanted to do but left unfinished. He realized them becoming a person-citizen in perpetuating the memory of the person whom the Azerbaijani people raised as a result of many years and considered a national treasure and a son of the Azerbaijani people; he led the independent state of Azerbaijan and succeeded our late Leader;

Ilham Aliyev, who successfully continued the statehood line of our genius leader Heydar Aliyev, is taking firm steps in domestic and foreign policy through the independence created by Heydar Aliyev.

Because of his care and respect for man and humanity, the people of Azerbaijan keep the grave of Heydar Aliyev sacred. He turns his grave into a shrine-like hearth, once again studies the factors that characterize his personality, and is proud to follow his glorious life path.

In short, his devotees know that it is their sacred duty to preserve and keep Heydar Aliyev's traditions alive.

Socio-economic bases of Heydar Aliyev's policy

Heydar Aliyev's policy is based on socio-economic principles. He thought he would be the provider of the economy even when he strengthened statehood. Heydar Aliyev said that if there is no socio-political stability in the republic and no healthy socio-political environment, there can be no talk of any socio-economic program or solving problems. Improvement of the economy, socio-economic program, and welfare of citizens has always been the focus of the attention of Heydar Aliyev. Heydar Aliyev said in one of his speeches that we are trying to improve the welfare of our citizens and our people and develop the economy using different and new forms in the existing situation.

Heydar Aliyev's uniqueness, uniqueness and phenomenon as a politician and head of state is that he created conditions for the development of democratic principles in our republic at the level that the transformation of the economic system and the national characteristics of the country allow for the development of democratic principles in our republic, based on the civilized methods available in the modern world experience.⁸⁰

Due to Heydar Aliyev's efforts, our country was able to create economic efficiency relations with the most economically powerful and powerful countries in the world. It is worth noting that Heydar Aliyev successfully confronted the secret movements of the world's most influential economists. He could stand before them with intelligence, perfection, wisdom, mature economic knowledge, and thinking. This was one way to use his mind's strength and power skillfully.

As a result of Heydar Aliyev's hard and patient work, our republic began to change economically year by year. The only way to develop cultural societies in the modern globalized world is their ability to innovate constantly. New technologies, general ideas, and social and political institutions are the most reliable security for people who rely on their material and moral values in conditions of intense competition.

The essence of democracy in the modern world means free competition in every field, including economy, culture, social and political fields. The weak fall under the influence of the strong. The great personality, Heydar Aliyev, confirmed that he is both worthy and capable of standing in the ranks of the powerful with his works and struggles and with his historical traditions.

Our Great Leader Heydar Aliyev worked hard to make our country a strong state by laying the foundations of sound fundamental principles for Azerbaijan, which is located on the Great Silk Road at the meeting point of the East and the West, to become the Leader of the 21st century, as well as to make our independent country the world's economic Leader with its exemplary military potential, advanced political, economic and social institutions.

Heydar Aliyev took the path to modernize Azerbaijan. The unique aspect of modernization in Azerbaijan is different from Western modernization.

According to the modernization occurring in the West - Western Europe and North America, societies are divided into modern and traditional societies. Political and economic modernization in the West's imagination means, first of all:

1) Civil society supremacy over the state, free formation of

all institutions, competition;

2) Civil rights and political rights cannot be taken away from a person;

3) Representative management, separation of powers, and the rule of law are envisaged.

In the Western imagination, modernization in the countries of the world means the transformation of traditional societies into “modern” societies.

According to modernism, political, economic, cultural, and technological reforms should be carried out in every country involved in world integration, secularization should take place, and these reforms should be based on liberal democratic values.

The values of modern European civilization and the high level of economic development were made possible thanks to the implementation of modernist projects. Modernism means Eurocentrism policy. Modernist law first becomes an ideological tool in the example of corporations. They carry out the economic expansion known in the modern world as globalization.⁸¹

Southeast Asian countries (Japan, China, Korea, Vietnam, etc.) were able to preserve their national-moral values while using Western technologies.

The “Asian idea” of modernization was born in the international world. The Asian idea includes the following values: the optimal model of governance organization, responsibility within the political system, the superiority of group interests over individual interests, and the organic perception of the state - the state acts as the main guarantor of the main interests of society, the preference of common

interests over the political competition, a concept combining the organic-statist variant of family-market economy political conservatism.⁸²

Heydar Aliyev has repeatedly stated that Azerbaijan experienced rapid development and modernization in the 20th century: "The people of Azerbaijan have passed a great historical path. Our people's mentality and education level have increased during this period. Great science and culture have emerged in Azerbaijan. The country's industry and agriculture have developed."⁸³

In his speeches in the 90s, President Heydar Aliyev noted that Azerbaijan achieved great success in the 70s and 80s. In the mid-80s, Azerbaijan became one of the USSR's most dynamically developing allied republics.

Azerbaijan, which had a special share in the victory of the Soviet Union in the Second World War, lived limited and primitive days. After Heydar Aliyev was elected to the political leadership, the construction industry in our country gained particular momentum. The development in the fields of science, culture, and education was in front of our eyes. In order to enrich the scope of national consciousness, tens of thousands of Azerbaijani youth were sent to study in higher educational institutions of the Soviet Union. In the Soviet Union, public opinions about our country, whose location is unknown on the map, began to emerge. This was the most considerable success for Azerbaijan.

The years 1969-1985 are evaluated as an unprecedented period in the history of the Second Republic due to the scale of changes that clearly demonstrated the possibilities of the economy. During this period, the unity of political and

economic development took place: the basis of Azerbaijan's state sovereignty and economic independence was created in those years.

In the 70s and 80s of the 20th century, an "advanced traditional society" was born in Azerbaijan, where the political relations and power were strengthened and determined in unity with socio-economic factors: values such as industrialization, cultural progress, and the individuality of the personality were established, and it happened within the framework of traditional civilization, and all these were independent of outside interference. One fact is especially noted that despite the crises that occurred in the 90s, Azerbaijan has preserved the necessary potential to continue modernization based on its identity.⁸⁴

Heydar Aliyev said with great pride that the robust economic potential and the great army of specialists created by Azerbaijan in the 20th century played the role of a solid base and favorable ground for implementing the most promising actions of our nation.

Modernization, which is the socio-economic basis of Heydar Aliyev's policy, introduced new qualities, socio-economic relations, economic values, and opportunities to the historical development of Azerbaijan, as well as new political and cultural norms and institutions that changed the moral and political face of the society.

The newly formed independent states in the world community, including the Republic of Azerbaijan, experiencing the third "Toffler wave" period, understand the realities of the information society and begin natural modernization.

Researchers show that Azerbaijan, an integral part of the unified political, economic, and socio-cultural Soviet system, is not left out of modernization. "At the beginning of the 90s of the 20th century, with the collapse of the socialist camp, a new geopolitical landscape began to take shape in the world. The political-military, socio-cultural union of the socialist states of Central and Eastern Europe, including the USSR, demised. Historical experience shows that after such upheavals, radical changes occur in all areas, from people's thoughts to major states' internal and foreign policies. Fundamental innovations are evident in political, cultural, and economic thinking. A remarkable regularity was also observed against the changes made by that process in the lives of individuals and societies as a whole. This brought new tasks to the fore in issues such as state building, forming a new society, and creating successful development models."⁸⁵

During the transition period, "serious changes and major reforms were carried out in our country's political and economic life that gained independence. During these changes, the social protection of citizens was an important issue. It is clear that Azerbaijan, as an independent state, should have been integrated into the world economy. It became necessary to change the economic relations based on the state and public property administrative system following the requirements of the market economy. Renewal of the economic model and changes in property relations required implementing a significant reform program and creating a strong and sustainable system in this direction. The consistency, efficiency, scientific foundations, and social justice of the significant reforms implemented by Heydar Aliyev have ensured that this process is helpful for the

country as a whole and every citizen.”⁸⁶

The unity of modernization and politics implies qualitative improvement of the economy. Modernization means, first of all, the liberation of the economy from bureaucratic control, the transition to a market economy, the creation and improvement of the investment environment, the health of the budget policy, the creation of the middle class, the existence of a qualitatively new level in the mutual relations between the state, society, and the individual, democratic political institutions. It envisages the creation and strengthening of politics and state administration, considering society's political and cultural diversity, the role of human rights and personality in politics, and the development of democratic structures in horizontal self-government networks.

“Azerbaijan has successfully named the transition stage in the national development strategy and has entered the next phase of improvement in quality. The way to achieve the goals at this stage is to modernize our country's political, economic, and socio-cultural life in the 21st century. Great domestic and foreign policy successes in recent years give reason to talk about the Azerbaijani development model. The current realities and perspectives of the country prove that there are huge development reserves in the example of Azerbaijan, and their implementation directly impacts the country's rapid progress.”⁸⁷

The modernization process in Azerbaijan went through several stages in the Soviet and post-Soviet periods. In the first stage, the classical traditional society, including its prominent ideologues and norms, gradually collapsed, and already in the Soviet era, its ideological foundations began to shake, and

thirdly, the crisis of the previous life models began; fourthly, a new model of socio-economic behavior, new norms of the market economy society emerged, and this process gradually covered more comprehensive sections of the population.

It was no coincidence that the people of Azerbaijan had great faith in Heydar Aliyev, turned to this great personality on the most challenging day in our country, and invited him to the leadership. This was a regularity, and it was the great appreciation of our people for the huge and magnificent services Heydar Aliyev did for Azerbaijan in the 1970 s and 80s.

The years of Heydar Aliyev's leadership of Azerbaijan cannot be compared with any period of Azerbaijan's history. During these years, Azerbaijan gained brilliant achievements and passed the path of advancement equal to centuries. At that time, up to 300 huge objects were constructed in Azerbaijan.

During those times, Heydar Aliyev rose to the level of a historical personality and raised the face of the Azerbaijani people. In history, rare individuals have lived for their country and nation. Heydar Aliyev is one such rare personality. That is why it should be considered natural that the people of Azerbaijan are proud of Heydar Aliyev.

During the leadership of our Leader and the National Leader, Heydar Aliyev, Azerbaijan rose to world standards in its economic development. The existing industrial facilities were replaced by complex high-tech industries in oil refining and oil engineering, non-ferrous and ferrous metallurgy, electro-technics, machine-building, chemistry, energy, light and food industries, and other fields.

The agrarian complex turned from the most backward field into a rapidly developing field that surprised everyone in the USSR.

Due to this great success, Azerbaijan was awarded the highest prize of the USSR in the 1970s.

All this affected the fundamental improvement of the social condition of the population.

Azerbaijan has become an advanced practice school in many fields. All these were the happy fruits of the exceptional services of the genius of Heydar Aliyev. As a result of his intricate, complex, multi-faceted, multi-field, and rich activity, Heydar Aliyev became a prominent statesman and political figure known in the world, became a historical figure, joined the rare people of the world and rose to the peak of wisdom and perfection. As a result of his hard work, Azerbaijan became known worldwide. Each development stage of the life of this wise person is noticeable as the stage of the rise of Azerbaijan and its recognition in the international world.

The years of Heydar Aliyev's leadership of Azerbaijan were a period of real development for our republic in all areas. All this is seen and appreciated by our people and each of its members. Evaluating this means taking political responsibility towards the motherland and the future generation.

In short, in the first stage of modernization, during the first period of Heydar Aliyev's leadership in Azerbaijan - in the 70s -80s, national consciousness was revived, the welfare of the population, and the level of education increased. National identity was formed, rational reforms and changes began, the foundations of the independent development of the nation, the basis for the development of future military potential were

created, agriculture and economic life developed, inter-republic and foreign economic relations expanded, scientific potential and management personnel were created, and social justice has been done. Production of industrial and agricultural products, national income increased.

The second stage of the transformation coincides with the years of reconstruction, the second half of the 80s. During this period, the Soviet ideology fundamentally collapsed, new socio-economic norms of behavior emerged, and the economic crisis deepened.

The third stage of transformation began in 1991 when Azerbaijan gained independence. Unfortunately, from 1991 to 1993, the "Azerbaijani society development project" was not realized during this period. There were no severe changes in politics and economy, people's way of life, thinking, political and socio-economic sphere. Priority was given to the state as a factor in improving life.

The state was powerless in the face of aggression and provocation. Material interests overshadowed moral values. The heads of state, who plunged the people into a whirlwind of confusion, did not pay attention to the power of the nation-state and nation-state unity. The state could not give importance and direction to the people, who were subjected to external aggressions and internal provocations and fought against this separatism and their voluntary self-defense units. Therefore, some of our lands were occupied, the wealth and resources were usurped, and the population was utterly displaced from its native land.

Some of the researchers divide the stage of economic and political transformation into the following periods: the struggle

against political independence and separatism in 1989-1991, the period of spontaneous assimilation of market relations, and the beginning of the collapse of the former system; After political independence was achieved in 1991-1994, the country was left alone with all the problems, intensification of internal socio-political upheavals in the country, expansion of military aggression, degradation of the economy under the guise of the rapid transition to a market relationship, the period when economic processes went out of control; In 1995-2000, the relative systematization of the economic transformation was restored, the deepening of the economic recession was stopped, the consistency of goals and tasks was strengthened in the reforms, and the economy became more dependent.⁸⁸

In 1991-1993, no serious steps were taken to solve the problems of economic transformation. During this period, gross domestic product decreased by 53%, industrial output by 62%, agricultural output by 44%, consumption by 75%, and harvesting by 45%. The population's standard of living decreased by 3.6 times, and the actual average monthly salary decreased by 80%. During that period, serious problems arose in banking and foreign trade.⁸⁹

In the middle of 1993, in a situation where the socio-economic and military-political tension in the country was extreme, Heydar Aliyev's coming to the state leadership was a significant step in the formation of the Azerbaijani statehood as a whole, including the economy that led to the beginning of a new quality phase in the reforms. This period is characterized as the beginning of the fourth stage of national transformation - the beginning of modernization. The essence of this period was that the transition to democratic reforms to the regulated

market economy of Azerbaijan began, and Azerbaijan was accepted as a subject of politics by the world's countries.

Heydar Aliyev declared that he preferred the democratic management of the political and economic spheres, which are interconnected and unified, in the construction of a new society during his second reign: "We are going to build a legal-democratic state in our republic. This is our strategic way in the political field of state-building. The second field, which is closely related to this, is the management of the economy by democratic means, that is, democratic reforms in the economy, the way of the market economy. All these are ways and directions leading our republic to the future in a complex way."

During this period, the dynamic development of economic transformation was concentrated in three directions with Heydar Aliyev's intense political and socio-economic activities:

1. Involvement of the country's primary natural and economic resources in active economic activity: such resources include the hydrocarbon reservoirs of the Caspian Sea, which refers to the transit potential created by the geopolitical position and the potential of privately owned land;

2. Creation of an economic mechanism based on liberal-democratic-oriented market principles. The most critical tasks in this direction are creating an entrepreneurial environment based on private property; reforming the country's financial banking and financial-credit system in the direction of liberalization. It refers to the gradual transformation of the state economic management system from the production manager to the provider of essential public services and the denationalization of the economy, including the implementation of land reform and privatization;

3. Opening of the country's economy through successive measures, ensuring its rational integration into the world economic system. Action in this direction involves the provision of an active policy of global and regional, functional, and field economic associations. Heydar Aliyev's decree declaring the national currency, the Azerbaijani manat, the sole means of payment is one of the important factors affecting socio-economic development.⁹⁰

The "Contract of the Century" signed by Heydar Aliyev with the world's leading oil companies in 1994 marked the beginning of the modern stage of modernization in Azerbaijan.

In his speech at the signing ceremony of the "Contract of the Century," Heydar Aliyev valued this contract as a "historic event" and oil as the "greatest national wealth" of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the people of Azerbaijan and gave extensive information about the invaluable role played by Azerbaijani oil workers and oil experts in the oil industry of the former USSR, the role of Baku oil in the world, but the fact that the people did not own it.

Heydar Aliyev proudly said that the people of Azerbaijan have never been the owners of their wealth as they are now, and they have never had the opportunity to take such big, bold, and determined steps.

We also take this opinion of the Great Leader as a basis. However, Azerbaijan has established relations with most of the world states in all fields over the centuries. In the first decades of the 20th century, when Azerbaijan was in the vortex of economic crisis, it sent oil to Italy, and wheat was brought to Azerbaijan from there.

It is also undeniable that the most powerful philanthropist-millionaire of our country, Haji Zeynalabdin Taghiyev, sold Baku oil to foreign countries and spent the financial profit on national personnel studying overseas.

Here, it would be appropriate to mention that the relations established between the states also create a foundation for developing those states.

Heydar Aliyev considered the “Contract of the Century” to be economically profitable for today and the future of the Republic of Azerbaijan and decided to sign it. The agreement was a clear example of the unity of politics and economy: “By taking such a step, we demonstrate that Azerbaijan is open to the world and the world economy. By signing this agreement, we once again demonstrate to the world that the sovereign rights of the Republic of Azerbaijan have been established, that Azerbaijan is a fully independent state, and that our people own their resources. By signing this agreement, we create a basis for Azerbaijan’s economy to join the world economy, the free market economy. By signing this agreement, we once again demonstrate to the world that the independent Republic of Azerbaijan is a democratic and legal state. A wide field has been opened for establishing and developing democratic principles in Azerbaijan, and the Republic of Azerbaijan is determined to follow the path of the market economy.”⁹¹

With the “Contract of the Century” signed by Heydar Aliyev, he got a chance to solve vital obstacles for Azerbaijan:

- He took the first step to implement the market economy in Azerbaijan;
- It opened the way for investments from foreign countries to Azerbaijan, created a foundation for companies working in other fields to operate in Azerbaijan;

- Demonstrated to the world the stability prevailing in the economy and socio-political life of the independent Republic of Azerbaijan;

- The companies participating in the agreement have the opportunity to strengthen friendly relations, cooperation, and relations in all fields with the big countries - USA, Russia, England, Turkey, Norway;

- It opened a new stage in the Republic of Azerbaijan's life and economy, especially in the oil industry.

In 2000, a unique plan was prepared to reduce poverty in the republic. A foundation was created for the long-term social development of the Azerbaijani people. These works are carried out in three directions:

1. Economic-social, environmental, oil and gas pipelines;

2. Employment and non-oil sector of the economy - social investment, local energy supply;

3. Human rights-conflicts, biodiversity, etc. Agreement by giving a solid impetus to developing the national economy also determined its qualitatively new situation.⁹²

The commissioning of the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline turns Azerbaijan into an economically developing region among the South Caucasus and Asian republics.

Due to the strategic geopolitical importance of Azerbaijan, the USA, Russia, France, and other world powers were the center of attention of Heydar Aliyev. Due to its geographical and political position, where the East-West and North-South roads intersect, Azerbaijan is at a crossroads. The intensive development of the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline would encourage the country to enter the world's integration processes more quickly.

Heydar Aliyev showed that the new oil strategy of Azerbaijan serves to increase the welfare of the people: "Since 1994, the state of Azerbaijan has been implementing its new oil strategy, and the central meaning and main principles of this strategy are to use the rich natural resources of Azerbaijan, including oil and gas, more effectively for the welfare of the people of Azerbaijan.

In 1995, the first Constitution of Independent Azerbaijan, which was drafted and adopted under the leadership of Heydar Aliyev, marked the beginning of a new era in the socio-economic development of Azerbaijan and, for the first time, confirmed the legitimacy of the liberal market economy based on democratic values.

In Azerbaijan, the legal foundations of private property, free entrepreneurship, and integration into the world economy were applied, and the division of power, which is extremely important in managing the state, took place.

In the Constitution, the unity of politics and economy is the basis. It was declared to "ensure a decent standard of living for everyone under fair economic and social rules." Article 13 of Chapter II of the Constitution divided the property into three types - state, private and municipal, inviolable and protected by the state. Article 14 states that natural resources belong to the Republic of Azerbaijan without prejudice to the rights and interests of any natural or legal persons. Articles 15 and 16 are dedicated to socio-economic development: "The development of the economy in the Republic of Azerbaijan serves to increase the welfare of the people based on different types of ownership. The state of Azerbaijan creates conditions for economic development based on market relations, guarantees

free entrepreneurship, and does not allow monopoly and unfair competition in economic relations. The state of Azerbaijan takes care of improving the welfare of the people and every citizen, its social protection and a decent standard of living.”⁹³

Researchers show that as a result of Heydar Aliyev’s targeted socio-economic policy, high-quality changes took place in the economic life of our country: the economic growth achieved in the second half of 1996 was further strengthened and accelerated in 1997-2003.

Heydar Aliyev said about the directions of the socio-economic policy: “The economic policy of the Republic of Azerbaijan is based on the consistent and smooth implementation of market reforms. The main direction of these reforms is the privatization of state property, the development of private and collective entrepreneurial initiatives, the improvement of production efficiency, and the acceleration of economic revival.”⁹⁴

Heydar Aliyev signed many decrees and orders during 1995-2003 to accelerate socio-economic development.

These decrees and orders envisaged:

- implementation of a complex and comprehensive program of privatization of state property;
- establishment of the State Commission to this end;
- provision of social protection for all layers of the population in the process of privatization;
- transition to the market economy, implementation of socio-economic reforms, scientific justification of the meaning and content of the market economy;
- improvement of economic management;
- protection of the principle of justice and state interests during the privatization of state property;

- carrying out and strengthening the process of liberalization in the economy, liberalization of export and import;
- development of the private sector in the economy;
- carrying out structural changes in the economy;
- efficient use of rich natural resources and potential, development of mutually beneficial economic relations;
- creation of conditions for foreign investment to come to Azerbaijan;
- regulation of state control of production, service, financial and credit activities and prohibition of unreasonable inspections;
- regulation of foreign trade;
- land reforms;
- developing agriculture.

In one of the speeches, Heydar Aliyev emphasized that economic reforms were underway, lines were implemented, and the state and government approved people's initiative and entrepreneurial steps. They declared that the necessary opportunities had been created for its implementation.

Social policy is one of the constituent parts of Heydar Aliyev's economic policy. Heydar Aliyev carried out social and economic policy in unity. The social policy implemented by Heydar Aliyev included activities aimed at improving the social conditions of our people and improving relations in this area by regulating the existing social relations in the social sphere. The main goal of this policy was to create conditions for satisfying people's social demands and interests, to provide social assistance to individual citizens and groups, and to organize their social protection and rehabilitation.

The main tasks of Heydar Aliyev's social policy covered broad issues:

- to improve people's standard of living and working conditions;
- to form a new social-political-political structure corresponding to market economy relations;
- implement social justice and protection;
- regulate inter-nations and inter-ethnic relations;
- normalize demographic and environmental conditions in the country;
- study, analysis, and consideration of social demands that appear and may appear in society;
- creation of an efficient normative value system, the real impact of social norms on citizens, matching of their payment with the created social demands and interests, ensuring the accuracy and objectivity of social norms;
- includes state-wide regional and local social policy that considers the interests of all sections of the people.

When social policy is combined with political and economic policy, it becomes more precise, deeper, and more effective. Because Heydar Aliyev's policy was complex, its influence was strong, comprehensive, and powerful.

On the eve of Heydar Aliyev's second reign, the social situation was challenging and sad, and the social policy needed to be revised and appropriately conducted. Defective economic reforms paralyzed social policy and left the population socially vulnerable.

- the level of social organization in the republic decreased;
- the population has disappeared, and the poverty level has risen to a high level;

- norms of social justice were completely violated;
- due to the improper implementation of the budget policy, social costs are reduced;
- real incomes of the population decreased;
- the public health care system collapsed, and the medical service to the population was low.

Heydar Aliyev, a genius politician who came to power in such a difficult situation, made a fundamental change in the social and all fields.

Heydar Aliyev ended the war, which hindered large-scale military expenditures, bankruptcy, and socio-economic development, and a ceasefire was reached. A state committee and other organizations were established to ensure refugees and internally displaced persons' rights and social protection.

This situation also served to have a relatively positive effect on the lifestyle of our compatriots who were displaced from their native land. It was clear to the owner of an influential genius that our compatriots, displaced from their homeland, longed for their land and were deprived of the opportunity to cultivate. Heydar Aliyev adopted such a strict principle in statehood that refugees and internally displaced persons should enjoy concessions in all areas of life. Our compatriots lost their social, economic, material, and spiritual life, displacing them from their ancestral homes. In this case, the state does not expect anything from them; on the contrary, thinking about their livelihood by taking advantage of all opportunities is the state's biggest concern.

Under the leadership and initiative of Heydar Aliyev, socio-economic norms were developed. The law on the minimum standard of living was adopted.

Since 1994, economic growth has been achieved by ending the country's economic recession.

The Great Leader created the legal basis of the socio-economic policy, adopted legislative acts regulating this field, and developed new rules based on the principles of equality and social justice to improve social, material, and moral conditions, as well as the existence and activity of these conditions. For this, he created relevant institutions, bodies, and organizations.

Heydar Aliyev implemented a sustainable social policy based on consistent scientific-theoretical knowledge and the experience of advanced countries and ensured the adoption of about 50 laws on social protection of internally displaced persons, disabled people, and veterans, health protection, medical insurance, and private medical activity in the social sphere, thereby forming a solid legislative base for establishing social guarantees, which are the basis of social policy.

When the head of state was formulating social policy, he attached great importance to relations with international organizations in creating the legal basis of social policy. He preferred cooperation with the United Nations and its bodies and institutions, regional intergovernmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations in social policy.

On the initiative of Heydar Aliyev, the Social Policy Monitoring Commission was established in Parliament.

Heydar Aliyev developed forms of public assistance. He ensured the preservation of social order and human security by introducing a new social protection system.

During the years of Heydar Aliyev's rule, the increase in state budget revenues led to allocating of more funds for solving social problems. In 1995, funds in the amount of 43%

of the budget expenditures were used for socially oriented expenditures from the state budget, while in 2004, 53% of the budget expenditures were earmarked to this end.⁹⁵

Heydar Aliyev took serious measures in the pension provision of the population. According to the “concept of pension reform in the Republic of Azerbaijan” approved by the decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated July 17, 2001, four stages were implemented;

- the minimum amount of the pension was brought to the level that would satisfy the citizens’ demand for the most necessary goods and services, and their timely payment was achieved.

After that, the Presidential decree dated November 24, 2003, on measures to accelerate socio-economic development in the Republic of Azerbaijan came into force.

Heydar Aliyev’s social policy was a clear example of state care for low-income families, veterans, families of martyrs, and internally displaced persons.

Heydar Aliyev attached particular importance to the development of health care in social policy. According to health care reforms, medical services were financed in three directions: health insurance, private service, and budget funds. Heydar Aliyev highly valued the satisfaction of people’s social demands: “As a state, as a government, we, our people, we must satisfy the social demands of our nation and citizens. Therefore, it is necessary to use the available opportunities in health care more effectively to ensure people’s health and treatment of citizens.”

In his social policy, Heydar Aliyev devoted a special place to employment and providing people with work.

Under Heydar Aliyev's leadership, great attention was paid to the country's socio-economic development policy, environmental protection, improvement of the population's standard of living, raising the employment rate, improvement of the living conditions and material conditions of various sections of the population, and to tripartite responsibility - cooperation between the government, trade unions, and entrepreneurs for social protection, in short, to the development of personality and the stabilization of society.

Heydar Aliyev's foreign and domestic policy was unified with socio-economic policy. His social policy covered economic, socio-political, socio-cultural, and social-household aspects.

It should be noted that Heydar Aliyev was the creator of the period of stabilization and development.

Heydar Aliyev created the legislative base of the trade union, which is the most active and reliable defender of the population in new economic relations, an essential factor in the country's socio-economic development. He improved it and raised it to European standards.⁹⁶

Heydar Aliyev highly valued this organization: "The trade union, which is the largest social organization of citizens, is a new society that should closely participate in its construction and play an important role in implementing social policy."⁹⁷

Heydar Aliyev paid great attention to the development of Azerbaijan's economy through the market economy.

From 1995-1996, advancing with a market economy, he ensured the development of Azerbaijan's economy year by year and consistently.

While characterizing the dynamics of development, President Heydar Aliyev indicated that the reason for the

development was to follow the market economy. He confidently said: "Although this path is a new path for us, a complicated path, most people have learned to work under the conditions of this economic system. We started implementing the market economy and successfully implemented it."⁹⁸

Thus far, Azerbaijan has been following the path of the market economy.

The following principles of the implementation of economic reforms were the primary condition for implementing the market economy:

1) First of all, implementation of land reform, distribution of land to villagers, creation of necessary opportunities and assistance;

2) Implementation of the privatization program. Small and medium enterprises were privatized until 2002. The government has already prepared a program for privatization in all areas.

3) Liberalization of the economy was one of the main conditions. Development has been achieved in the economy since 1996.

In 2002, Azerbaijan's foreign exchange reserves were 1 billion 300 million dollars.⁹⁹

The President of the Republic of Azerbaijan attached great importance to the implementation of economic and financial reforms in the development of the market economy. From the first days of independence, Heydar Aliyev believed that an independent state following a free economy, close integration with the world economy, and a market economy should establish a financial credit and financial-banking system following modern requirements and world standards. The

genius President solved the problems with his bold measures and political-economic activity:

- The volume of foreign investments in the oil and non-oil sector of Azerbaijan's economy increased;

Revival and development took place in all areas of the economy;

- Inflation was prevented;
- The financial crisis and its shortcomings were eliminated;
- Positive progress was made in assessment;
- The fact that import is more than export decreased, and the ratio between import and export was adjusted;

- The state budget was fulfilled;
- The structure of the customs service was improved, strengthened, and developed;

- Prices were liberalized;
- Foreign trade was liberalized;
- A strict financial credit and budget policy was carried out;

- An efficient banking system was formed;
- The national currency was put into circulation and strengthened;

- Institutional reforms were implemented;
- Cooperation with international financial institutions was strengthened.

From the middle of 1995, it went down in history as a stage of intensive development of the Republic of Azerbaijan, along with comprehensive state building, strengthening of the rule of law, and stability.

In one of his speeches in 2002, Heydar Aliyev summarized the development history as follows: "In 1990-1991, 1992-1993,

the crisis in the government, war, the economic and social crisis caused the economy of our country to decline year by year. In 1993-1994, this recession had already reached its limit. Instead of growing, our economy was declining by about 20-25 percent every year. Inflation had exceeded its limit at a very high level. Our economy finally ended the recession in 1995-1996 and continues to develop year after year."¹⁰⁰

The results of Heydar Aliyev's socio-economic policy put the country on the path of development: "First of all, we ensured the privatization of property. We carried out land reform in agriculture. We distributed the land to its owner, the villagers. Privatization, land reform, liberalization of foreign trade, trade in general, and attraction of foreign investments created conditions for the steady development of Azerbaijan's economy in a short period."¹⁰¹

As a successful result of Heydar Aliyev's policy, the structure of the national economy has changed qualitatively, opportunities for dynamic development have opened up, and the foundation for the complex development of separate areas of the economy has been laid.

"In 1996-2002, the gross domestic product increased by 62%, the volume of output in industry increased by 23%, capital investment increased by four times, agricultural products increased by 39.0 percent, and freight services in transport increased by 2.6 times. Heydar Aliyev considered this level of growth to be the best indicator of the economy."¹⁰²

The characteristic features of this period were as follows:

- The share of the private sector in the gross domestic product increased significantly;
- Inflation was reduced to zero;

- The currency fund of the country increased (1 billion 300 million dollars);
- The funds of the Oil Fund reached 690 million dollars;
- Total industrial production increased (5.1% in 2001);
- Crude oil production reached 14.9 million tons in 2001;
- Offshore oil production increased;
- The production of electricity, gasoline, nitrogen, alcohol, cast iron, steel, cement, and oilfield equipment increased;
- Production of agricultural products increased by 11 percent in 2001;
- The production of cereals, meat, milk, etc. increased.

Heydar Aliyev prepared the State Program and issued relevant orders and decrees to eliminate the shortcomings in agrarian reform and to develop it further.

The following main directions for the implementation of agrarian reforms were envisaged in the State Program:

- completion of the privatization of property in the agricultural sector;
- completion of land reform;
- state aid to the development of entrepreneurship in the agricultural field;
- reform of management system in the agrarian field;
- social development of the village;
- scientific, normative legal support and personnel training in the agricultural field;
- information provision of the agricultural sector.

The State Program was approved by Heydar Aliyev's decree dated November 9, 1999.¹⁰³

The President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Heydar Aliyev, showed with foresight that socio-economic policy is

the key to a successful future: "A perfect future awaits both the economy of our republic and the well-being of the people. We have ensured this based on our work so far, and the work we will do in the future will complement all of this."¹⁰⁴

In Heydar Aliyev's socio-economic policy, in addition to the "Contract of the Century," determining the vital place of Azerbaijan in the global process, such as the Great Silk Road restoration and making it worthy contribution had a critical place. Heydar Aliyev used to say: "Azerbaijan is located in the center of the Silk Road." The "Silk Road" will pass through Japan, China, and Central Asia and reach the Caspian Sea. There is a ferry between the East and West coasts of the Caspian Sea, which belongs to Azerbaijan. Baku is the only major sea port on the Silk Road. Therefore, Azerbaijan occupies a critical strategic position here."

Thanks to his visionary policy, Heydar Aliyev evaluated the historic return to the "Silk Road" as the most noticeable event in the context of the socio-political processes at the beginning of the third millennium. He used the opportunities of economic integration created by globalization. Along with the "Contract of the Century," he managed to be at the center of economic events on a planetary scale, such as the restoration of the "Great Silk Road": "The restoration of the historical Silk Road, the attraction of new countries and regions to it, the rapprochement and mutual enrichment of our peoples, the strengthening of independence and sovereignty of the newly independent states, the democratic reforms in the states, the market will give the right impetus to the successful implementation of reforms, and will help ensure peace, stability, and security for all."¹⁰⁵

As a result of Heydar Aliyev's policy, one of the most

successful economic projects implemented within the framework of international cooperation is the TRASEKA program implemented by the European Union. At the Brussels Conference in 1993, Azerbaijan became a business participant of the European Union's TRASEKA program to help develop the Europe-Caucasus-Asia transport corridor along with other newly independent states of the Caucasus and Central Asia.

The main objectives of the TRASEKA program are as follows:

- To create conditions for access of the newly independent states to the European market through alternative transport corridors and in this way, to provide them with political and economic support;
- To encourage regional (local) cooperation among independent republics;
- To strengthen the involvement of international financial organizations and private investors with the help of the TESIS-TRASEKA program;
- Connecting the TRASEKA route with the Trans-European Network.¹⁰⁶

In 1993, on the initiative of the European Union, financial support was allocated to Azerbaijan, located along the "Europe-Asia" corridor. Later, Heydar Aliyev made additions to the TRASEKA program to ensure Azerbaijan's participation in the program more actively: "Central Asia's railway access to Europe is through the territory of Russia. This requires traveling a long distance. We have shortened this path. Now, most of the goods from that region of Asia are transported to Europe via the Trans-Caucasus highway. Ferries operate between Turkmenbashi port of Turkmenistan and Baku. At the same

time, goods from Europe are sent to Asia via this shortened route. This road is 2000 km shorter than the previous one. The Silk Road will stretch from Japan to the north of Europe.”

On September 7-8, 1998, as a result of the humanitarian efforts of Heydar Aliyev, a conference dedicated to the restoration and revival of the Great Silk Road was held.

Azerbaijan is a connecting point between the West and the East and plays a vital role in establishing economic and cultural relations between Europe, Asia, China, Russia, the Mediterranean Sea, and Central and Eastern Europe.

Heydar Aliyev’s role in creating and implementing the so-called “diplomacy of the Great Silk Road region” is irreplaceable.

The main directions of the Great Silk Road diplomacy are as follows: The first is to ensure political dialogue with them to strengthen trust and mutual understanding. The second is to formalize economic cooperation and cooperation in exploiting natural resources for the region’s development. The third is to achieve peace through democratization and stabilization.¹⁰⁷

As a result of the restoration of the Silk Road, fundamental positive changes are already taking place in the economic indicators.¹⁰⁸

As a result of Heydar Aliyev’s economic policy, Azerbaijan is following the path of a market economy, technological and information society, and, as noted by D. Bell, a service economy prevailed, bearing the signs of the transition to a “post-industrial” society, where “the role of the class of specialists and technicians increases, theoretical knowledge plays a decisive role in the reconstruction of technology and policy formation, technology is controlled, and decisions are made based on new

intellectual technology.”¹⁰⁹

GUAM organization was established in 1997 on the initiative of H. Aliyev. GUAM emerged as a new, more effective interstate cooperation and consultative association. The economic, political, military-political, and humanitarian relations between the GUAM countries have strengthened, “the main areas of cooperation within the GUAM are ensuring the stability and security of the states, and the development and intensification of economic and trade relations.”¹¹⁰

Heydar Aliyev was a genius politician who revolutionized the interaction between politics and the economy. It is known that in the transformation of social systems, the theoretical investigation of the interaction of economy and politics is one of the main issues. The study of this effect is especially relevant during the transition from super-centralized socialist planning to a market economy system.

R. Mustafayev notes that three truths remain valid in this field:

1. So far, no good model and way have been found from the market system to achieve the production of goods in the volume and quality that can satisfy the needs of people. However, this is not the peak of the problem of natural selection.

2. The independent market system is very flexible and reliable. It can successfully adapt to different cultures and political systems (except totalitarian communism). It even can survive in several social crisis conditions. However, like all living organisms, it can have defects. When the normal condition is disturbed, the process of disintegration occurs.

3. The market system is necessary to defend and support democracy. Thus, every day, the market gives the citizen more

freedom; therefore, people can choose the field of activity they consider essential. Freedom is strengthened in the organizational-legal plan.

Pluralism and the rough egalitarianism of the market—the equalization of property based on individual property—are the basis of democratic political rules. Democratic rules eliminate the arbitrariness of the authorities but do not fully guarantee that such cases will not be repeated.¹¹¹

R. Mustafayev pointed out three aspects of the mutual relationship between economy and politics and said that Azerbaijan has Eastern psychology and the tradition of Eurasian statehood, as well as the implementation of a unique policy during the transition period, the pace of realization of market economy and democracy:

- first, in a market economy capable of clothing and feeding people, the habit of earning money for their livelihood should be formed in people. In its mature age, democracy should expand; however, the market economy itself should be accompanied by democratic elements from the very first stage;

- the transition to the market economy and democracy should be gradual and unhurried. Undoubtedly, the speed of the market economy should be superior to the speed of democracy;

- democracy will be inevitable in the maturity of the market economy. The role of information is incredibly indispensable in this process.¹¹²

Thus, Heydar Aliyev strengthened the interaction between politics and the economy:

- ensured the uniformity, indivisibility, and social orientation of the economic policy;

- proved the predictability of economic policy;
- he was able to direct the economic policy to create a socially structured economic system. He was able to realize the programs created based on the structural policy and strategy;
- was able to make an objective assessment of the current state of socio-economic development;
- took into account the regulatory role of the state in the transition period in economic policy;
- proved that a state with a strong economy is capable of everything.

President Ilham Aliyev is successfully continuing the country's socio-economic development, which Heydar Aliyev founded. Ilham Aliyev strives for the population's social well-being, security, and social protection.

Ilham Aliyev said the following about the future of Azerbaijan's economy: "The main place where capital comes from is Baku, the oil industry. However, we are very interested in the development of every region of Azerbaijan, and every citizen of our country feels the results of the great work being done."

Ilham Aliyev approaches the global processes in Azerbaijan's economy, first of all, from the point of view of national interests, the oil factor, the Caucasus, oil business, and socio-economic progress issues with serious attention. Ilham Aliyev has repeatedly stated that at the turn of two centuries, the rise of the reputation of our republic in the international world and the increase in the interest of developed countries and international organizations in Azerbaijan is primarily due to the successful policy and oil strategy of the state. One of the most important directions of this strategy is the "Baku-Tbilisi-

Jeyhan” oil and “Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum” gas pipelines. This is again a total victory of Azerbaijan, Heydar Aliyev’s policy, and the result of Ilham Aliyev’s successful activity. President Ilham Aliyev considers the development of the non-oil sector to be the main direction of the economic policy of the state of Azerbaijan. Today, the people of Azerbaijan are seeing the tangible results of the successfully implemented economic, political, and social reforms. The reforms carried out in the republic include communications, information technologies, transport, energy, gas supply, and other vital areas of the economy.

All this once again proves that the traditions of Great Leader Heydar Aliyev and the policy defined by him are immortal.¹¹³

In the second half of the 20th century, Heydar Aliyev overwhelmed the Kremlin by representing Azerbaijan with his intellectual thinking. At the threshold of the 21st century, Ilham Aliyev, a worthy follower of Heydar Aliyev’s school, dominated the Council of Europe.

If Heydar Aliyev, our entire personality with many years of statehood experience, received his spiritual nourishment from our sources, reflecting our national past, Ilham Aliyev received his spiritual nourishment from the personality as Heydar Aliyev, who is our living monument. If Heydar Aliyev’s leaven of power and perseverance was given to him by God himself, this is the share of destiny that God gave to Ilham Aliyev.

Therefore, Ilham Aliyev’s mental strength, integrity of political convictions, determination, and firmness enabled him to open new ways to conquer heights.

A.Valiyev particularly mentions the successes of Ilham Aliyev in the socially oriented state-building process, which

was laid during the Heydar Aliyev era. Continuing Heydar Aliyev's line of social welfare, President Ilham Aliyev began to implement a seven-point program: 1) stability and development; 2) liberation of Karabakh from the occupation; 3) elimination of unemployment; 4) decent life for people; 5) directing oil revenues to national progress; 6) reliable social protection; 7) clauses promising a solid state.

During the presidency of Ilham Aliyev, the economy developed rapidly, and the flow of investments to the country increased. Twenty-two billion dollars have been invested in the economy of Azerbaijan, of which a considerable part is made up of foreign investments.

In 2006, the national domestic product was expected to increase by 24.9 percent, and in 2007 by 30.1 percent. In the following years, more than 110 thousand jobs were opened nationwide.

Per capita income in Azerbaijan has increased by 9-11 percent in the last five years. This indicator has increased from 550 dollars to 750 dollars in the last three years.¹¹⁴

The regional cooperation developed by Heydar Aliyev, especially the close cooperation of the GUAM countries, is being developed by Ilham Aliyev.

President Heydar Aliyev made Azerbaijan the leader of the entire region. President Ilham Aliyev has preserved and further developed this status of Azerbaijan.

Professor Irada Huseynova notes that he is the leading provider and ardent propagandist of peace, security, political stability, economic and cultural integration in the Caucasus, the founder of the idea and concept of "Peace in the Caucasus," "Common Caucasian House" in the modern era, and the

prominent Leader who implements this concept. The mission is carried out by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Heydar Aliyev. "It is no coincidence that when talking about this issue, Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze said: "President Heydar Aliyev is the first head of state to support the peace initiative in the Caucasus." "Establishing peace in Azerbaijan, in the entire Caucasus region, and the whole world is our greatest wish," said Heydar Aliyev, who declared his foreign policy based on the idea of peace in the Caucasus: "Peace in the homeland, peace in the region, peace in the world!" in line with his conceptual model. It is a historical fact that Heydar Aliyev took the initiative to create peace in the entire Caucasus region and supported the idea of a "Common Caucasian House" in the Tbilisi Declaration "On Peace, Stability, and Security in the Caucasus Region" (1996), which was signed at his suggestion at the Istanbul Summit of the OSCE (1999), proposed to create a "pact of peace, security, and cooperation in the South Caucasus." Many regional states defended this proposal. Due to all these broad and promising activities, the people of the Caucasus consider Heydar Aliyev "the elder of the Pan-Caucasus house."¹¹⁵

The Baku summit of GUAM was held on June 17, 2007. President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev chaired the summit. Ilham Aliyev noted that the GUAM countries are united by common interests, bilateral relations, and economic relations, and they play an essential role in the Eurasian continent. Ilham Aliyev's primary goal of GUAM was to demonstrate that the organization should:

- work for democracy and economic development,
- improve people's living standards, strengthen economic reform and potential along with integration into international

and European structures, human rights, creating an open society, and the rule of law.

Summit participants:

- making efforts for the functioning of the transport corridor;
- Implementation of economic and political dialogues within the framework of GUAM;
- joining the Black Sea basin countries to the integration process in the conditions of globalization;
- signed the Baku Declaration, noting the need to use ample energy resources effectively. The parties reaffirmed their insistence on expanding cooperation for democratic values, the rule of law, respect for human rights, and achieving socio-economic development. In the document, the parties undertook to develop the regional policy and increase efforts to create a transport corridor and strengthen global energy security.

Thus, Ilham Aliyev's successful economic policy today is the continuation of the line of social progress and democratization of our National Leader Heydar Aliyev. "Heydar Aliyev started the comprehensive progress observed in Azerbaijan, and the initial necessary conditions for transforming our society into a new type of society were prepared by Heydar Aliyev in the last ten years. The Leader of the 21st century, the new President of New Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, with a European mindset and an Eastern mentality, deeply familiar with the essential requirements and provisions of Western democracy, the traditions and values of the wise East, now fulfills this mission."¹¹⁶

In short, the breadth of Ilham Aliyev's political and economic activity allows us to think that the strengthening of

our state in the future and, besides being a full guarantee of its economic empowerment, it is worthy and capable of ensuring the integrity of the motherland and the unity of the nation. It should be noted that Ilham Aliyev takes a complex approach to solving economic, political, social, and other issues. Since all public issues are closely related, it would be more relevant to think of a complex approach to their solution as one of the constituent parts of the statehood experience of the actual head of state.

CHAPTER II

HEYDAR ALIYEV and THE FORMATION OF NATIONAL IDEOLOGY

Diverse political and philosophical sciences have remarked on interpreting the constituent parts of ideology. Ideology is a system of philosophical, political, sociological, economic, moral, religious, artistic, and other views.

“Ideology” is also illustrated as teaching “about ideas.” The idea of the necessity of ideology in society was first put forward in Europe by Etienne Bono de Condillac, a representative of the sensualism trend in philosophy, the French philosopher of the 18th century.¹¹⁷ The term “ideology” was first used by the French philosopher and economist Destut de Tracy in the book “Elements of Ideology” published in 1796. He interpreted ideology as a “science that confirms a person’s ideas” on history and society.¹¹⁸

The renowned French philosopher K. A. Helveti explained ideology in European philosophy as the science of “right thought.” Helveti regarded individual interest, intelligence, law, and the state structure’s perfection as vital for ideology.¹¹⁹ In the middle of the 19th century, ideology became an idea and a political current that accepted the decisive role of ideal factors in the life of society. French sensualists and intellectuals highlighted the issue of man and society in ideology, while the representatives of classical German philosophy focused more on the problems of the community and the state. The philosophy

of Marxism viewed ideology as social class consciousness, the conviction of the necessity of victory over the bourgeoisie, and the doctrine that served the ruling class's interests.

Marxists defined the state as the first ideological force. Ideology in the modern sense:

- a set of systematized views and ideas of people about the environment, each other, and political, socio-economic, and spiritual structure;
- a set of thoughts and ideas at the collective belief and thinking level;
- a set of ideas reflecting reality, "class-oriented consciousness" (K. Mannheim);
- the system of philosophical-theoretical, philosophical-political, and scientific thoughts;
- understanding and evaluation of people's attitude to reality and to each other, social problems and conflicts, as well as social reality goals or programs aimed at strengthening existing social relations;
- The system of ideas that constitutes the foundation of social and political activity and completes it;
- A system of ideas that justifies and legitimizes the subordination of one group to another;
- Is understood as comprehensive encyclopedic knowledge capable of dispelling superstition and applying it to social reform.

Nizameddin Shamsizadeh senses historicity as the main feature of ideology and describes it as a " system and logical set of the most brilliant and objective ideas that appeared in the course of history, confirming that course and determining further directions of this course, determining the role of the people in

that process and justifying it.”¹²⁰ In other words, ideology is a world of ideas, a set of ideologies! N. Shamsizadeh correctly insists that ideology is based on the conclusions of history, philosophy, and culture and results from a logical process.

In Western philosophy, ideology is mainly associated with politics. They assert that ideology elaborates the goals and values of political development, is always directed against the existing situation, and considers the content of maintaining an essential transformative potential to be a religious and aesthetic manifestation in an overly broad sense.¹²¹

A representative of the Frankfurt school G. Adorno and his followers, defending the idea of ideology's organic connection with the life of society, show that ideology is not an economic base and a superstructure over the state, as suggested by Marxists, but an integral part of a particular type of society: “The influence of ideology is based on traditions, everyday experiences of people, as well as the whole system of mass consciousness and non-state organizations.”¹²²

Along with defining the interests of certain social groups, ideologies may not represent class interests (anarchism) in various forms; political, economic, religious, legal, and other can manifest forms. “Total” ideologies (Manheim), “liberal and communist ideologies,” and “special ideologies” that turn into political ideologies and shape the worldview are widespread.

The basis of the ideological process is ideological activity, relations, influence, and imagination.

According to the cognitive load, ideologies are divided into scientific, non-scientific, legal and false, and accurate and imaginary types. According to the social orientations and functions, ideologies are divided into progressive and conservative, revolutionary and reformist, liberal and radical,

nationalist and internationalist, class, national and racial, religious and secular, rational and irrational, universal and particular, and other types. Ideology has general and political functions.

According to the activity level of ideology, philosophical or theoretical-conceptual, programmatic-political, and mass dissemination levels of doctrine can be distinguished. At the first level, ideology consists of ideas that serve the purpose of coming to power, maintaining power, and managing the country.

The second level includes forming policy and preparing an action program in its main directions. In turn, the third activity level of ideology consists of the execution of the political agenda and the joining of the supporters of the program to the active effort as a result of ideological propaganda.¹²³

In Western political philosophy, the concept of the de-ideology of society is also widespread. According to this concept put forward by R.Arom, O.Lemberg, and R.Nizbeta, the revival of ideology and its role in the modern world is increasing, and broader strata of society are joining the ideas and values of society.¹²⁴

Various ideologies emerged, developed, dominated society, and fell in Azerbaijan in the 20th century. At the beginning of the 20th century, the doctrine of Islam, and later the dogma of Turkism and Azerbaijanism, were strengthened in society in Azerbaijan. At the outset of the 20th century, the ideas of statehood and nationalism, democracy, and Azerbaijanism combined with Turkism and Islamism led to the declaration of the independence of Azerbaijan.

While the idea of nationalism is associated with the name of M.A.Rasulzadeh, and the concept of democracy and Azerbaijanism is associated with great personalities such as

J.Mammadguluzade, Y.V.Chamanzamenli. They contributed uniquely to the national-moral values and wealth system instilled in the people.

Y.Garayev, who characterizes Azerbaijanism as an expression of national self-awareness renaissance of ethnic consciousness in philosophy, science, and ideas, follows the process of the transformation of Azerbaijanism from a national vision to an official ideology, said that Azerbaijanism had become a part of the current and strategic program of Heydar Aliyev's state policy, from a scientific and philosophical activity to the level of practical politics. The ideas reflected in all the reports, decisions, and decrees of the head of state regarding statehood and culture building in recent years, the leadership of the national-ideological process has shown that it is the central concept of the strategic line and that in these documents, the ethnic, conceptual and cultural aspects of the philosophical essence of the ideology of Azerbaijanism, methodological, theoretical-political parameters have found their scientific analysis on a precise, complete, doctrinal level.

Y.Garayev noted that the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic (ADR) played an essential role in the historical destiny of Azerbaijan, benefited from the ideology of Azerbaijan, which has a national, humane, and democratic character, and noted that the national ideology is the spiritual father of the two civilized republics such as the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic and the Independent Republic of Azerbaijan: "In the light of ADR existence, without a doubt, within the framework of the scales made possible by the Soviet ideology (itself, first of all, in art, culture, music, poetry, and painting), the national ideology was able to partially preserve its specific stability, even in the period of the second republic."

The word “Azerbaijan” acquired its modern political and legal content after the formation of the ideology of Azerbaijan and the status of the state’s official name after the creation of the ADR.¹²⁵

Azerbaijanism and Turkism were united and acted as a component of the national ideology of the first independent state of the ADR.

In the early years of the 20th century during the ADR, the meaning of Turkism within the national ideology of Azerbaijan meant the following:

- Ensuring the spiritual unity of Azerbaijanis - Azerbaijani Turks - around the ideas of nationalism like national self-awareness, awakening of national self-consciousness, returning to the national origin and attachment to it, respecting national traditions, national progress, national pride and freedom, national independence and other.
- Explaining to the people that Azerbaijanis are a part of the Turkic world with an ancient and rich culture and a significant part of Turkish nobility, Turkish nationality, and Turkish origin;
- Managing to revitalize and develop the ideals of Azerbaijanism and patriotism in the nation’s consciousness. At that time, either internally or externally, there was no such thing as Azerbaijan. M.A. Rasulzade noted that as a result of the struggle for Azerbaijanism in the national consciousness and the ideal of an independent and free Azerbaijan, in a short period, the nation believed and realized that “the concept of Azerbaijan embodied in the form of thoughts and deeds rather than a geographical meaning. Apart

from independence, there is no Azerbaijan for him.”

- One of the main fundamental principles of Turkism was to achieve the development and rise of the national language, literature, history and culture, national traditions, all-Turkic culture and civilization, and the establishment of close relations with the Turkic world. To this end, the First Turkological Congress assembled in Baku in February-March 1926. This event was the most prominent human celebration of national ideology.
- The political ideal of the ideology of Turkism was to convey to the whole world that Azerbaijani Turks - Azerbaijanis are a civilized, cultured nation with the right to live independently and freely.
- Thus, at the beginning of the 20th century, Turkism stood at the foundation of healthy nationalism in Azerbaijan as a program of national-ideological and political struggle and played an essential role in the national independence war, national awakening and liberation, and the development of national culture and civilization.¹²⁶ The researchers rightly point out that Azerbaijanism includes the components of “Turkism,” “Islamism,” “And Modernity,” which are the components of the official national ideology of the ADR put forward by Ali Bey Huseynzade at the beginning of the last century. In this respect, it does not belong to either Turkism or Islamism. Regardless, it was an ideology with broader and more specific content.

Azerbaijanism is an ideology that goes beyond the national content and comes from the unity of nationality and universality.¹²⁷

Some elements of Azerbaijanism survived on a small scale in individual families and individuals' spiritual and moral world while Azerbaijan was under the USSR. During the Soviet period, Heydar Aliyev played a tremendous and exceptional role in the awakening of Azerbaijanism in the people's minds.

During the Soviet period (1920-1991), communist ideology ruled Azerbaijan. The state ideology of the totalitarian Soviet society - communist ideology eliminated the division of power, multi-party system, political pluralism, and individual freedom.

US researchers K.Fridrich and Z.Brzezinski distinguish totalitarianism from democracy and authoritarianism in the following aspects: having a single mass party led by a charismatic leader and spreading the official ideology of power among all citizens. Totalitarianism is the rule of a single doctrine in society. However, our national ideology, or rather, the ideological control of the people, would never submit to the totalitarian Soviet regime. Because in most areas of our social life, national culture, literature, and artistic creativity lived by asserting their determination. Even the pages of the press promoting Soviet ideology published examples of the invention with ideas and subtextual expressions. Artistic censorship distinguished them and continued to rebuke the authors.

Z.Brzezinski commented that global changes will occur and democracy will change totalitarianism - communism: "In the 21st century, the age of democracy will replace the age of communism."¹²⁸

"Although Azerbaijan declared its independence in 1991, as a result of the half-hearted actions of the then leadership, the country faced the hazard of losing not only its independence but also its existence as a whole. At such a fateful moment, the

Great Leader, who returned to political power in 1993 at the insistence of the people for a short period, saved Azerbaijan from a difficult situation and provided management based on legal democratic principles and comprehensive development in all areas. Towards the end of the last century, the formation of the Azerbaijani people, who regained their statehood and gained freedom due to a centuries-long historical struggle, national development path, and ideology, coincides with the period of Heydar Aliyev's leadership of our independent republic. During Heydar Aliyev's rule, a national ideology that would unite the citizens of Azerbaijan around a single action, idea, and goal became state policy. As a great strategist, he put forward the profound legal and political theoretical foundations of national unity by doing important work on integrating society and the idea of Azerbaijanism, turning it into a single system and concept and a scientific-theoretical basis of state management. With the efforts of Heydar Aliyev's genius, Azerbaijanism gained the opportunity to be realized in practice, having accurate content."¹²⁹

When Heydar Aliyev came to power in 1970, radical changes formed our national ideology. In addition to social and political stability in Azerbaijan, our Great Leader also stabilized the moral and psychological climate.

Heydar Aliyev defined the principles and ideas that express the national interests of the state and play a vital role in the formation of our national ideology: he began to implement the concept - "Our national ideology should be related to our historical past, the traditions of our nation, the present and future of our people, our state."

Unlike social groups, parties, and organizations formed based on communist (socialist), religious, liberal, conservatism,

ethnic nationalism, and social chauvinist ideas, which are patches for the healthy society of modern Azerbaijan, in the Charter of the New Azerbaijan Party chaired by H.Aliyev, reformism, statehood, progress, and democracy reflects and defends the national ideology. H.Aliyev considered the succession of social development, preservation, and revival of national traditions as the main principles in the federal doctrine. At the congress of the New Azerbaijan Party held on November 21, 2001, the wise Leader accurately characterized the form and content of the country's development ideology in the 21st century: "We must raise such a generation that not only in our time but also after us, they will not allow Azerbaijan to fall into mistakes. They should follow the straight, right, and path of national feelings."

H.Aliyev pointed out the need to mobilize intellectual forces to create national ideology, not only to build and make national ideology but also to implement it in practice. H.Aliyev recommended building the concept of Azerbaijan's national ideology on our people's historical past, national-cultural, and religious traditions.

H.Aliyev considered the conflict between national and Western values while forming the national ideology. On the one hand, Heydar Aliyev had the essential task of formulating the national ideology based on a universal human value system and, on the other hand, passing foreign influences through the national ideology filter in state and law building. The analysis shows that Azerbaijan has passed this challenging test and successfully coped with becoming a modern European state while protecting its national identity. First, this was because Heydar Aliyev developed a complete and perfect concept of our national ideology."¹³⁰

At the solemn meeting organized on the occasion of the sixth anniversary of the establishment of the New Azerbaijan Party, H. Aliyev specified the main provisions of the concept of the national ideology of Azerbaijan as follows: We carry out our activities based on national ideology, both in international affairs, in public-political areas and in social-economic fields.

What is the national ideology?

First, it is statehood. Statehood today and in the future is the main task of our citizens, society, and the state. Statehood is to preserve the independence and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. It is to strengthen the independence of Azerbaijan. Statehood should be in the heart of every citizen. Therefore, every citizen should live with feelings of patriotism. Our party, all state agencies, and propaganda should make every citizen feel national patriotism to develop statehood in Azerbaijan. The feelings of national patriotism should be so strong in every citizen to put the national interest before their interest and personal life. The second principal component of our national ideology is our national moral values.¹³¹

Heydar Aliyev considered national statehood and moral values the main components of national ideology.

The ideology of statehood forms people as citizens, creating a love for the motherland in them. A citizen defends state interests and puts state interests above personal and individual interests. According to Heydar Aliyev, traditions of statehood arise from the unity of the ideology of statehood, psychology of statehood, and practice of statehood.

The ideology of statehood envisages the raising of legal and political consciousness, the connection of a person's personal life and personal interests with the processes taking place in society, and ensuring the direct participation of every person in state administration.

It includes the ideology of statehood, the development of economic thinking and culture, and the purposeful connection and adaptation of the state's economic reform processes through legislative acts with people's interests, well-being, and lifestyle.¹³² Heydar Aliyev notes explicitly that the national-moral values, one of the essential components of the national ideology, are divided into three components: language, religion, traditions, and national mentality.

The interaction between national statehood and national moral values is decisive. In addition to territorial and economic resources, the federal state also protects and ensures the development of national and spiritual values.

As noted by S. Khalilov, "No head of state, no political leader, and even no nationalist intellectual has done as much as Heydar Aliyev in state-building and administration, as well as defining the main directions of national ideology, creating a new perfect scientific concept in this field and implementing it."¹³³ Azerbaijanism is one of the main directions of the national ideology defined by Heydar Aliyev.

We add to this opinion of S. Khalilov that the mixed Turkic world in Azerbaijan has kept the national ideology alive for thousands of years. That is, the Turkish creed and the Turkish ideology existed and were kept alive, and the Turkish world gave the world of ideas of humanity people with thoughts and ideas. Heydar Aliyev has done practical work with all his strength to confirm the power of our national ideology in more global

conditions. It demonstrates his placing our national values on the same level as human values. The Great Leader strived to do irreplaceable and unique work in his presence to make the power of national ideological values familiar to the countries interested in them.

Heydar Aliyev particularly emphasized that Azerbaijanism, the main direction of the national ideology, is closely related to Azerbaijani statehood. Heydar Aliyev showed Azerbaijanism and statehood as the main aspects of the national ideology. Heydar Aliyev devoted a special place to teaching Azerbaijanism while discussing religion, language, national-spiritual values, statehood, and state-building in the independent Republic of Azerbaijan. H. Aliyev used the term "Azerbaijanism" against chauvinist nationalism and separatism in the political reality of Azerbaijan during independence. H. Aliyev put forward Azerbaijanism to unite all ethnic groups and peoples living in the country around the idea of a common state.

According to Heydar Aliyev, the basis of the ideology of Azerbaijanism encompasses nationalism, statehood, independence, secularism, equality between people, and national progress as a whole. All peoples, national and ethnic groups, and minorities living in the country unite around Azerbaijanism. This ideology, a reality for multi-religious, multi-ethnic, multilingual Azerbaijan, where various national-ethnic groups live, is acceptable. The ideology of Azerbaijanis determines the sociological aspect when evaluating Azerbaijanism as the ideology and political line of the Azerbaijani people.

Returning to oneself, history, blood memory, root, and national-spiritual values is the starting point of ideology. N. Shamsizadeh mentions statehood, patriotism, nationalism,

Turkism and Islamism, unionism (kinship, bloodline, religion), and citizenship as the pillars of Azerbaijani ideology.¹³⁴

People's writer Anar shows that being Azerbaijani comprises five concepts: freedom, independence, equality, brotherhood, and friendship. Anar characterizes Azerbaijanism as the national ideology of the Azerbaijani people whose human rights, thoughts, ideas, words, and other "historical roots, language resources, the brotherhood of the Turkish peoples, way of thinking and behavior, traditions, art, beauty, and moral concepts are the same, and who live together based on kinship ties with the peoples who are close to us in terms of territory, historical destiny, and traditions, as well as with various peoples and ethnic groups within Azerbaijan."¹³⁵

"The Great Leader always emphasized that the idea of Azerbaijanism is a vital tool for achieving real independence, preserving and strengthening a single, indivisible Azerbaijan. According to Heydar Aliyev, being Azerbaijani means enriching national belonging and national-spiritual values while benefiting from their synthesis and integration with universal values. From this point of view, the idea of Azerbaijanism, which can protect and preserve the national moral values of our people, organically combines the interests of the state and citizens, is a successful foundation for civil unity and unified society in the country. "For every person, his/her nationality is a source of his/her pride. I have always been proud, and I am still proud today, that I am an Azerbaijani. The main idea of the independent state of Azerbaijan is Azerbaijanism. Every Azerbaijani should be proud of his/her nationality, and we should keep Azerbaijaniness alive - Azerbaijani language, culture, national-spiritual values, traditions," - said Heydar Aliyev. By turning Azerbaijanism into a national ideology,

he achieved solidarity, integrity, and morals unity of the society.”¹³⁶

The foremost vital essence of the ideology of Azerbaijanism put forward by Heydar Aliyev is to serve the strengthening and development of the unitary, legal, and democratic state of Azerbaijan.

“Azerbaijanism” is the historical wealth achieved by our people with great suffering. It is a means to earn absolute independence and preserve and strengthen a single, indivisible Azerbaijan. Today, “Azerbaijanism” is the centuries-old tradition of harmony of national life and confessions, the history of brotherhood, interaction, and influence of all nations and ethnic groups living in the country, their common destiny, and the historical experience of their joint struggle for the integrity of independent Azerbaijan.

The ideology of “Azerbaijanism” by Heydar Aliyev combines socio-cultural and ethnic-geographic aspects of the philosophical-sociological doctrine of independent Azerbaijan. The ideology of Azerbaijanism and neo-conservatism, based on mutual aid, cooperation, and equality principles, are theoretically and politically closely connected and internally united. “Azerbaijanism,” which includes the intellectual thinking, historical and cultural heritage of the people of Azerbaijan and strives for the unity of the nation, is one of the main factors that ensure the development and progress of statehood, the security and territorial integrity of the state. Taking this as a basis, professor and member of the Parliament Nizami Jafarov tried to interpret different areas of our national ideology with his fundamental work “Azerbaijanism.” It would be correct to mention that, at certain ages, they tried to explain that our national ideology is the wealth of our national thought. Based on

his work experience, Heydar Aliyev also used harsh measures in this direction.

President Heydar Aliyev, on November 9, 2001, at the First Congress of World Azerbaijanis, while characterizing the state's policy, emphasized that the most prominent part is Azerbaijanism. "The main idea of the independent state of Azerbaijan is Azerbaijanism. Every Azerbaijani should be proud of his/her nationality, and we should preserve Azerbaijaniness - the language, culture, national-spiritual values, and traditions of Azerbaijan." From this point of view, "Azerbaijanism," the state policy strategy, is closely connected with the modern ideological perception of the present day and future of Azerbaijani society.

Azerbaijanism will remain the basis of the national ideology and the base of the entire history of the Azerbaijan state.

Great Heydar Aliyev raised the ideology of Azerbaijanism, which created a multifaceted line from the synthesis of Eastern and Western values to specific secularism and nationality. In this concept, cultural integration, intercultural dialogue, communication, and the unifying features of cultural values, Azerbaijanism, to a high degree, means preserving one's nationality and national-moral values. In this respect, it is national but also human and secular. Azerbaijanism is a training. It is such a teaching that gathers acceptable factors, actions, and measures that serve the state's and society's interests."¹³⁷

According to S.Khalilov, on the one hand, "Azerbaijanism" means the formation of a sense of national statehood, ethnic-national maturity, and integration in Azerbaijan. On the other hand, it means developing the Azerbaijani language as a state language and strengthening its position in the country.¹³⁸

In his decree for the development of the Azerbaijani language, H. Aliyev highly appreciated the Azerbaijani

language: "Today, the Azerbaijani language is one of the languages that have the power to express deep thoughts in an obvious way, down to the subtlest nuances. To fully express the depth of thoughts and subtleties of feelings, any nation needs to experience several thousand years of history. Today, the level of development of the Azerbaijani language shows that the Azerbaijani people are one of the oldest peoples in the world."

Heydar Aliyev considered the education of patriotism an essential factor for the realization of Azerbaijanism. Patriotism makes every person a true citizen of his country. He appreciates his nation and is proud of his people and country.

- Azerbaijanism forms a single unity in Azerbaijan;
- It focuses on the agreement of normative values of the society;
- Expressing national interests requires strong state power and high national discipline, forming national self-awareness.

Thanks to Heydar Aliyev, statehood in Azerbaijan showed itself as a political-legal factor and a concrete national-moral reality. Azerbaijanism is the manifestation of this reality at the level of national ideology.

Heydar Aliyev showed that Azerbaijanism also expresses Azerbaijanis' national and spiritual interests living worldwide. Islam, the basis of our life, has ensured that Muslims occupy a worthy place in the world. He saw the unity of Islamic and national-spiritual values and viewed them as a unity of political and ideological work that strengthens education, morals, spirituality, and will.

Although the religious factor, first of all, Islam, is critical in Azerbaijanism, Azerbaijanis are far from religious fanaticism and religious extremism and show tolerance to other religions.

The Great Leader Heydar Aliyev, the author and creator of the ideological basis of Azerbaijan statehood - Azerbaijanism created an open civil society in Azerbaijan - a new world consisting of the synthesis of all religions, sects, beliefs, Eastern and Western cultures, and other spiritual and human values.

The religion of Islam plays an essential role in every person's ability to choose the right spiritual and moral criteria and have high ethical principles. Islam is vital in the spiritual world, national consciousness, and social psychology of modern Azerbaijani people. The independent Republic of Azerbaijan began to revive Islamic religious values. Also, while considering Islam as one of the crucial sources of the formation of beliefs, morals, traditions, and even ways of thinking, it is not difficult to imagine how valuable it is for us to return to it.¹³⁹ Heydar Aliyev, who showed that the people of Azerbaijan are always proud of their national-spiritual, religious values and traditions, considered the growing role of Islam in spirituality and the use of these spiritual sources as one of the main directions of Azerbaijan's strategic development line.

Modern Azerbaijan, which has revived Islamic religious values and embarked on building a civil society and a legal state, has legally removed the threat of religious interference in politics, administration, and culture in the Constitution. In Islamic civil society, social institutions and political institutions should not be created but should become a means of enriching human spirituality and positively influencing citizen morality.

The number of people who believe Islam will play an essential role in Azerbaijani society's spiritual and moral renewal is increasing.¹⁴⁰ The importance of Islam as a means of spiritual purification, a way of life and thinking, and a form of spirituality in the emerging civil society of modern Azerbaijan

is gaining momentum as well. Islam did not try to destroy the national consciousness. It was able to gain a place in faith and understanding.

The quality and value of our national consciousness are embodied in our monuments created over the centuries. It is essential to mention that folk creativity, our national treasure, has a wide range of detailed genre styles.

Azerbaijani philosopher R.Hasanov shows the existence of two excellent ideas - secular-national and religious-Islamic- at the current stage of the social life of Azerbaijan. Secular-national statements express the national characteristics of Azerbaijanis, their unique history, culture, and traditions, while religious views express their belonging to Islamic nations. In Azerbaijan, they existed in parallel as intellectual, moral, and ideological concepts. The state of Azerbaijan takes the proper position by observing the principles of non-interference of religion in politics, equality of religious communities, and limitation of religious and political movements.¹⁴¹

Even in the period of ADR, the ideas of Islamization and Islamism occupied the central place in the national ideology of Azerbaijan as its component. Islamization meant the establishment of universal spiritual and moral values belonging to the Islamic religion, which is the way of life of Azerbaijanis. At the same time, it meant giving preference to Islamic values in the national-spiritual evolution. Islamism is a means of strengthening the national self-consciousness of Azerbaijanis and spiritual ties with the Islamic world.

Rahim Hasanov associates the increasing role of Islam in the social and political life of Azerbaijan with several positive factors: "First, it ensures the unification of the Islamic society. There is no politicized Islam in society. Secondly, Islam also acts

as a factor of political stabilization. The loyal attitude of Islam to the state, the serious measures taken against manifestations of religious radicalism lead to political stabilization and the strengthening of the foundations of the civil society formed in the country."¹⁴²

While paying attention to the role played by Islam in the process of modernization of modern Azerbaijan and the formation of civil society, I. Mammadzade touches upon the tendencies of civic culture and synthesis. He notes that civil organizations see globalization as the influence of the West on Azerbaijan, while Muslim organizations perceive the West and globalization negatively. Sayyid Mustafa Mousavi Lari, a theologian who explained that the religion of Islam had given humanity sublime values, evaluates this religion as a "revolution in the field of culture and education, a perfect and unparalleled ideology that applies to all areas of a person's material and spiritual life. The value of the Islamic religion is to show people the ways of goodness and happiness, to save humanity from all kinds of spiritual diseases with its healthy spirit, and to "educate and improve people comprehensively." Islam gives an accurate value to a person. According to this religion, a person is the highest and most virtuous of all creatures.¹⁴³ Islam shows people the ways of development based on moral spirituality in various areas of life. Islam regulates and refines the spirituality of people. Islamic religion shows that life becomes true happiness and happiness in balancing individual and community interests. He wants to implement rights and social justice in all areas of human society.

Islam focuses on education in all areas of society and individual life. "The goal of Islam is to see humanity as disciplined, moral, pure in thought, and right. It moves toward

perfecting the human soul and has instructions in all areas. Islam wants perfection in the harmony of material and spiritual life, in individuals' contact with society.¹⁴⁴

Heydar Aliyev, who evaluated all currents and tried to realize them in our independent country, raised the national ideology to the level of the idea-political line led and implemented by the people of Azerbaijan, the state of Azerbaijan. He turned it into a national, state-wide, social ideal strategic development concept. Heydar Aliyev was able to make the only correct decision in current conditions and unite the people of Azerbaijan around a single national ideology and a single action. Because modern Azerbaijani society is going through a transition period in both economic and socio-political spheres, the people and the republic are subject to aggression and face an economic and political crisis. Social problems such as refugees, forced displacement, and unemployment depend on their national-ethnic affiliation and social situation. He created the necessity of uniting all citizens around a single idea, a political line (even doctrine). The national ideology put forward by Heydar Aliyev emerged from this necessity and confirmed itself as the ideology of all ethnic groups and peoples living in our republic. Most national ideologies are based on state nationalism rather than ethnic nationalism. Separate national ideas unite around the state's vision and play the role of a tool for the free activity of the national political leader. Thus, the ideology goes through two stages in its development - the first, the ethnic, national idea, and the second, the concept of the nation-state. From the national, ethnic view, the national interest of each ethnic group is in the first place. In a federal state, unity of power, territory, and population comes to the fore. The interests of the state are supra-ethnic. Nations and ethnic groups unite around their

chosen national political leaders and join the work of further strengthening their federal state, their united homeland.¹⁴⁵

All people in the Republic of Azerbaijan have chosen Heydar Aliyev as their national Leader and strive to develop Azerbaijan, a single motherland, under his leadership. Salahaddin Khalilov shows that national ideology is used in two ways: First, national ideology is the ideology of a particular nation, people, and unitary state, and the ideological-political line that is guided by. In this case, it replaces the concepts of "national," "general public," "general public," and "general state." National ideology generally replaces ideology on the scale of a state and nation.

Secondly, national ideology is used instead of the concept of the national idea. A nation that has gained independence and the opportunity to establish its internal and external policy following its national interests (the whole country, the entire state), in addition to the safety and material security of the population, without a doubt, first of all, must protect its language, national culture, customs, and traditions. He tries to create conditions for his development and return to himself. Without strengthening statehood, establishing relations with foreign countries based on universal values and international norms, joining the world community as an equal member, defining a strategy for transition to new economic relations, and above all, the position of development of national culture and language, and others cannot be the basis for real social progress.¹⁴⁶

The Great Leader Heydar Aliyev, who came to power during significant social conflicts and declines, carried out all these national and national-level tasks with honor and perseverance. Therefore, the genius Heydar Aliyev as the founder and creator

of the national ideology, correctly stated: "Along with defining the main principles of our national ideology, President Heydar Aliyev personally supervised their implementation, which testified to his great responsibility for the mission he undertook as a National Leader in addition to being the head of state."

Not only at this time but at the moments when all the most intense processes appeared, this genius did not spare all his physical and mental strength, and he did not want to instruct any task to others in this direction. He brought holistic measures to people's attention but did not leave them out of control. His main job was to check how the listeners could carry out his task. Succession can be considered the most challenging case in managing the state. That is, the strategy of statesmanship based on experience can be ineffective thanks to the perfect national ideology.

Heydar Aliyev noted: "Now every Azerbaijani can be proud of being an Azerbaijani; I have a nation, a country."

With this, Heydar Aliyev had a significant impact on the development of national dignity, which is the main component in the national consciousness of the nation: "National dignity is the dignified life of the government, the broad and deep absorption, understanding, hearing and experience of the past, present and future of the nation in the mind and technology of each of its representatives. It is also the existence of the history and culture of one's people, the socio-political experience of past generations and contemporaries as the moral and moral support of the personality."¹⁴⁷

The combination of political leadership and national leadership qualities in one person is a unique case. This aspect made it possible to eliminate the inconsistencies and conflicts between the political and economic reforms and national

traditionalism, typical for Azerbaijan's transitional periods, and to achieve the unity of national and universal values.¹⁴⁸

If the emergence of national ideology in the history of Azerbaijan in the 20th century is related to the formation of the first republic-type state - ADR, which is an essential event in the Islamic East, another more significant event was related to political activity of the president Heydar Aliyev, who raised the national ideology to a high level in 1991 on the way to the creation and strengthening of our new, independent national statehood.

"Another principle put forward by Heydar Aliyev is the ideology of Azerbaijanism. Azerbaijanism is an essential idea that unites the people of Azerbaijan and its love for the motherland. Azerbaijanism means unifying all peoples living in Azerbaijan around a single ideology. Azerbaijanism means working to strengthen the state, for the country's development, and for every Azerbaijani, regardless of where he lives, to work and contribute to this development. Heydar Aliyev brought Azerbaijanism into social and political circulation in Azerbaijan and practically strengthened its position. The National Leader rightly said that Azerbaijanism is the basis of the basic principles we rely on. When Heydar Aliyev said Azerbaijanism, he meant that the people of Azerbaijan, while depending on their national values, also accepted universal values and benefited from them. The national idea defined by Heydar Aliyev is the basis of Azerbaijani statehood. The people of Azerbaijan are moving towards the future and developing around this national idea. The national picture is permanent for the people of Azerbaijan and is critical in determining the domestic and foreign policy of Azerbaijan and ensuring its economic development."¹⁴⁹

Along with preserving and developing our statehood, Heydar Aliyev's theoretical-philosophical legacy reflects the ingenious theoretical and practical experience of creating a national ideology.

Researchers show that adopting a single national ideology depends on the mentality level of the nation. Democratic state structures in Western countries have created a tradition of accepting the constitution as a national ideology. The story of the political, moral, and historical development of the Islamic East countries and Azerbaijan has put forward the need for a single political leader. Here, all sections of the people gladly accepted Heydar Aliyev as a National Leader.

One of the most outstanding services of Heydar Aliyev is that the Great Leader defined the political, national-moral foundation, and strategic directions of our statehood and, most importantly, created the foundation of its ideological base.

Today, President Ilham Aliyev is the biggest guarantor of Azerbaijanism in Azerbaijan and worldwide.

The principles that form the basis of our national ideology were reflected in our first Constitution, which our National Leader, Heydar Aliyev, authored:

- The people of Azerbaijan are united. Its unity is the foundation of the state of Azerbaijan;
- The people of Azerbaijan consist of citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan living in the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan and outside it, who are subject to the state of Azerbaijan and its laws;
- The territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan is unified, inviolable, and indivisible;
- All religious beliefs are equal before the law;
- The state language of the Republic of Azerbaijan

is Azerbaijani. It ensures the unrestricted use and development of other languages spoken by the population of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

It also includes articles related to national, religious, and secular meetings, which comprise a third of all the articles of the Constitution and retain human and civil rights and freedoms.

In the 20th and 21st centuries, the national ideology of Azerbaijan will guide the people to the future. H. Aliyev recommended raising the sense of patriotism, patriotism, faithful citizenship, and Azerbaijanism among Azerbaijanis through the national ideology: "This is exceptionally necessary to defend our lands and ensure the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan in the period of independence."

Thus, our Great Leader, Heydar Aliyev, the conqueror of the peak of national wisdom, created a chronicle of his life that could serve as an example for future generations in the history of our holy country. He participated with the perfect power of his mind in all areas of our social life, including in forming our national ideology.

Like all political fields, it plays a unique role in the development of the ideology of Azerbaijaniism.

Today, Ilham Aliyev can replace his successor and father, Heydar Aliyev, in the global political arena. This results from his particular political skill, conviction, and integrity, as well as deep intelligence and the power of comprehensive thinking.

In the area of globalization, Ilham Aliyev approaches Azerbaijan's statehood as a unity with the development of the economy, the rule of law, and the development of the ideology of Azerbaijanism, which expresses the interests of all people and ethnic groups: "Strengthening the state independence of Azerbaijan and occupying a worthy place in the system of

modern international relations include, turning Azerbaijan into a strong, powerful and influential country in the region as a democratic, legal, secular, unitary state, creating a stable and socially oriented economy, protecting the rights and freedoms of individuals regardless of their nationality and social origin ensuring comprehensive and reliable protection, forming a civil society based on the rule of law, solid peace, public solidarity, and prosperous life, and uniting people around independent statehood.”

Ilham Aliyev benefited from his father by loving his father’s political activities and logical judgment with sanctity, considering Azerbaijan Motherland, and eventually profoundly absorbing his recommendations.

Ilham Aliyev has already fully understood the working methods of the country’s president; for the future, mental strength, the integrity of political convictions, and a particular way of thinking are sufficient.

Heydar Aliyev and historical inheritance in national culture

Culture, which consists of creating, applying, and passing on the material and spiritual resources accumulated by humanity in social-historical processes to future generations, is divided into two parts, material and spiritual. Although there are functional differences between material and spiritual cultures, they form a unity. Although cultural traditions and historical heritage constitute culture’s central, stable aspect, it is also doomed to constant development and innovation. Culture cannot exist without tradition, without historical inheritance. Cultural

traditions are the primary condition not only for the existence of civilization as historical memory but also for the development of culture, even in cases of the creation of qualitatively new culture. The general law of effect, the fact that historical inheritance includes dialectical negation, and assimilation of positive values created by past generations, is also manifested in the field of culture and is of great importance to it.

History also includes reactionary cases such as destroying past cultural heritage and denying historical heritage. In addition to preserving traditions, cultural heritage, and historical inheritance in culture, developing it to appreciate its innovation and universal values is essential.

Azerbaijan's national culture, which is the product of many centuries and has a worthy place in world culture, is united by national values. This culture consists of a synthesis of Western and Eastern cultural resources. Since Azerbaijan is located in Eurasia, some of the original Eastern cultures are still present in Azerbaijan. As a result of the relations established with Europe and other countries, the integration of our national culture has done its job, and the national cultures of other countries have found their way into our public life.

As a whole, our national culture has not been affected by any outside influence. Therefore, our national household culture had to live its history unaffected.

Heydar Aliyev, a genius and a profound connoisseur of world culture and national culture, gave great importance to the unity of national and universal humanity by preferring historical inheritance in culture.

Throughout history, the nation has preserved its material, spiritual and national values with the integrity of wealth. A nation indifferent to its historical past is like a tree that begins

to wither. The country, which takes its wise men as a model of national thinking, and cultivates intelligent, perfect, and wise personalities, has the right to boast of its rich history and national-spiritual values. Although the personalities who perpetuated our history or the written sources of our historical past are not in front of our eyes now, their works that make us know our past make us all happy and proud. Looking at our future from this perspective is our most important civic duty.

Material, spiritual and national values cannot be replaced by anything. Heydar Aliyev has repeatedly issued decrees on protecting our national values (including material and spiritual matters) and the preservation of national wealth, and this issue was the subject of his important speeches at the meetings. Those who are indifferent to this, those who have a half-hearted attitude, indifferent to the memory of a wise personality, will have the same negative attitude toward the rich historical past of the nation.

No such nation in humanity despises its spiritual, economic, and household benefits. This is our straightforward and thought-provoking idea. Because based on the constitution, the Azerbaijani language became a state language in 1978 thanks to Heydar Aliyev's subtle policy. But until then, those who were engaged in administration and statehood in Azerbaijan did not think about this. Maybe they did not mind. Even if they thought about it, they could not risk it. Nevertheless, Heydar Aliyev raised the whole of Azerbaijan. He skillfully benefited from the thinking power of the army of intellectuals.

Professor Goshgar Aliyev recognized that people's worldviews, and material and spiritual culture, including ethnocultural culture and national self-consciousness, are formed under the influence of several socioeconomic and

political-cultural factors in the long historical evolution process. He also explains the environment in which these values, which are a product of historical memory, were created, experienced, and transmitted to future generations as follows: "Its (people's) national psychology, way of thinking acquires socio-cultural qualities in a particular specific historical and cultural environment, national self-consciousness, which is a form of spiritual, social development, contains the historical characteristics of a person as a subject of historical creativity. At the same time, national self-consciousness, the unity of public and individual, social-class and national components, is variously objectified in inter-ethnic relations and lives in socio-historical memory, ensuring the transmission of ethnocultural values from generation to generation."¹⁵⁰

Heydar Aliyev overturned the claims of all Eurocentric and preferred the idea of "common culture" consisting of the synthesis and unity of the national and universal values of our Eastern and Western cultures.

From the 18th-19th century, a tendency and interest in Western culture began to appear in the East, including Azerbaijan. In the intellectual and cultural environment growing up in society, the new group of intellectuals began to look for ways to accept the universal values of Western culture and the advanced achievements of science and technology, excluding moral values. During this process, taking modernity while preserving the national-spiritual traditions was central.

In the 19th century, the tendencies of integrating Eastern and Western cultures, ways of thinking, and philosophical, literary, and artistic fields strengthened.

Located at the crossroads of East and West, Azerbaijan took a leading position in the region in creating a common culture by

adopting rational and moral values. Historically developing as an Eastern country and having assimilated Islamic cultural and moral values during the last thousand years, North Azerbaijan, starting from the 20th century, had to come into close contact with the new system of cultural and moral values within the Russian Empire, and sometimes forced to adopt them. S.Khalilov said that the transfer of advanced European cultural, social, and political values and ideas of enlightenment to Azerbaijan through Russia “created fertile conditions for the convergence of Eastern and Western value systems in this country, like A.Bakıkhanoğlu, Mirza Kazım bey, Mirza Şafı Vazeh, Hasan bey Zardabi noting that great personalities play the role of a bridge between these two civilizations. He finds the more appropriateness of accepting M.F. Akhundov as a symbol of the unity of the East and the West” and justifies his opinion: “Because in his face, both cultures and ways of thinking are united at the top. At the same time, Akhundov did not stop achieving unity in his image. Since he actively fought to acquire a new system of values for the people, all his scientific, philosophical, and artistic creativity served this purpose.

M.F.Akhundov called for turning away from Eastern poetry traditions, love stories, and romantic tendencies focused on real social life problems and took a strong position against religious superstitions. However, it should not be perceived as an indicator of Westernism and the non-appreciation of Eastern poetry. Since he deeply understood his national identity and loved his nation from the bottom of his heart, he called for getting rid of inertia and mastering the new achievements of civilization. He tried to spread enlightenment ideas among his compatriots.”¹⁵¹

Even in the 19th century, Hegel claimed that there was no thought or idea in Eastern culture, that the philosophical study

of the Eastern peoples was insignificant, and that the Western culture, especially German culture, was “decorated with the philosophical richness of the divine spirit.”

The one-sided approaches of several Western and Eastern Iranian researchers such as Khaos, Herberg, Mauer, Yotland, Mereno, Rostnu, Aron, Saymal, Ganjavi, Mashgur to Eastern culture, including Azerbaijan’s culture, cultural heritage, and historical succession, consist of the following:

- In Eastern culture, natural-scientific, philosophical thought and ideas are based only on religious mysticism;
- Eastern philosophical and socio-political thought has no place in the history of philosophy (Hegel);
- Azerbaijanis did not have their own culture. This culture is supposedly the cultural history of Arabs, Persians, and Turks or their mixture (S.D. Krebs);
- Azerbaijanis were not an independent nation (F.Kazimzadeh);
- Azerbaijani thinkers - Nizami, Fuzuli, Khatai, Nasimi, Bahmanyar, N. Tusi, and others claimed to be Persian, Turkish, and Arab (The Encyclopedia of Islam, L.1960, p190);
- Azerbaijanis were described as “Turkmen,” Nizami, Khatai as Persian, Safavid state as Persian state, and Fuzuli as a Turkish poet (F.O. Mahmudov).

However, several progressive and objective Western and Eastern researchers and Azerbaijani scientists have disapproved of these views:

- The centuries-old national cultural heritage of Azerbaijan has developed in close connection with Eastern culture;
- The Turkish-Azerbaijani cultural factor occupies a key place in Iranian culture;

- Our cultural heritage has ideas of humanity, human kindness, freedom of conscience, equality, and brotherhood, which have been decisive factors in the mutual relations of cultures.

In the 20th century, "civilization" was a synonym for culture. Debates about whether civilization first arose in the West or the East continue.

Azerbaijani philosopher S.Khalilov said that the increase in relations created conditions for more encounters and direct contacts with different political regimes, forms of social structure, lifestyles, ways of thinking, cultures, morals, and religious values and that the connection of these diversities "creates conditions for mutual enrichment on the one hand and the increase of conflict and causes the emergence of new sources of contradiction and conflict on the other hand." S.Khalilov writes: "However, in which means? through the absorption and adaptation of other nation's language, culture and lifestyle or the spread of your own cultural-moral values worldwide." The idea of "clash of civilizations," "dialogue of cultures," and "pluralism of cultures" also appear in the search for an answer to this question. S.Khalilov, however, explains the need to study the cultures and their distinguishing features, which are radically different from each other, along with the unique and specific aspects of each nation, ethnos, with "the presence of points of similarity on a larger scale," which is "from several great civilizations and allows to talk about cultures."¹⁵² This opinion may reflect the truth. Nevertheless, the Turkish world, whose national culture has been enriched for centuries, has not created conditions to compare its family-household culture and creative possibilities with any civilized state. Therefore,

the family-household and creative culture reflects the antiquity of our people's consciousness and memory. At times when written culture did not exist in the West, there were written sources that reflected written cultures in the Near, Middle, and Far East. In this regard, Heydar Aliyev solemnly celebrated the 1300-year history of our magnificent monument, "Kitabi Dada Gorgud," together with world public opinion leaders. This event, considered a jubilee, also confirmed the historicity of our writing and creative culture.

Commenting on the critical aspects of Eastern and Western cultures and civilizations, S.Khalilov said that in the West, "individual-society relations are perfect, and society is more optimally organized." In the East, "even though freedom is understood as living according to one's wishes and desires, in the West, everyone finds his/her freedom within the framework of established social relations, feeling as a member of society."

S.Khalilov points out that civilization is adequate to the concept of social progress, is based on the division of labor, and has two driving forces: firstly, increasing the knowledge and skills of each person (in the East), and secondly, a large-scale, robust and purposeful combination of people specializing in different directions is the development of social mechanisms (in the West).¹⁵³

Western researchers consider us the basis of religious culture and civilization. The English scientist Toynbee showed five civilizations: Western, Eastern-Proto-Slavic, Islamic, Indian, and Far Eastern societies.

The German scientist O.Spengler characterizes civilization as "the fall and decline of culture" and notes the fall of European culture. Another German philosopher, K. Jaspers, shows that civilization took place in the East and the West simultaneously (from 800 BC to 200 AD).

He mentions three cultural centers that promote genetic teachings distinguished by the depth and universality of world culture:

1. The teachings of the prophets of philosophy, Greek poets, philosophers, and historians, as well as Zarathustra in the East of the Mediterranean Sea;

2. Buddha's teaching in India;

3. Taoism and Confucianism in China.

M.Weber contrasted the Western culture, which arose based on Greek-Jewish traditions, with the Eastern culture.

When talking about the origin of Western culture, and Western civilization, they claimed that it rested on three foundations:

1) the transition of Europe from barbarism to Christianity;

2) Greek science, art, and the products and values of Roman political-legal and military successes;

3) Judeo-Christian images, values, religious outlook, and dogma.

In his work "Clash of Civilizations and Changing the World Order," US political scientist S.Huntington characterized the main downfalls of Western culture as follows:

- Classical heritage: Greek philosophy and rationalism;
- Roman law, machine language, and Christianity;
- Separation of religious and secular authorities;
- The rule of law;
- Social pluralism and civil society;
- Representative power;
- Individualism.

According to Huntington, Western civilization is unique but not universal. Therefore, the clash of civilizations has become necessary.¹⁵⁴

Azerbaijani philosopher Y.Rustamov opposes such a sharp opposition of civilizations and considers the dialogue and interaction of different cultures a necessary historical process.¹⁵⁵ We also agree with this idea because the integrating civilization is rich and ancient in terms of history. Until the Soviet era, the Turkic world had a solid domestic and creative culture. We can also mention the names of our historical personalities from this feature. Nevertheless, it should be noted that in civilization, one does not give place to the other; on the contrary, both sides realize the enrichment process. Every nation implements the civil procedure with the power of its consciousness and thought.

During the ADR period in Azerbaijan, an attempt was made to give preference to historical succession in cultural heritage by adopting European culture.

At the outset of the XIX–XX centuries, the Azerbaijani nation, divided into northern and southern Azerbaijan, was subject to injustice and moral and physical violation. As in the entire Turkish-Islamic world, decline and division took place in all spheres of Azerbaijan’s social life. Czarist Russia hindered the development of Azerbaijanis as well as all non-Christians. During this period, a new class of intellectuals close to the new bourgeoisie - educators, teachers who supported the new school method, publicists with a democratic spirit, poets, and writers - were growing up. M.B.Mammadzade pointed out that in this period, there was a renewal as well as a decline in culture: “Since the palaces of the Khans, which once were the centers of science, literature, and art, were destroyed, the new landowner class was at a very poor in terms of both level and character, as well as authority and opportunities. Therefore, culture and ideas were completely extinguished. The nation had to wait for a new social class to grow. This was the new industrial bourgeoisie

and European intelligentsia that emerged at the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century. The era of national awakening and the cultural nationalism movement opened by Mirza Fatali and Hasan Bey had an arduous, even unsuccessful, process until this group matured and strengthened."¹⁵⁶

From the second half of the 19th century onwards, intellectuals and media began to play an essential role in the systematic nature of the ideas of nationalism, independence, freedom, modernity, Westernism, and Orientalism.

The rapidly developing Western culture had economic, political, military, and technical power. A rational attitude to the world, practical ideas free from scholasticism, and a solid tendency to development formed the basis of this culture. The Ottoman Empire, with which Azerbaijan is historically, traditionally, religiously, and ethnically closely connected, was also experiencing severe upheavals under the influence of Western culture.

Under the influence of industrialization, the national bourgeoisie and the national intelligentsia became stronger. The national bourgeoisie and intellectuals of Azerbaijan established close relations with the bourgeoisie and intellectuals of Russian Muslims and other Turkic-speaking nations.

People of thought, art, and politics of this period, A. Huseynzade, A.Agha oglu, A.Topchubashov, M.A.Rasulzade, and others put forward nationwide ideas like national traditions and loyalty to the origin, promotion of national moral and religious values, the national language, literature, history, and culture, to join modern world culture and democratic values, and other.

Talking about the culture of the Democratic Republic period, N. Alekbarova emphasized that this culture was colorful and

distinguished by the pathos of social and moral renaissance: "The awakening of culture influenced fields - in science, education, press, prose, poetry, music, criticism."¹⁵⁷ It is interesting that most of the representatives of the Democratic Republic were the creators of the culture of that time. It is enough to mention the names of M.A.Rasulzade, A. Topchubashov, U.Hajibeyov, J.Hajibeyov, A.Agaoglu, N.Yusifbeyli, and A. Huseynzade. It is also an undeniable fact that the most important points and events of 1919-1920 are directly related to national culture:

- Declaration of the Azerbaijani language as the state language for the first time (June 27, 1918);
- The formation of the official parliamentary style of the Azerbaijani literary language during the APC period;
- Returning the name of the ancient city of Ganja to itself;
- Establishment of the Baku State University (1919), Azerbaijan State Theater (1919), "Istiglal" Museum (1919), "Society of Theater Workers," "Theatre Literary Commission," "Muslim Movement and Society of Writers," "Green Pen" Literary Union;
- Determination of national symbols - coat of arms, flag, anthem, chest, and commemorative medals;
- Publication of about 200 newspapers and magazines;
- Establishment of "New Shirvan Society," "City Gardens Society," "Society of Lovers and Protectors of Islamic Art Monuments";
- Establishment of a publishing-translation-translation commission for the nationalization and development of public education;
- Nationalization of a large number of existing schools, the opening of new schools;
- Printing of textbooks for primary and secondary schools;

- Organization of seven male and one female seminary for teacher training;
- Transfer of the Azerbaijan branch of the Gori Teachers' Seminary to Kazak;
- Inviting 50 teachers from Turkey;
- Sending about 100 young people to large educational institutions in Europe (France, Italy, etc.) and 100 people to Turkey;
- Creation of temporary pedagogical courses in villages to spread primary education and combat illiteracy;
- The emergence of theater painting as a profession;
- Thinking about alphabet reform;
- Translation of classics of world literature into Azerbaijani language.¹⁵⁸

American scientist T.Svyatokovski explained the implementation of national education by the state with the coming to power of the intellectuals: "With the scholars ruling the country, the long-desired national education became a reality. Although Russification process in the language was stopped, there still needed to be a general agreement on what the local literary language should base on. Disputes between the Azerbaijanis and the Ottomans still reverberated, and strangely enough, the views of the latter group found favor among the new program initiators of Musavat. The program adopted at the party's second congress held in December 1919 stated, "Teaching the Ottoman dialect should be compulsory in secondary schools of Azerbaijan. This, in turn, reflected the revival of pan-Turkism, political separation, and cultural closeness. In the 20th century, the educational process in madrasas, which were historically elementary, began to expand.

All schools started teaching in the Turkish language covering all classes, and the history of the Turkic peoples replaced the subject of Russian history. In many primary schools, Russian was abolished as the language of instruction. However, the need for more personnel slowed down the development of Turkification in secondary education. Some groups were responsible for preparing a particular set of textbooks, most of them through translation. Those invited from Turkey partially prevented the shortage of teachers. At the same time, newly established teachers' seminaries trained Azerbaijani teachers. The government sent over a hundred young people to Turkey and Europe to study. In the second year of the Republic, on September 1, 1919, with the opening of Baku University, Azerbaijan acquired its first higher education institution. This educational institution, headed by the Russian scientist V.A. Razumovsky, was known as Transcaucasia University in Tbilisi and was transferred from there. The language of instruction was Russian, and the University consisted of medical and historical-philological faculties. As a part of the educational reforms, switching to the Latin alphabet was in progress.¹⁵⁹

During the rule of the ADR, the fields of press, poetry, and art criticism were directly related to the political, ideological, socio-economic, and spiritual environment and therefore developed with extraordinary enthusiasm.

A democratic atmosphere dominated the press. In addition to the government press, there were favorable conditions for the activity of opposition newspapers of different orientations printed in other languages. "The brightest example reflecting the position of the People's Republic in those years was the newspaper "Azerbaijan." In this newspaper, distinguished by an extensive range of topics, a solemn and unique style,

promptness, a high level of professionalism, and the power of a literary publicist, the important representatives of our national ideology spoke from the point of view of the socio-political concept of statehood. They actively participated in the formation of the national freedom consciousness of the people. Newspapers and magazines mainly related to culture and art problems also met the journalistic requirements of the time. An example of this can be the newspaper "Culture" and the magazine "Ovragi-Nafisa."¹⁶⁰

In this period, the most rapidly developing areas of Azerbaijani culture were poetry, prose, and dramaturgy, which were related to literary and artistic creativity. The art examples strongly influenced the formation of national public consciousness in their time and expressed the ideals of nation-statehood and patriotism.

The literary forces of this period were A.Shaik, M.Hadi, A.Javad, J.Jabbarli, S.Mumtaz, Im Gulsum, S.Huseyn, N.Vazirov, A.Yusifzadeh, Ibrahim Shakir, Huseyn Vafat, R. Efendizadeh, Ali Mastan, U.Hajibeyli, S. Mammadzadeh, A. Ram, Amin Abid, Ali Shogi, David and others.

Prominent Azerbaijani researcher Alkhan Bayramoglu mentioned that the artistic process during the ADR period was led by M.A.Rasulzadeh, ideologue Mirza Bala, parliament chairman A.M.Topchubashov, parliament deputy chairman S.Mammadzadeh, U.Hajibeyli, A.Huseynzadeh, as well as J. Mammadguluzadeh, A.M.Hadi, H.Javid, A. Shaig, S.Mumtaz, "Poet of the Republic" A.Javad, Ali Yusif Ran, Im Gulsum Khanum (M.A. Rasulzade's niece, S.Huseyn's spouse), Amin Abid, J.Jabbarlı, Davud, Ali Shovki whose many poems have become "marches, hymns, and songs. The tradition of vows, ghazals, odes, lamentations, and eulogies was continued mainly by A.Jannati, I.Tahir, and A.Muniri. M.Hadi, H.Javid, Haji

Karim Sanil, A.Javad, A.Shaig, A. Abid, J.Mammadguluzadeh, U.Hajibeyli, S.Huseyn, J.Jabbarli, Taghi Shahbazi (Simurg), Y.V.Chemenzemimli, F.B.Kocherli, Im Gulsum and I.Ashurbeyli's best literary-artistic, scientific-publicists, philosophical and historical works dedicated directly to the independence of Azerbaijan, the national state, the flag and coat of arms, the ideal of Turkism, Islamic, and universal values were written in these years.¹⁶¹

Y.Garayev points out that the content of artistic works in this period was centered around several main themes: "The praise of the colors of the flag, the ideal of Turkism, Islam, and modernity, the glorification of Turkish and Islamic history, the support of the first independent, sovereign nation-state in the modern model, the expression and confirmation of the ideology of national statehood, the artistic guarantee of the army's military successes, the conflict with Armenians, brutal killing of the population in Azerbaijan, looting of territories, burning of material and historical monuments, centers of science and culture, the events of March 18-31, glorifying and commemorating the Turkish past of the nation and pages of martyrdom and heroism in Islamic history, from the black fog approaching from the north and the expression of excitement and anxiety arising from the threat of the homeland."¹⁶²

Researchers explained a strong interest in the history of culture, especially in the history of literature, with realizing the necessity of studying and promoting national culture due to independence.

During the period of the ADR, the strong interaction between culture and the state, cultural and moral values, and statehood connected with the transformation of national culture into a decisive factor in the formation of independence

consciousness. N.Alekbarova writes on this occasion: "The awakening of the national culture became a phenomenon that prepared, formed and directed the independence consciousness" and the independence movement. The idea of Azerbaijanism was born in culture, in fiction, which is a part of it and was implemented and realized in state building. At the fateful stage of the nation's development, the cultural paradigm, having a massive creative force, determined the principles of the state structure and the historical regularities of the formation of the Democratic Republic. The national culture contained the leading-phenomenal, existential power, vital energy in constructing, developing, and strengthening the eternal traditions of our independence as a philosophical-aesthetic beginning, a theoretical basis. In those years, he prepared the renaissance of culture and gave it a strong impetus. The perfect examples of culture, the artistic and literary heritage as a whole, created in that period, remain an example for us even now."¹⁶³

M.A.Rasulzadeh, A.Huseynzadeh, and A.Aghaoglu, the leaders and ideologues of ADR, attached importance to national-spiritual traditions and cultural heritage concerning culture. A.Huseynzadeh distinguished the era of bright heroism, faith, and religion and the era of modern science, knowledge, and culture in the history of Turks. "This will be the era of the mind of a living, viable, and resilient nation."¹⁶⁴

A. Aghaoglu shows that three trends have emerged concerning European culture and national culture:

- Extreme progressives;
- Extreme conservatives;
- The new pan-Islamists.

According to the first trend, "the whole structure of life should be taken from Europe and changed according to it." That

is, European culture should be adopted, and cultural heritage and historical inheritance should be put to an end.

It can be similar to cutting and drying the fruit-bearing tree before the gardener, who created it with suffering, oppression, and humiliation, and then waiting for its fruit!

According to the second trend, "deviating from the old, weakening of ancient wills, immorality, and doubting the instruction of religion is the only cause of all the "catastrophes" of Muslims." They rejected European culture and accepted only national-spiritual and religious traditions and values.

The new pan-Islamists advised "transferring and planting the values of the European culture to the Muslim soil with reasonable caution." They were far from extremism.

A.Aghaoglu saw the development of Turkey and Azerbaijan as a republic based on liberal principles: "The only way for the Turkish nation to acquire Western culture is to sincerely accept the principle of free initiative that created this culture."¹⁶⁵

M.A. Rasulzade gave priority to cultural traditions both when he was in power and when he was in exile. In his work entitled "Cultural Traditions of Azerbaijan," he tried not to forget his predecessors, to learn from them, to become more cultured: "If the new generation of a nation is less cultured and less experienced than the old one, the existence and independence of that nation may be threatened."¹⁶⁶

With the establishment of Soviet power in Azerbaijan in 1920, the attitude towards national culture and national-moral values also changed. The Cultural Revolution ensured the monopoly of communist ideology in all spheres of culture.

Communist ideology tried to create a nihilistic attitude towards cultural heritage to alienate the people from their historical roots and national-cultural values.

Under the Soviet concept of a national issue and national policy, the unique features of lifestyle and culture were formed, and historical memory was subject to strict censorship. As a result, the Turkish and Islamic components were suppressed from the national consciousness and underwent a deep deformation. With this, the ethnic potential of the culture decreased. A surprising ability to preserve its history and adapt to the complex political and socio-economic conditions of Soviet society emerged in the states of isolation from the Islamic-Turkish world and Azerbaijan's traditional values due to the ruthlessness of political repression. Islamic and Turkish components of the culture, subjected to various prohibitions, became essential symbols as a defensive reaction. These symbols revived the national feelings of Azerbaijanis.

The main goal of converging national cultures and internationalism meant neglecting nationality, moving away from national traditions, and rejecting historical inheritance.

Academician A.Dashdamirov valued the superiority of Azerbaijan's loyalty as the main event in the history of national consciousness during the Soviet era. A new Azerbaijani culture characterized by new national ideologues, symbols, and myths was formed in "new historical conditions based on this event." This culture was created by U.Hajibeyov, F.Amirov, G. Garayev, J. Jabbarli, H. Javid, S.Vurgun, M.Ibrahimov, R.Rza, M.Rahim, Y.Mammadaliyev, H.Huseynov, Bulbul and it is closely related to the names of other prominent figures of science, culture, literature, and art. They created the culture of the Soviet era based on rich folk music and folklore, cultural history, and spiritual and aesthetic traditions. Probably, during this timeframe when this culture was not free from the ideological and political conjuncture of the specific period, the form and

core of the spiritual and spiritual existence of the Azerbaijani people were formed by its ethno-cultural self-determination."¹⁶⁷

Heydar Aliyev, the genius who came to power in such complex historical conditions, took care of the rise of culture and cultural heritage.

American researcher T. Svyatkovski shows that Heydar Aliyev paid attention to the interaction of three current trends to change the cultural landscape of Azerbaijan in the 1960s and 1970s: "One of these trends was manifested in the rapid development of urbanization, especially the population of Baku, and the second trend was manifested in the formation of reserve forces for the slowly reviving intelligentsia. The development in both directions coincided with the strengthening of bilingualism, which was the essence of the third trend."¹⁶⁸

Heydar Aliyev was able to turn Azerbaijani culture into one of the attributes of statehood. Azerbaijan's culture, which has an ancient history based on national-spiritual traditions and values, entered its high development stage in the second half of the 20th century- during the leadership of Heydar Aliyev. One of the main reasons for this is Heydar Aliyev's concern for culture, cultural heritage, and Azerbaijan's state concern. Heydar Aliyev was invaluable in preserving, developing, and gaining world fame for our cultural heritage. During the period of H.Aliyev, multifaceted Azerbaijan began to undergo a period of cultural renaissance.

One of the integral components of Heydar Aliyev's cultural policy was the educational policy of the ADR as a means of ensuring the continuous, historical succession of the national personnel policy. Even in the Soviet era, the Leader adopted numerous decrees on education. The action of the great Leader had several unique features. The measures implemented in the field of education show that he is a great educator and a

strategist in training national human capital.”¹⁶⁹

M. Gasimli specifies the policy of Heydar Aliyev in education during the Soviet period as follows:

- Azerbaijan nationalized the staff of the education system by hiring local personnel;
- He built schools all over the Republic, especially in rural areas;
- He took care of the teachers;
- He expanded the teachers' appointment system and gave housing rent and other concessions to the teachers working in rural areas;
- Young people were admitted to higher schools without competition to provide rural areas with needed specialists;
- He increased the number of higher education institutions, strengthened their material and technical base;
- Efforts were made to establish the connection of Azerbaijani education with the educational system of the advanced countries.¹⁷⁰

The Great Leader, Heydar Aliyev, paid particular attention to the development of higher education in Azerbaijan, expanded its network, increased the number of students, and constantly cared for teachers. Only 13 higher education institutions were operating in the Republic when Heydar Aliyev came to power. However, he believed that the number of higher schools needed to meet the growing demand of the population of Azerbaijan. Therefore, the head of Azerbaijan paid particular attention to establishing the new higher education institutions. Thanks to his determination, in 1980, the number of higher education institutions increased to 17: The Institute of Russian Language

and Literature and the Institute of Civil Engineers were opened in Nakhchivan and Khankendi. In 1976-1980, 23 new faculties and 72 new departments were created in higher education institutions. In 1980, 75 vocational schools trained specialists in more than 140 specialties. "If in previous years, Azerbaijan lagged behind the neighboring republics, thanks to H. Aliyev, Azerbaijan left behind both neighboring and the Eastern countries in terms of the level and scale of the training of personnel with higher and secondary education. 172 out of every 10 thousand people were students. However, Heydar Aliyev wanted more from the current progress and continued working on opening new higher education institutions. The Institute of Technology, the 18th higher school in Azerbaijan, was opened in 1981 due to his efforts. The establishment of this institute made possible to train professionals in new disciplines."¹⁷¹

In general, during the rule of Heydar Aliyev, five new higher education institutions were opened in Azerbaijan, their material and technical base was strengthened, and new dormitories were built. All this helped to increase the quality of education in Azerbaijan. Thus, for the first time during the Soviet period, Azerbaijan became an advanced educational center in the South Caucasus.

Heydar Aliyev paid particular attention to Baku State University, Azerbaijan's first higher education institution. He tried to have more girls among the students. He focused on increasing the number of scientists. It should be noted that out of 1412 people who graduated from Azerbaijan State University in 1920, only 259 people were Azerbaijanis, including 40 women. Four hundred seventy-nine people graduated from the University in 1939-1941. The number of university scientists also increased constantly. In 1938-1940, 1 doctorate and 39

candidate's theses were defended in the University's scientific council. In 1941-1945, 13 people, including 8 Azerbaijanis, supported doctorates, and 118 people, including 68 Azerbaijanis, defended the candidate's theses. After 1945, the number of university graduates was 21,928. Compared with the previous 25 years, the number of people with higher education was 8.3 times more during 1946-1969. In the 70s, approximately 75% of the University's students were Azerbaijani boys and girls.

It should be noted that the National Leader highly appreciated the activities of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, which founded the first higher education institution of Azerbaijan, Baku State University, and played a unique role in the realization of Azerbaijan's ideals of independence. The Great Leader made an objective, historical assessment of the events at the beginning of the 20th century precisely from the context of solid statesmanship and political foresight, and justice.

Particular attention should be paid to the historical succession between the educational policy of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic and the educational policy of our National Leader, Heydar Aliyev. The newly formed Azerbaijan Democratic Republic needed qualified national personnel to participate in public administration and social processes. Over 100 students were sent from Azerbaijan to higher education institutions in foreign countries during the Republic period. Twenty-three of these students were sent to Italy, 45 to France, 2 to Germany, 10 to England, 9 to Turkey, and 12 to various higher educational institutions of the fallen Russian Empire (Moscow, Kyiv, Don, Kharkov and other cities).

In the early years of the Great Leader Heydar Aliyev's leadership of Azerbaijan, especially in the 80s of the last century, teaching and professional development activities of our students

in the leading educational institutions of the former union were the continuations of the traditions of the Republic at a new stage. Heydar Aliyev characterized this period as follows: "After I was elected as the head of Azerbaijan on June 14, 1969, education was my priority. At that time, I believed the time came when Azerbaijan needed these specialists. The time will come when Azerbaijan finally becomes independent, and these specialists will ensure the independence of Azerbaijan.

That time has come. Azerbaijan is already living in the 7th year of its state independence. The state independence of Azerbaijan strengthened, and the process of legal, democratic, and secular state-building developed over the last five years. Azerbaijan is following the path of democracy and a market economy. Azerbaijan has taken a worthy place in the world community. Azerbaijan's respect on the world scale has increased, our country has been recognized, and Azerbaijan will continue on the path of independence."¹⁷²

Heydar Aliyev noted that when the first democratic republic was established in Azerbaijan in 1918, most of its founders, especially Fatali Khan Khoyski and Alimardan Bey Topchubashov, studied in Moscow and St. Petersburg—in addition to Azerbaijanis, the first democratic Republic included representatives of other nations - Russians, Poles, and Jews because there was a need for highly educated specialists in specific fields.

In 1919, Baku State University, the first institution of higher education in Azerbaijan, was established. The composition of professors and other academic staff was approved at the first meeting of the University Council on November 10, 1919. Saturday, November 15, 1919, was the first school day at the university. The university's first rector, professor Vasili

Ivanovich Razumovski, later wrote about the importance of establishing this educational center: "Azerbaijan created its academic center. A new bright page was written in the history of the Turkish people. A new torch was lit at the junction of Europe and Asia. We can consider ourselves lucky as witnesses of this significant historical event."

Baku State University laid the foundation for creating other higher education institutions in Azerbaijan—afterward, several higher education institutions as enablers of the developing needed specialists.

Celebrating the anniversaries of higher schools also occupied one of the main places in Heydar Aliyev's activities. In this regard, he paid special attention to organizing jubilee events at Baku State University, which played a notable role in developing Azerbaijan's science, education, and culture. Professor Abuzar Khalafov stated: "The 50th anniversary of Baku State University was a celebration of our people, science, and education. This event is honorable for the university's thousands of employees because the chairman of the jubilee commission was Heydar Aliyev, a world-famous university graduate, the university's success story, the first secretary of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan. To put it figuratively, it was a masterpiece of the university. No second graduate raised the university, the Azerbaijani people, and the Azerbaijani state higher in the international world than Heydar Aliyev. In his works and speeches, Heydar Aliyev has repeatedly emphasized being proud of graduating from Baku State University. He highly appreciated the great role of the university environment and atmosphere in his formation as a strong personality, prominent statesman, and great intellectual, as well as in his acquisition of national and moral values."¹⁷³

Heydar Aliyev, as the chairman of the jubilee commission, directly led the preparation of the events, received the guests who came to participate in the jubilee, and provided extensive information about the university's services in the development of Azerbaijani science, education, and culture, created conditions for holding the jubilee events at a higher level. Heydar Aliyev, while opening the solemn jubilee meeting, in his brilliant speech, praised the great and challenging, turbulent path of development and progress of the university and the excellent services of the university in the development of Azerbaijani science, education, and culture, and said: "The university in Baku was established during the difficult days of the life of the Azerbaijani people when the civil war was raging in the country. However, this situation could not prevent the initiatives to establish a university. The establishment of the Azerbaijan University was the victory of the progressive forces, the result of the struggle of the best sons of Azerbaijan for many years to educate the native people and to open the doors of world culture and science treasures to them... We are grateful to these or other outstanding sons of the Azerbaijani people for protecting the public opinion of the Azerbaijani people, the torch of science and culture like the apple of their eye in the dark, reactionary, and arbitrary conditions."

These thoughts were the great appreciation of Heydar Aliyev to Azerbaijan's educators, intellectuals, and the figures of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic who made great sacrifices in establishing Baku State University. "With these words, Heydar Aliyev openly expressed his deep respect for the independence of Azerbaijan and the forces fighting for it, as well as public figures of the People's Republic. It should not be overlooked that Heydar Aliyev unhesitatingly expressed these views as the

Leader of the Communist Party, which considered the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic an enemy and tried to remove that period from memories. At that time, some thought H. Aliyev could not speak his mother tongue, Azerbaijani. However, his speech became a natural sensation in Azerbaijani society. Some even approached him to congratulate him and express gratitude for speaking in his mother tongue. H. Aliyev's speech in his mother tongue was a great event for people who love their mother tongue and live with a national spirit. Furthermore, he said in his conversation with those people that there is no need to be surprised. This language is my mother tongue, and speaking in the mother tongue is not heroic. Nevertheless, in the conditions of the Soviet system, the speech of the head of the Republic in his native language and in a high national spirit could have several undesirable consequences for him and the leadership. With this speech, H. Aliyev recommended the importance of loving and developing the mother tongue and evaluated its role in developing national traditions. H. Aliyev used to say: "The best traditions of the Azerbaijani people were developed at the Azerbaijan State University." He highly appreciated that the University played a unique role in developing the Azerbaijani language, the national spirit of the people, the national consciousness, and the feelings of patriotism."¹⁷⁴

Another researcher I. Huseynova mentions that education, science, culture, and raising the intellectual level of the people as a whole is one of the superior directions of the leadership activity of Heydar Aliyev: "In fact, the national renaissance of the last 33 years of our history closely related to the rise in the education level of the people, the creation of fundamental science, and the creation of national culture, all of which were possible as a result of the education system and its practical use.

Heydar Aliyev's successful policy in education, science, and culture, implemented with great foresight in the 1970s and 1980s of the last century, shows results in the height of the rich intellectual potential, which is the national wealth of independent Azerbaijan and bears its fruits. If rich networks of educational institutions had not been established in those years under the initiative and leadership of Heydar Aliyev, if their solid material and technical base had not been established, if highly qualified specialists, especially national military personnel, had not been prepared for Azerbaijan outside the Republic, if the development of fundamental science had not been ensured in scientific research institutions, today, Azerbaijan could not have great science, national education system, and rich culture that meets modern civilization."¹⁷⁵

Great leader Heydar Aliyev, who intensely studied all the social-political, cultural-spiritual experience and historical heritage before him and applied it to the reality of Azerbaijan according to the conditions, considered education to be one of the most vital factors in national progress: "How valuable the education system is can be seen from the fact that people with high education, knowledge, qualifications and high science in Azerbaijan make up most of the society. With them, the economy and science of Azerbaijan could develop more strongly, and we managed to govern Azerbaijan as an independent state. We should appreciate them and never forget the achievements gained for decades."¹⁷⁶

Looking at the world as a "cultural world," "intellectual world," and "world of scientific and technical progress," Heydar Aliyev actively supported Azerbaijani science during the Soviet period:

- He increased the number of scientific research institutes and scientific workers;

- He made efforts to promote Azerbaijani science in the country and the world;
- Prominent scientists were honored with various orders, medals, and awards of the state;
- He encouraged the expansion of studies on the history, language, and literature of Azerbaijan;
- He protected scientists with a national spirit, protecting them from persecution and pressure and creating creative conditions.¹⁷⁷

If the Great Leader ensured the enrichment of the national consciousness with these practical works, which indicated the complex solution to the issues, he had to fulfill his sacred duty to enrich the moral values of our people.

Heydar Aliyev appreciated, loved, and valued the historical roots of culture: "The roots of the ancient culture and scientific thinking of the Azerbaijani people go back to the depths of its history. For many centuries, the people of Azerbaijan have created a rich, multifaceted, and original culture embodying the highest achievements of Eastern literature and art, philosophy, and science of different eras. From the earliest times, medicine, astronomy, mathematics, geography, history, philosophy, literature, musical culture, and decorative arts, fine arts have been developed, and beautiful architectural buildings have been created."¹⁷⁸ Thus, Heydar Aliyev attached equal importance to the historical heritage of material and spiritual culture.

Heydar Aliyev paid particular attention to the development of science. At that time, talented and promising scientists were sent to experiment in developed countries' scientific centers. The significance and number of inventions and discoveries of Azerbaijani scientists have increased.

Heydar Aliyev celebrated Tusi's 780th anniversary and M. Kazimbay's 180th anniversary.

Heydar Aliyev respected the people's historical memory: "All this is history that cannot be changed. All should be treated with respect and dignity. Therefore, the history of the Azerbaijani people, the Republic of Azerbaijan, including its science and education in the 20th century, is worthy of great respect and reverence. We must remember every page of this history with respect and reverence. We must bow before this history in front of all the people who created and lived in the Republic of Azerbaijan and brought the science and education of Azerbaijan to this level."

Heydar Aliyev also approached the classic literary and cultural heritage from the position of national fanaticism and patriotism. From 1969 until the end of his life, Heydar Aliyev constantly worked for the study, promotion, publication, and recognition of classical literary and cultural heritage.

Heydar Aliyev always kept in mind that the literary and cultural heritage of thinkers, creators of centuries-old Azerbaijani culture, is of exceptional value: the famous philosopher Bahmanyar, the contemplative poet Nizami, the mathematician-astronomer Nasireddin Tusi, the genius lyric poet Fuzuli, the great scientist of the Middle Ages Rashideddin, the rebellious poet Nasimi, the historian Abbasgulu Agha Bakikhanov, realist writer M.F. Akhundov, prominent satirists M.A.Sabir, J.Mammadguluzade and many others are the prominent representatives of the centuries-old history of this culture. We are grateful to these or other notable sons of the Azerbaijani people for protecting the public opinion, the torch of science and culture of the Azerbaijani people as the "apple of our eye" in the dark reaction and arbitrariness.

- During Heydar Aliyev's rule in the Soviet era:
- The creators of the classical literary and cultural heritage received their objective, proper values;
- They presented to the world as representatives of Azerbaijani culture;
- Their works, creations, ideals, and ideas in their works became the spiritual treasure of their native people and proved to be an invaluable contribution to world culture;
- Their monuments erected, house museums created, multi volumes and academic publications prepared, their works translated into world languages, and their lives and creativity were comprehensively and widely studied;
- In 1979, genius Heydar Aliyev made a historic decision "On improvement of further study, publication, and promotion of the heritage of the great poet and thinker of Azerbaijan, Nizami Ganjavi";
- In 1981, he adopted the second historical document on the 840th anniversary of the birth of N. Ganjavi;
- In 1973, under the leadership of Heydar Aliyev, the 600th anniversary of philosopher-poet thinker I. Nasimi was held.

In the seventies, the humanitarian direction, which had a special place in the policy implemented by Heydar Aliyev as a wise and far-sighted leader in Azerbaijan, attracted particular attention. His sensitive and caring attitude towards our people's historical past, mother tongue, and national-spiritual wealth gave a solid impetus to studying and preserving this field. Starting from the mentioned years, the strengthening of the national spirit, the ideas of patriotism, and Azerbaijanism created a noticeable fluctuation. This initial movement carried out under

the leadership of Heydar Aliyev, laid the foundation for a long-term struggle, which mobilized Azerbaijani intellectuals and then the entire nation around strategic goals."¹⁷⁹

The 1970s of the last century can be considered the renaissance period of the return of the national spirit and the nation to itself in Azerbaijan. The very delicate and intelligent work carried out by the leadership of that time gradually began to bear fruit in the field of people's self-confidence, respect for cultural heritage, and the nation's understanding of itself as a nation.

Heydar Aliyev carried out multifaceted, multi-manuevered activities in order to preserve the historical succession in the cultural heritage: sometimes he paid particular attention to the development of culture, cultural and spiritual resources, sometimes made efforts for its enrichment, recognition in the former USSR and the world, he also tried to transform Azerbaijani culture into the common culture of all ethnic groups living in this area. As a result, "Azerbaijani culture became a commonwealth by closely connecting everyone."

Heydar Aliyev was considered "the greatest cultural nationalist among the communist leaders of the Soviet era of Azerbaijan" due to his great activity in the direction of developing culture "because he encouraged to research and reveal the history, law, economic life, social structure, the world of faith, poet, literature, and music of the Azerbaijani people and created the most favorable conditions for them."¹⁸⁰

Heydar Aliyev was both the head of the Communist Party and a national leader, a cultural nationalist under the conditions of Marxism-Leninism ideology, which realized the process of creating a unified Soviet nation. Unlike the communist ideology, which aims to eliminate the differences between nations,

“Heydar Aliyev carried out his function of founder, developer, and enricher systematically and decisively.”¹⁸¹

Heydar Aliyev highlighted the need for a deep and comprehensive study of written and folklore monuments related to the ancient history and genealogy of the Azerbaijani people, thereby confirming that he was a statesman with a national spirit under the conditions of the communist regime: “Azerbaijani literature is rich with literary monuments such as “Kitabi-Dede Gorgud,” the great creativity of Nizami, the ingenious works of Khagani and Nasimi, Fuzuli and Vagif, the art of words, and living examples of Ashig poetry.”¹⁸²

A revival has begun in the field of research and promotion of “Kitabi Dede-Gorgud,” which was banned for a long time and forced to be erased from consciousness.

During the Soviet regime, Heydar Aliyev:

- Protects creative intellectuals;
- Encourages people to write works about the historical past and the present day;
- He carried out extensive research and promotion of the lives and works of the classics, and perpetuated their names.

Based on the general conclusions of the detailed research conducted by all the researchers, we can note that Azerbaijani literature was never covered with such care as it was in the 70s and 80s during its entire Soviet history. They consider this period “years of recognition, rise, and progress of Azerbaijani literature (and culture as a whole) in the country and the world.” “Romans, poems, and dramatic works related to the historical past of the Azerbaijani people were created and translated into various languages.”

Bringing nationalistic propaganda to literature, public and political environment quietly and carefully, strengthening the national spirit and feelings, was one of Heydar Aliyev's historical services to the people.

The actions implemented by Heydar Aliyev played a vital role in the life of the people. They occupied one of the main places in creating independence's moral and cultural foundations.¹⁸³

During the first years of Heydar Aliyev's rule:

- Azerbaijani art entered the stage of progress;
- Azerbaijani music, theater, cinema, painting, architecture, radio-television, and theater developed;
- The anniversaries of U.Hajibeyov, M.Magomayev, A.Badalbeyli, A. Zeynalli, and other art masters were held;
- G.Garayev, R.Behbudova, Z.Khanlarova, Tofiq Guliyev, S.Alasgarova, and others were awarded high prizes at the level of the USSR;
- He took special care of theater and film actors;
- He created favorable conditions for the creation of works of art related to our historical past;
- He strengthened the national feelings and national self-awareness of the Azerbaijani people;
- He highly valued the musical heritage of the Azerbaijani people - the music created by the people over centuries and millennia handed down from generation to generation.

Heydar Aliyev also performed great activities in protecting historical and cultural values and historical monuments.

Even during the Soviet era, Heydar Aliyev, who dedicatedly worked to restore spiritual memory, declared the architectural complexes of Icherishehir, Shusha, Ordubad, and Ganja as preserves.

- Organized the strict protection of the world-important Gobustan, Sheki Khan palaces, Maiden Tower, and other historical and cultural monuments inherited from our great-grandfathers and our recent past;
- The work of collecting and preserving historical and cultural samples in all parts of Azerbaijan was improved;
- The protection of the Azikh cave, one of the oldest human settlements in the world, and the Albanian temples was strengthened;
- Historical monuments in Beylagan, Shamakhi, Nakhchivan, and Shamkir, Karabaglar tomb, the 16th-century minaret in Barda, the 14th-century mausoleum in Aghdam, Khanegah complex in Salyan region, Ateshgah, etc. historical monuments were restored;
- The state protected more than 200 historical monuments;
- Promotion of historical monuments in mass media was strengthened;
- Attention was paid to the study, research, and archaeological excavations of historical monuments;
- Attention was paid to the study and promotion of the heritage of Azerbaijani architects;
- A decision was made to improve further the protection, restoration, and use of urban, architectural, and archaeological monuments;
- Collections and booklets were printed for the promotion of cultural heritage and historical monuments;
- Created the museums of history and geography;
- Statues of N. Narimanov erected in Baku and Ulyanovsk;
- Restored historical names;
- Archive funds were enriched, and protection was strengthened;

- Special care was given to protect Islamic values and restore national-spiritual values and mosques;
- Intellectuals were given particular importance and role in moral education;
- Strengthened the role of spiritual, moral, pure, sublime factors in society;
- Expanded the network of cultural and educational institutions was expanded;
- People started to celebrate Kurban (Sacrifice), Ramadan (Fasting), Nowruz holidays.

Heydar Aliyev, who took care of national ceremonies, was a communist political leader. At a time when the communist regime was “cutting the head with cotton,” it was impossible for the communist regime to ignore the nativity of the political leader’s national meetings. Nevertheless, Heydar Aliyev was turning things around with his political skills, which did not cause any doubts. Our people, who were subjected to the repression of Soviet Bolshevism, or more precisely, genocide, should not have experienced these bitter days again. Heydar Aliyev, who made this idea pure and rotten in his thinking, shielded the power of his intelligence from our country. With this action, our Great Leader had to take skillful steps by concluding the events that happened to our country in 1957 and related to our language. With his skillful steps, even with many difficulties, he defeated the tricksters in a totalitarian institution like the Political Bureau of the CPSU.

While Heydar Aliyev’s ruling, the Azerbaijani people’s attachment to their national roots, historical past, and national-spiritual values strengthened. As a result, it developed in interaction with the Azerbaijani people’s culture, science,

education, and national-spiritual values." Under the conditions of the Soviet system, Azerbaijan became a republic that enriched national, secular, and ancient culture. As a result of Heydar Aliyev's exceptional attention to the historical and cultural heritage, the people's self-confidence increased, and the thoughts of independence strengthened. All this was, without a doubt, an essential activity of great historical significance in establishing the moral foundations of the future independence of Azerbaijan."¹⁸⁴

President Heydar Aliyev's response to the deniers and ignorant people and those who do not consider the period from Nariman Narimanov to the present day as history was: History should never be forgotten. The nation cannot be considered a nation without a history. Erasing a part of the nation's history and exaggerating the other part is a betrayal of the nation."

The Azerbaijani philosopher G.Aliyev shows that the national self-consciousness of every person is included in the phenomenon of history-memory, "where the formation of the basis of mentality is reflected in the form of synthesis, culture and tradition, language, lifestyle, and religion."¹⁸⁵

Heydar Aliyev implied that the main subject of our national history, national self-awareness, is the problem of historical memory and characterized the betrayal of historical memory as denying national existence.

Therefore, when studying the Soviet era, objective researchers draw attention to the positive and negative aspects, especially the large-scale Heydar works and successes accomplished thanks to the actions of Heydar Aliyev.

Academician A.Dashdamirov emphasizes that even though the command-administrative system put pressure on the manifestations of national freedom and suppressed national

characteristics and traditions in culture during the Soviet era, the broad tasks closely related to the historical processes that entered the history of the homeland, such as “industrialization” and “cultural revolution” were solved in the context of the political liberalization of the USSR, in the field of ethno-political and ethnological (and ethno-cultural) development of Azerbaijan.

- The ethnic basis of the Azerbaijani nation was strengthened, and the local sub-ethnic disunity was eliminated;
- A single literary language of Azerbaijan, distinguished by its unique ethnolinguistic individuality, was established;
- Mass literacy of the population was achieved, general secondary education was implemented, collection and distribution of ethno-cultural information and ethno-historical knowledge in the Azerbaijani language was ensured;
- Broad mass information and communication networks were created, which provided access to relevant ethnic information for national ideologues that formed and helped ethnic and national consciousness.¹⁸⁶

Thanks to Heydar Aliyev’s visionary policy, a new professional national culture was created in Azerbaijan during the Soviet period. This culture reflected the ideas about the unity of the Azerbaijani nation, the social consciousness freed from the religious veil, the sense of statehood, the language, and the arguments about the uniqueness of its national culture and history. This process was the foundational factor for the transition stage to a culture infused with national consciousness and national spirit, removing the blows of socialist ideology

in the historical memory concerning cultural activity, cultural heritage, and historical heritage. In addition, it is necessary to mention the decrees issued by the Great Leader in 2000 on "Protection of national moral values" and "Azerbaijani language as a mother tongue in our independent country" as the most outstanding services to our people. It is no coincidence that he has demonstrated the skill of a triumphant complex approach toward solving these issues.

"A great force that cuts better than a sword in Turan is culture, culture, culture!" - said an influential and thoughtful poet like Huseyn Javid, who called our people to keep alive the culture hidden in their souls and blood with all its purity by bringing into consideration the historical strength, value, and importance of our national culture.

The practical significance of Heydar Aliyev's theoretical heritage in protecting rights and freedoms of citizens

Heydar Aliyev's theoretical-philosophical heritage was reflected not in special philosophical treatises but in his speeches, statements, letters, and interviews with various mass media during his political activities at various state events, meetings, scientific-practical, political, and social assemblies, and gatherings.

In Heydar Aliyev's theoretical-philosophical legacy, providing the rights and freedoms of the citizens of Azerbaijan was one of the leading issues in the new fourth Constitution of independent Azerbaijan.

It is known that the meaning of the Constitution, which is the irreplaceable law of the state, is derived from the Latin word “constitution,” which means “establishment.” The Constitution, the official symbol of the state, defines the state structure of the country, the system of state bodies and the rules for their creation, and citizens’ fundamental rights and duties.

Unlike the current legislative acts, the Constitution reflects the most durable social provisions of the society intended for the long term. All other laws adopted in the country must follow the Constitution without any exception, and the Constitution is considered the only authoritative legal source for other laws. The state’s laws and legal acts are prepared and formalized based on the Constitution. These acts are usually provided in the Constitution, and they often reveal the content of individual provisions of the Constitution and specify them. Any legal actions inconsistent with the principles and conditions of the Constitution are considered illegal.

The establishment of the ADR was the first republic-type democratic state in the East. However, although the ADR adopted the “Declaration of Independence of Azerbaijan,” it could not adopt its own Constitution. In the “Declaration,” Azerbaijan, consisting of the South-Eastern Transcaucasia, announced the establishment of a state as a complete, independent, people’s republic.

This Agreement emphasizes the protection of legal equality and freedom of all citizens:

1. Azerbaijan Democratic Republic renders political rights to all its citizens living within its boundaries regardless of religious, ethnic, gender, and linguistic affiliations;
2. It leaves a vast space for independent development for the ethnic groups living within the territory of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.¹⁸⁷

Due to social and political changes, the Azerbaijani people lost their independence and national freedom, and the Azerbaijan SSR replaced the ADR. In the early days, the Azerbaijan SSR functioned as the federal state of our people. The first Constitution of the Azerbaijan SSR was adopted at the First All-Azerbaijan Congress of the Soviets. Due to the incorporation of the Azerbaijan SSR into the Soviet Union, its Constitution lost its importance. It became the fundamental laws of the national-administrative territory of a superpower like the Soviet Union, which has extensive internal self-government rights. In this regard, changes were made to its Constitution in 1925, 1927, 1931, and 1935. On March 14, 1937, the III Constitution of the Azerbaijan SSR was adopted at the session of the Supreme Soviet of the Azerbaijan SSR at the extraordinary IX All-Azerbaijan Congress of the Soviets. These constitutions were not considered the constitutions of an independent state.

The preparation and adoption of the III Constitution of the Azerbaijan SSR in 1978 and the adoption of the current IV Constitution and several laws, fateful to our people, required great courage at that time and are associated with the name of Heydar Aliyev.

During the second period of power, Heydar Aliyev strengthened the statehood of the Republic of Azerbaijan, stabilized the social and political situation, and created an opportunity to adopt the supreme law of our country - the Constitution. "This Constitution is the logical result of the historical path of our people. Our nation has a great history. In the 20th century, our history has come a long way, and our Constitutional experience is also on the way. The recently adopted Constitution of Azerbaijan is its fourth Constitution. The first Constitution was adopted in 1921, the second in 1937,

the third in 1978, and finally, on November 12, 1995, the fourth was adopted through a national vote referendum."¹⁸⁸

"In connection with the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, the people of Azerbaijan restored their state independence. On October 18, 1991, the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Azerbaijan adopted the Constitutional Act on State Independence. On December 29, 1991, the Constitutional Act was approved through a national vote and a referendum.

This Act created the legal basis for ensuring the state independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and our country declared its state independence to the whole world."¹⁸⁹

After adopting the Declaration of Independence in Azerbaijan, despite establishing a commission on adopting a new Constitution twice, the Constitution still needs to be adopted. After adopting the first national Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan in 1978, which embarked on the path of independent development, the creation process began only after the election of the respected Heydar Aliyev as the country's President. Under his chairmanship, a 35-member commission was organized to draft a new Constitution, and outstanding creative work began.

During that period, eight meetings of the commission were held. In one of these meetings, our honorable President directed the commission's work to a higher level with his program speeches. In these speeches, global problems of the main principles and provisions of the new draft Constitution were explained, and its main directions were defined.

The draft of the new Constitution consisted of 199 articles. There were repeated items with the same meaning in the project. "These shortcomings were eliminated during the subsequent discussions thanks to the intervention of Heydar Aliyev, his

deep intelligence and wisdom, and the final version was adopted with 158 articles (Introduction, five sections, 12 chapters, 158 articles, and transitional articles).

Typically, our respected President did not simply lead this process, but as a commission member, he worked carefully and repeatedly on each article, sentence, and word. Therefore, our people consider Mr. Heydar Aliyev the creator and founder of our first national Constitution and call it the Heydar Aliyev Constitution."¹⁹⁰

Heydar Aliyev characterized the principle of hard work so that the commission worked for more than six months. During these six months, we worked step by step, day by day, prepared the draft Constitution of the independent Republic of Azerbaijan, and were able to present it to the people. He said, "As the constitutional commission chairman, I spent much time preparing this great historical document. I have the right to say that I worked hard. I have repeatedly researched the meaning of every word and word and analyzed how valid it is for today and the future. With great relief, I declare today that I am fully responsible for this project. I think we have created a massive political and legal document for today and the future of Azerbaijan."¹⁹¹

Heydar Aliyev praised the Constitution and said about its political-philosophical essence: "First of all, the Constitution should reflect the relations between the state and the government and the people."¹⁹²

The great personality, who paid particular attention to learning from the experience of the peoples of the world and using universal values, taking into account the national and spiritual traditions, taught that "to create a constitution, we must certainly look at our historical past, but at the same time, we

should take into account universal values and the achievements of the democratic states of the world. We must use it, and we must benefit from it.”¹⁹³

This idea of the Great Leader promoted civilization at a high level in our independent country with civilized states. Above all, he pointed out that laws based on governance can be aligned with human ideas on a national level. If the laws and legal acts are accepted in the state with sanctity, it can be considered a confirmation of a culture of high consciousness in that state. Cases of high consciousness, accurate thinking, and conclusion also confirm the factor of national culture. Based on this idea, Heydar Aliyev recommended it be based on the acts and laws adopted by the world’s most advanced and civilized states.

He defined the new Constitution’s main features: “It reflects Azerbaijan’s historical past, today’s realities, and prospects, and is based on universal and national values.”

B.Akbarov, revealing the encyclopedic essence of Heydar Aliyev’s genius, writes: “During the adoption of the new Constitution, Mr. Heydar Aliyev was not only a world-renowned political figure and a wise head of state, but also a great man in all fields of science, including law, history, and philosophy. He has demonstrated an encyclopedic knowledge that even scientists can envy and learn from. It is the result of this that in a short period, it was possible to write, prepare and pass a national vote referendum on a political document with fundamental democratic principles and a deep national foundation, such as the first National Constitution of the independent Republic of Azerbaijan, which was welcomed all over the world.”¹⁹⁴

Concluding the discussion of the draft of the new Constitution, Heydar Aliyev noted that “now we accept the first Constitution of the independent Republic of Azerbaijan. This

is a very responsible, very honorable position. This has been our destiny, and I believe that we, the present generation, are capable of fulfilling this honorable task with dignity.”¹⁹⁵

The “Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan,” prepared under the chairmanship of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Heydar Aliyev, was adopted in the referendum of the Republic of Azerbaijan held on November 12, 1995, and entered into force on November 27, 1995.

Thus, we can boldly say that the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan was adopted most democratically, in addition to being the Constitution of a Republic that is persistently advancing through democratic, legal, and secular state-building.

Heydar Aliyev calls the new Constitution the “Constitution of the Independent Republic of Azerbaijan,” “People’s Constitution,” and “Native Constitution of every citizen of Azerbaijan.” He expressed his confidence that the new Constitution would strengthen the independence of Azerbaijan, protect the rights and freedoms of people and citizens, establish and develop a democratic and legal state in Azerbaijan. Heydar Aliyev’s scientific-theoretical and philosophical heritage was formed in society and human thinking.

Public events, state policy, management, social issues, state building and national issues, interreligious relations, morality, ethics, spirituality, culture, and fundamental issues occupy an important place in the theoretical and philosophical heritage of Heydar Aliyev.

Professor Z.Garalov notes that Heydar Aliyev confirmed himself as an indispensable political figure and a capable statesman in his political activity in Azerbaijan. The experience he gained during the transitional periods led to the formation of his scientific heritage and the enrichment of universally significant

theoretical and experimental value.¹⁹⁶ His philosophical heritage is distinguished by its secularity and universality.

In Heydar Aliyev's theoretical-philosophical legacy, preventing violation of the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the law, forming a legal state, and creating a civil society based on democratic principles occupy a central place. In Azerbaijani society: the principles of freedom, liberty, human freedom, protection of human rights, and market economy should be established in politics and economy. Among the basic principles of establishing a legal state in Azerbaijan defined by Heydar Aliyev, protection of historical inheritance, development of democracy, political pluralism, the rule of law, freedom, and protection of human rights and freedoms are also important.

Heydar Aliyev knew that raising healthy citizens only in a healthy society is possible. The most extraordinary educator can be a society with a proper and just structure because the role of psychological, political, cultural, and other factors formed by the society in the education of citizens is irreplaceable. Society reflects the soul of the nation.

In the preamble of the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the words: "to guarantee the democratic structure" are used. Those statements cover the tasks that must be performed before the state in forming state power and local self-government bodies based on democratic principles and protecting human and civil rights and freedoms.¹⁹⁷

Democracy also manifests itself as the legal status of a person and a citizen. The level of development of democracy as a political-philosophical category is measured by the extent to which the country's population actively participates in state affairs, the political life of the country, and the extent to which

human and civil rights and freedoms are protected in the country.

Current situation has proven its value throughout history. Citizens with exceptional competence and understanding have contributed their intellectual power to statecraft. It is no coincidence that Heydar Aliyev believed in smart, perfect people. Such an idea became clear to him that a perfect person is recognized, respected, and respected by the successful fruit and result of his holy deeds. Heydar Aliyev, who performed holy deeds in our country with these conditions of perfection, gained the reputation of "Grandfather Heydar!"

Only a state that recognizes the legal principles inherent in a democratic society provides and defends those principles can be considered a legal state. Forming the legal state was not an easy process, and it requires excellent quality changes in social consciousness and psychology.

Heydar Aliyev repeatedly insisted on the strict control of ensuring the rule of law and emphasized the inadmissibility of violating the rule of law. He knew that the protection of the rights and freedoms of citizens by state authorities, including the establishment of civil society, is one of the most important signs of a legal state.

The principle of legality is of particular importance in the legal state-building process. Z.Asgarov, who characterizes the rule of law as a legal regime expressed in the precise and irrevocable observance and implementation of normative legal acts by everyone, shows that it mainly has the contains following:

1. Adoption of laws and other normative legal acts and compliance with them;
2. Enforcement and compliance with laws;
3. Execution of control over the implementation of laws.¹⁹⁸

Using the legal framework and laws reflected in the Constitution, Heydar Aliyev showed the possibility of legal state-building and the organization of civil society and the protection of human rights, which are part of it: "The new Constitution created foundations for the establishment of a democratic legal state and the creation of a democratic civil society in Azerbaijan, and provided guarantees. We must effectively use these guarantees, the legal bases granted by the Constitution, and create a legal, democratic state in our country, to ensure the protection of the rights of citizens and people."¹⁹⁹

As the genius, Heydar Aliyev, mentioned, "For the first time, most of the Constitution of the independent Republic of Azerbaijan, almost a third, is dedicated to protecting human and civil rights and freedoms."

Heydar Aliyev used to say: "We must develop democracy, we must lead our people through democracy, we must create grounds for ensuring the protection of people's rights everywhere and in every field." The newly adopted Constitution provides all these foundations, and we have received all guarantees from the articles of the Constitution."²⁰⁰

Heydar Aliyev used to say that he founded on democratic principles reflected in the works of many philosophers and thinkers in the West in the 18th century, which passed the test of centuries and the experience of developed countries in the field of democracy: "We have adopted this principle as a basis for creating a democratic, legal state, for developing democracy in our republic, and for protecting and ensuring the rights of citizens."

The Constitution reflects the significant duties of the citizens regarding the guarantee of human rights and freedoms. Every citizen has rights, and those rights must be protected. However,

every citizen has a civic duty and responsibility toward his country. These are also reflected in the Constitution.”²⁰¹

In the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan, which is one of the most democratic constitutions in the world, the people of Azerbaijan, continuing their centuries-old traditions of statehood, declared their intentions to the whole world, such as “desiring the prosperity of the entire society for everyone,” “desiring the establishment of justice, freedom, and security.” In addition to achieving state sovereignty, democratic structure, and the establishment of civil society, there are intentions to “build a legal, secular state that ensures the supremacy of laws as an expression of the will of the people” and “ensure the standard of living of all under fair economic and social rules.”

Provisions on the rights and freedoms of citizens are reflected in Articles 24 to 71 of the third chapter, and provisions on the duties and responsibilities of citizens are in the fourth chapter from 72 to 80 of the second section of the Constitution of Azerbaijan.

These articles include the main principles of human and civil rights and freedoms, inviolability, inviolability and indivisibility, the right to equality - equality of all in front of the law, equality of rights of men and women, equality of all ethnic groups, peoples, all strata of society, protection, life, freedom, property, intellectual property, safe living, privacy, housing security, right to marriage, property, right to education, right to recreation, right to social security, right to live in a healthy environment, culture, health protection, right to housing, right to nationality, right to use mother tongue, honor and the right to protection of dignity, freedom of thought and speech, freedom of conscience, freedom of assembly, freedom of information, freedom of creativity, right to citizenship and the guarantee of

the right to citizenship, the right to participate in the political life of society and the state, the right to participate in the governance of the state, the right to vote, to apply and the right of association, free enterprise right, judicial guarantee of rights and freedoms, right to receive legal assistance, non-admissibility of changing jurisdiction, presumption of innocence, rights of foreigners and stateless persons, right to political asylum. Bodies responsible for ensuring and protecting human and civil rights and freedoms are stipulated in Article 71 of the Constitution. Protecting these rights and freedoms is considered the duty of legislative, executive, and judicial authorities.

The Constitution defines citizens' duties:

“Every person has duties before the state and society directly derived from his rights and freedoms. Each person must comply with the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Azerbaijan, respect the rights and freedoms of other persons, perform other duties established by law;

Pay taxes and other government fees specified by law;

He must be loyal to the holy motherland;

Must respect the state symbols of the Republic of Azerbaijan - flag, coat of arms, anthem; We should mention that Ramil Safarov, an officer of independent Azerbaijan, killed an Armenian soldier who disrespected our flag, which is our national attribute. The Armenian soldier paid the price for disrespecting our flag and coat of arms.

Hero of the Soviet Union, academician Ziya Bunyadov was also awarded the high honor of Hero of the Soviet Union for saving the flag of the Soviet Union.

Defense of the homeland is the duty of every citizen;

No one can be forced to fulfill duties contrary to the Constitution or laws of the Republic of Azerbaijan;

Violation of the Constitution and laws, including abuse of the rights provided for in the Constitution and laws or non-fulfillment of duties, leads to liability determined by law."²⁰²

Thus, the freedom and responsibility of people in the Constitution were decided based on the methodology of freedom and necessity. A person's freedom cannot be outside of his responsibility. Responsibility is divided into material and moral and complements freedom.

Sometimes some distinguish between human rights and civil rights, political freedom, and personal freedom. Although political freedom guarantees personal freedom, it cannot replace personal freedom. They claim that civil society ensures human rights.

Both cases include individual rights: in the first case, it is a right to life, freedom, and pursuit of happiness as a separate human being, and in the second, it is about his political rights. It is clear that identity and its right to self-realization act as the main conditions for the existence of either civil society or a legal state. It finds its confirmation in recognition of the right to individual, personal freedom."²⁰³

Russian researcher V.Chicherin notes that "freedom is the source of any right. A right is a freedom and the opportunity to act as defined by law."²⁰⁴ In its formation and confirmation, the rule of law guarantees individual freedom and rights while strengthening the power of nation-states as the protectors of those freedoms and rights. The legal state creates conditions for civil society, its leading organizations, and resources with the help of law.

Equality prevails between personality, society, and state. The state respects the rights of its citizens, and the citizens respect the interests of the state. The mutual relations of people in civil

society are defined and formed not by religious, national, and class ideologies but by humanistic worldview, common sense and kindness, and conscious freedom and responsibility.²⁰⁵

In modern times, the state's role as an important institution of the political system is irreplaceable in ensuring and protecting the rights and freedoms of citizens. The highest duty of the state is to ensure the rights and freedoms of its citizens, and the primary duty of citizens is to comply with the laws of the state. Mutual obligation and responsibility of the state and citizens is one of the main requirements of the legal state and civil society.

Article 12 of the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan states, "Ensuring human and civil rights and freedoms is the supreme issue of the state. Human and civil rights and freedoms listed in this Constitution are applied by the international agreements to which the Republic of Azerbaijan is a party."²⁰⁶

Such assessment of human and civil rights and freedoms demonstrates the intention of the independent state of Azerbaijan created by Heydar Aliyev to follow universal values and see itself among the developed states. Human rights are protected by international law regardless of the country they live in.

Heydar Aliyev, who profoundly understands the protection and provision of human rights and freedoms by humanity, said: "Every citizen in the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan should have the same rights, regardless of nationality, religion, political affiliation."

Since Heydar Aliyev's leadership, the Republic of Azerbaijan has joined up to 20 international conventions and agreements in human rights until 1998, considering the realization of human rights in society and every person's life as its highest goal.

Heydar Aliyev considered protecting human and civil rights and freedoms a primary duty. On the eve of the 50th

anniversary of adopting the UN General Declaration on Human Rights, dated December 10, 1948, extensive measures were taken in further development of democracy and protection of human rights in our country, and educational work was strengthened.²⁰⁷

The main goal of Heydar Aliyev's political activity was to construct a democratic legal state and civil society, a true guarantor of human rights and freedoms. The great personality objected to those who wanted to build democracy "quickly" or "hastily," as in Great Britain, France, and the United States, saying: "We are trying to reach this level. Democracy cannot be achieved in a day or two. Democracy means a change in people's minds. This change does not happen with any revolution. It goes gradually through evolution. The Great Leader intended to understand and grasp democracy in our minds, to master the development requirements of the time along with high technology development. The XXI century is the century of the highest technical development. He showed ways to advance development directions during this period with higher consciousness and exceptional intelligence. For now, the drivers of these roads are showing themselves in our country.

One of the most excellent services of the Great Leader was to make the provision of the computer-internet system a reality. Heydar Aliyev noted that the vitality of democracy depends on the society's socio-economic and cultural-moral values. "After national leader Heydar Aliyev's return to the leadership of the country in 1993, he took steps in building a legal state and civil society based on national and human values, determined the country's future democratic development path, created fertile social and political conditions for the establishment of human rights and freedoms, developed sectoral laws, strengthened the rule of law and implemented legal reforms."²⁰⁸

The President of the Republic of Azerbaijan made a serious effort to establish a democratic, legal regime that ensures all factors, national mentality, human rights, and freedoms based on the traditions of statehood.

Heydar Aliyev's ingenious creativity attracted the attention of politicians and researchers from all over the world: "Heydar Aliyev is a creative head of state because he chose the path of building a living democratic regime based on the national mentality and statehood traditions of Azerbaijan, denying the so-called transformation of even the most perfect models of democracy."²⁰⁹

Heydar Aliyev's course was met with resistance only by a group of radicals and conservatives. These forces, consisting of the old and new ideologies of Communism and Sovietism, were united by the logic of turning to the masses, which unequivocally denied the individuality of the personality and, therefore, the philosophy of human rights, which is considered the fundamental principle of a democratic society.

Heydar Aliyev characterized democracy, development, human rights, and freedoms as intertwined. Therefore, in the decree of February 22, 1998, "On measures in ensuring human and civil rights and freedoms," he characterized human rights as "one of the wisest Constitutions of human civilization," "one of the wisest Constitutions of human civilization," and "an invaluable achievement that everyone understands and should understand today." He considered respecting and protecting human rights as a way to join the modern world.

In the decree signed by Heydar Aliyev, he gave relevant instructions and recommendations to the Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Executive Office of the President, the

Supreme Court, the Prosecutor General's Office, the Ministries of Foreign and Internal Affairs, Justice, National Security, Education, Press, and Information. The issues assigned to these organizations include the following:

- During the adoption of laws, human rights and freedoms reflected in the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan should be guided as the main criteria;
- The representatives of the Parliament should actively participate in the events of all international organizations and promote Azerbaijan's state policy in the protection of human rights and freedoms, strengthen the work carried out for the restoration of the rights of refugees and forcibly displaced persons as a result of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict;
- Ensure the establishment of the state program on the protection of human rights, the authorized representative organization of the Republic of Azerbaijan on human rights, and the Scientific Research Institute on Human Rights;
- In connection with the implementation of legal reforms, measures should be taken to ensure full compliance of normative legal acts with international standards on human rights;
- Implement measures to improve legal mechanisms in the field of human rights protection;
- To ensure that appropriate organizational and other measures are taken for the full and effective implementation of international agreements in the field of human rights, which the Republic of Azerbaijan is a supporter of;
- Actions should be taken to more effectively ensure the economic and social rights of refugees and internally

displaced persons, disabled people, war participants, and low-income families;

- Take measures to develop further cooperation with relevant institutions and other international organizations operating in the field of human rights;
- To ensure the development and implementation of the program project on the protection of the rights of women, children, and national minorities and the implementation of other democratic measures in coordination with the UN representation in Azerbaijan;
- To ensure the participation of specialists for the study of relevant research and educational programs in international institutes and centers operating on human rights;
- The issue of the possibility of the Republic of Azerbaijan joining international conventions on the protection of human rights and other existing agreements in the field of human rights should be studied;
- In order to restore the violated rights of refugees and internally displaced persons and to compensate them for the damage, it should be ensured that relevant international institutions and organizations accept applications;
- The central libraries of the republic should be provided with documents accepted by international organizations related to the protection of human rights and publications in this field;
- To ensure generalization of the experience of application of legislation in the field of human rights by investigation, investigative and judicial bodies, elimination of violations of human rights and freedoms.

- To implement democratic measures to improve the conditions of detention of persons deprived of liberty and detained during the preliminary investigation;
- To ensure the preparation of textbooks on human rights and freedoms for the higher, secondary, and secondary schools of the republic to study international acts on human rights, hold other events on the promotion of human rights;
- Promotion and dissemination of measures implemented in our country in the field of protection of human rights and freedoms through information networks and agencies;
- To ensure publication of specialized newspapers, magazines, booklets, and posters on human rights and their distribution;
- To ensure the preparation of programs dedicated to human rights and freedoms.²¹⁰

The current decree, signed by the President of Azerbaijan, Heydar Aliyev, was a brilliant expression of the great importance attached to the protection of human rights and freedoms.

There have been struggles for rights and freedom at all times and in all countries in the history of humankind. While freedom is perceived as breathing conveniently under the relieving shade, the law is presented as the immunity of an innocent person. Evil, slander, and demonic acts lie against rights and freedom. Since the evil deed is always slander, it has melted and disappeared like watered salt and false ice before the good deed, i.e., the righteous deed.

The "State Program for the Protection of Human Rights"²¹¹ was prepared and approved by the President's decree on June 18, 1998. This state program is currently being successfully

implemented.

In 1998, the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Azerbaijan was established for the first time in our republic. This court is a reliable defender of the constitutional rights of citizens.

With the Presidential decree dated January 14, 1998, the “State Committee on Women’s Issues” was established to ensure the protection of women’s rights and the more organized implementation of the state policy on women in Azerbaijan to increase the activity of women in social and political life.

After Azerbaijan joined the Council of Europe on January 25, 2001, the Parliament adopted several constitutional laws based on the European Convention on Human Rights requirements and the obligations undertaken by our republic before the Council of Europe.

Establishing the human rights commissioner was of great importance in implementing legal reforms to protect human and civil rights and freedoms in the Republic of Azerbaijan.

On January 25, 2001, the Constitutional Law “On Human Rights Commissioner-Ombudsman of the Republic of Azerbaijan” was adopted by the Parliament. On July 2, 2002, on the recommendation of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, he was elected the human rights commissioner of the Republic of Azerbaijan by the Parliament. The establishment of this organization strengthens the organization of parliamentary control over the observance of human rights, plays the role of a mediator between the Parliament and citizens, and increases citizens’ activity in forming a democratic system.

Azerbaijan became a full member of the Council of Europe due to the serious work carried out in the democratization and protection of human rights in Azerbaijan.

President Heydar Aliyev praised the Constitution by writing, "Today, the essential task is to embrace the Constitution more deeply and benefit from its guarantees... Every person must strictly follow the Constitution and laws, fulfill his duties before the state and society, and closely participate in democratic, legal, and secular state-building in our country."²¹²

Ilham Aliyev, the head of the permanent delegation of the Parliament to the Council of Europe, was elected the deputy chairman and bureau member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in 2003 due to Azerbaijan's high-level fulfillment of its commitments to the Council of Europe. The current fact proves that democratic and legal state-building by European standards is being successfully implemented in our country.

The abolition of the death sentence in Azerbaijan, For the first time in the Eastern world, in the Islamic world, proved that our country is moving forward with confidence through secular, democratic, and legal state-building.²¹³ The abolition of the death penalty was one of the most important measures implemented by President Heydar Aliyev in human rights protection.

On February 3, 1998, the President of Azerbaijan, Heydar Aliyev, addressed the Parliament with a proposal "On the abolition of the death sentence in the Republic of Azerbaijan." The moratorium on the execution of the death penalty was completely abolished by the law of the Parliament dated February 10, 1998.

Using the exclusive rights of the President provided for in the Constitution of Azerbaijan, pardons and amnesties held every year by Haydar Aliyev (a worthy follower of Heydar Aliyev President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev continued this tradition)

was a manifestation of the implementation of the democratic, legal and humane state-building policy in our country.²¹⁴

President Heydar Aliyev issued 30 amnesty decrees by February 2003. This was a brilliant expression of Heydar Aliyev's great humanity and the establishment of a democratic, humane state in Azerbaijan.

Abolishing the death penalty, Heydar Aliyev said: "I have made this historic statement after comprehensively analyzing the criminal law policy, adhering to high ideals such as justice, freedom, humanism, and humanity, and coming to the conclusion that the death penalty should be abolished in our country.

I consider abolishing the death penalty as the logical result of this policy."²¹⁵

The Decree of the President of Azerbaijan, Heydar Aliyev, "On Ensuring Human Rights and Freedoms," dated February 22, 1998, was a long-term action program in protecting and defending human rights and created ample opportunities for the development of democracy in our republic.

The amnesty institution and amnesty commission established in 1995 under the President is essential in humanizing criminal legal policy in Azerbaijan.

The concept of civil society is based on the ideas of individual freedom and private property. Civil society takes protective measures to provide its members with the most necessary means of existence. The structural relations of civil society manifested in the form of a democratic aggregate of three main spheres - economic, political, and spiritual spheres.

Relations in the political sphere are formed through the participation of political interests and freedoms in various parties and movements, citizen initiatives, and associations. Ali

Ahmadov believes that the renewal of the society was perceived as a logical result of the economic, political, and social reforms implemented by Heydar Aliyev and became a historical truth. The scope of Heydar Aliyev's reforms and the opportunities to influence the general picture of the country's life made creating a new society inevitable. From this perspective, the formation of an entirely new society after the return of Heydar Aliyev to Azerbaijan is considered an integral part of his reformist mission: "Creation of advanced civil society institutions in Azerbaijan, citizen initiative playing an essential role in solving social problems is a clear expression of consistent implementation of Heydar Aliyev's ideas. The operation of hundreds of non-governmental organizations and their political, legal, and financial support by the state indicates the extent of attention to the development of this field. The strengthening of an open society, widespread citizen initiative, and effective interaction with elements of the political system are distinguishing features of Azerbaijan's new society model. In Heydar Aliyev's model of modern society, freedom of speech and thought merits particular emphasis. The latter is more important because it is directly related to the concepts of democracy and the organization of society. An open society, a system of human rights and freedoms, also operates directly with freedom of speech and opinion. Heydar Aliyev approached freedom of speech and thought in the context of fundamental human rights, emphasizing that it plays a decisive role in the organization and functioning of modern society."²¹⁶

In addition to the aforementioned decrees and orders on human rights by Heydar Aliyev, the following normative-legal acts were adopted in 1998-2003:

- "Law on Children's Rights," dated May 19, 1998, defines

the rights and freedoms of children in the Republic of Azerbaijan, the main principles of state policy in the field of children's rights, and the duties of state bodies and other legal and natural persons in the field of their protection;

- "Law on Freedom of Information," dated June 19, 1998, which defines the right of everyone in AR to search, obtain, transmit, prepare, and distribute any information they want;
- The decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, "On additional measures in the field of ensuring the freedom of speech, opinion, and information in the Republic of Azerbaijan," dated August 6, 1998, provides for the implementation of additional measures in the field of ensuring the freedom of speech, opinion, and information in the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- "Law on Citizenship," dated September 30, 1998, defines the basics of the right to citizenship of a person who belongs to the state of Azerbaijan and has political and legal duties with it;
- "Law on Freedom of Free Assembly," dated November 13, 1998, defines the right of everyone in AR to have the right to peaceful, unarmed assembly, rallies, demonstrations, and picketing, together with others, by notifying the relevant state authorities;
- "Law on state protection of persons involved in criminal proceedings," dated December 1, 1998, defines the system of measures to ensure the safety and social protection of victims of criminal cases, witnesses, and other persons participating in criminal proceedings;
- "Court and Law Enforcement," dated December 11,

1998, defines the provision of state protection of judicial and law enforcement officers who perform functions that may lead to attacks on their safety, as well as the system of measures for the state protection of life, health, housing and property of the specified persons the Law on State Protection of Employees of Bodies”;

- “Law on Immigration,” dated December 22, 1998, regulates the immigration of foreigners or stateless persons to the Republic of Azerbaijan and related relations;
- “Law on the compensation of damage caused to individuals as a result of illegal actions of investigation, preliminary investigation, prosecutor’s office, and judicial authorities,” dated December 29, 1998, which defines the provision of compensation by the state for damage caused to individuals as a result of illegal actions of investigation, preliminary investigation, prosecutor’s office and judicial authorities or their officials;
- “Law on the Social Protection of IDP’s and Persons Equivalent,” dated May 21, 1999, defines the measures of resettlement and social protection of internally displaced persons and their equivalents in the Republic of Azerbaijan, as well as the duties of related state bodies;
- “Law on Environmental Safety” dated June 8, 1999;
- “Law on complaining to the court about decisions and actions (inaction) that violate the rights and freedoms of citizens,” dated June 11, 1999;
- “Law on Combating Terrorism,” dated June 18, 1999;
- “Law on social protection of children who have lost their parents and deprived of parental care,” dated June 22, 1999;

- “Law on the Status of Municipalities,” “Law on Rules of Municipal Elections,” dated July 2, 1999;
- “Law on Labor Migration,” dated October 28, 1999;
- “Law on Police” dated October 28, 1999, which defines the principles of police activity in the Republic of Azerbaijan, the activities of the police in the field of protection of human and civil rights and freedoms;
- “Law on Municipal Service” dated November 30, 1999; “Law on the transfer of property to municipal ownership” dated December 7, 1999;
- “Law on Prosecutor’s Office,” dated December 7, 1999;
- “Law on Mass Media” dated December 7, 1999 (amendments and additions to this law adopted on December 28, 2001), which determines the general rules for searching, obtaining, preparing, transmitting, producing, and broadcasting mass information in the Republic of Azerbaijan, as well as the organizational, legal, and economic bases of the activities of press information agencies, television, and radio organizations aimed at realizing the right of citizens to receive complete, honest and prompt information;
- “Law on Court Supervisors and Institution Executives” dated December 28, 1999 (determines their rights and duties);
- “Law on Lawyers and Advocacy,” dated December 28, 1999, regulates the activities of lawyers providing legal assistance in the Republic of Azerbaijan, ensuring the rights of every person to apply to a lawyer of his choice for the protection of his rights in court proceedings, ensuring the rights to use the assistance of his defense and other issues;

- “Law on Non-Governmental Organizations,” dated June 13, 2000;
- “Law on the protection of investors’ rights in the securities market,” dated June 16, 2000;
- “Law on elections to the Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan” (July 2000);
- “Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Amendments to the Law on the Central Election Commission,” dated July 21, 2000;
- Law on Amendments and Additions to the Laws “On the Constitutional Court” and “On Courts and Judges” dated February 16, 2001;
- “Law on Execution of Court Decisions,” dated December 27, 2001;
- “Law on local (municipal) taxes and payments,” dated December 28, 2001;
- “Law on Extradition of Criminals,” dated 2001;
- The decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Heydar Aliyev, “On conducting a national vote (referendum) to make changes to the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan,” was signed in 2002. With the decree, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan intended to approve the Referendum Act on Amendments to the Constitution. The first group of issues mentioned in the Referendum Act is related to additional guarantees for the protection of human rights: including the ombudsman institution in the Constitution, creating the opportunity for the ombudsman and citizens to file complaints directly with the Constitutional Court, providing additional guarantees for the right to life and other;

- “Constitutional Law on Regulation of Human Rights and Freedoms in the Republic of Azerbaijan,” dated September 30, 2002. The law defines the primary conditions for the free exercise of human rights and freedoms and also defines human rights and freedoms that cannot be restricted. This law states that everyone has the right to appeal to the Constitutional Court against the decisions of the legislative, executive, and judicial authorities that violate human rights and freedoms.²¹⁷
- “Law on state policy regarding Azerbaijanis living abroad,” dated December 27, 2002;
- “Regulation on the rules of transit of foreigners and stateless persons through the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan,” dated February 21, 2003;
- “Law on receiving environmental information,” adopted in March 2003;
- “Election Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan,” adopted in May 2003. The Code defines the rules for organizing and conducting the elections of the members of Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and the municipal elections, as well as the rules for organizing and holding the national voting referendum.

“Qualitative changes in the country’s socio-political life and economic development, as well as the entry into the European legal space, necessitated additions and changes to the Constitution. The country implemented two constitutional reforms due to these historical and natural processes. For the first time - in 2002 - the need for constitutional changes

arose in Azerbaijan precisely because of the noticeable rapid development in all spheres of life. As a result of the referendum held on August 24, 2002, several progressive changes were made to the primary document. The changes served the implementation of judicial reforms, the improvement of the activities of the Parliament, the election system, and more effective protection of human rights and freedoms."²¹⁸

Life itself dictated the need to improve the Constitution adopted in 1995. The changes made to the Constitution of Azerbaijan through a national vote aimed to improve the political system, the state, authorities, and the election system, implement multilevel justice, protect the rights and freedoms of Azerbaijani citizens, and expand them. The primary purpose of these changes was to create an efficient political-economic system to protect citizens' rights and freedoms, to develop this system further, and to ensure the consistent implementation of political processes and policies. Changes in the Constitution were also required by "the need to improve the administrative system following modern requirements and international standards. The state-building process involves the use of advanced and proven international experience.

"... Azerbaijani society, experiencing a new qualitative stage of its economic development, is about to successfully enter the stage of transformation into a civil society that requires openness and transparency. Our republic, which is completing the transitional phase, fully confirms the immutability and eternity of the democratic development path and emphasizes the role and importance of these progressive values in the nation's future development. One of the characteristic features

of this stage is the deepening of democratic reforms to create an effective state management system and implement a system of complex measures that serve the development of civil society institutions and the formation of a liberal political environment.”²¹⁹

By signing such a decree, Heydar Aliyev once again demonstrated that he is a theorist in state-building and a tremendous and phenomenal personality who realizes the practical implementation of those theoretical ideas.²²⁰ Heydar Aliyev’s activities and services in legal state-building in Azerbaijan are multifaceted. The genius paid close attention to the observance of the following principles in the legal state-building process:

- The rule of law in all areas of public life, the compliance of all Constitutional laws by the supreme body of the state;
- The reality and application of the rights and freedoms of citizens by law;
- Mutual responsibility of the state and the individual;
- Division of power into legislative, executive, and judicial powers;
- Existence of effective control over the implementation of laws (court, prosecutor, arbitration control, etc.).²²¹

The realization of the Constitutional Court institution, created in 1998 and changed in 2002, is considered one of Heydar Aliyev’s exceptional services.

The Constitutional Court acts as a defender of human rights and freedoms. Article 4 of the Law on the Constitutional Court states that “When the rights and freedoms of a person

and the normative acts in force are violated, he can apply to the Supreme Court of the Republic of Azerbaijan through the relevant courts and request that the matter be sent to the Constitutional Court by submitting a request.”

Heydar Aliyev highly valued the Constitutional Court as a body that ensures strict adherence to the Constitution of Azerbaijan at all levels, control, and application of the Constitutional laws in life: “I applaud the future Constitutional Court of Azerbaijan as an institution which will help all bodies and the president to implement legal reforms for strengthening statehood, and establishing the principles of democracy and law.”

In his appeal to the “Constitutional Court of the Republic of Azerbaijan” on July 12, 2003, Heydar Aliyev indicated that this body played an essential role in Azerbaijani society, especially in the field of human rights protection, during its 5-year operation: “The Constitutional Court of Azerbaijan, which is based on democratic values and declares the provision of human and civil rights and freedoms as a supreme goal, determined the role and place of the new institutions, Constitutional control, and the Constitutional Court, in the system of state power...

...The Constitutional Court actively participated in democratic, legal, and secular state-building. It contributed to the strengthening of respect, in every decision made, for the Constitution and laws of Azerbaijan, principles such as justice, freedom, and humanism, to the development of democracy and legal culture, and the realization of the ideas of constitutionalism.

We have a reliable institution in the form of the Constitutional Court that defends our national statehood, the

rule of law based on the Constitution, and most importantly, human and civil rights and freedoms."²²²

It was noted that as a result of the effective activity of the Constitutional Court formed by Heydar Aliyev, it gained prestige both in Azerbaijan and in the international world, was elected a member of the Conference of European Constitutional Courts, helped to reflect the advanced trends of European constitutionalism in the legal system of Azerbaijan, and used international experience in its activities: "Decisions made by the Constitutional Court based on international documents in the field of human rights protection services to ensure people's political, economic, social, and other rights and freedoms, strengthen the legal foundation of the state, and create a rich legal heritage for future generations. As a whole, Constitutional control ensures the consistent development of society, protects its stability, improves the system of state power and legal regulation of social relations, and forms high social consciousness and state thinking. The activity of the Constitutional Court also has an educational effect on the public environment, pushing every member of society to a legal and constitutional manner of behavior."²²³

This court also positively affects the culture of behavior in society. It also confirms that constitutional law can inculcate perfect literary norms in state building.

Heydar Aliyev, in his appeal to the Constitutional Court as a result of the referendum in August 2002, drew attention to the fact that this body faces new tasks arising from changes in the Constitution: "Each person has the right to apply to the Constitutional Court in cases determined by law to restore his rights. This marks the beginning of a more critical and

responsible period in the work of the Constitutional Court. Thus, in addition to citizens getting a more effective mechanism for protecting and restoring their rights, the Constitutional Court also got the opportunity to participate more actively in regulating public relations related to human rights. I want to express my hope that the Constitutional Court will handle this case properly and this will create conditions for the adequate protection of fundamental rights and freedoms, which are an essential factor of a democratic state.”²²⁴

Heydar Aliyev also played a significant role in organizing and forming the election system in Azerbaijan regarding human rights. “Since this great political figure deeply knew the characteristics of the transition from the administrative method to democracy, he formed the characteristics of the transition period in the electoral system accordingly. During the elections to the Parliament, for example, instead of 125 members of the Parliament, 100 were elected by the majority and 25 were elected proportionally. The purpose of using the mixed electoral system was to give ample space to a multi-party system, one of the main components of the political system in newly independent states, and to ensure the transition from a single-party to a multi-party system. This policy by Heydar Aliyev to form the political system in Azerbaijan yielded its fruits. Today, more than 40 political parties operate and compete in the political life of Azerbaijan, being right-wing, left-leaning, or centrist. In such a case, talking about a return to a one-party system is impossible. However, having a mixed electoral system did not matter once separate parties serving different ideologies gained societal positions. That is why, in the referendum held on August 24, 2002, on some additions and changes to the

Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the mixed electoral system switched to the majority electoral system."²²⁵

To further improve relations with the international world, during the reign of the Great Leader, Azerbaijan joined international agreements and treaties that guarantee human rights and freedoms.

If in 1992 Azerbaijan joined the "International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights," the "UN Convention on the Rights of the Child," and the "UN Convention and Protocol on the Status of Refugees," solely in 1993-2003, Azerbaijan joined hundreds of agreements and treaties of the International Labor Organization, UNESCO, UN, Geneva, and Hague Conventions, the European Convention on the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, etc. This fact made our independent country stand among the most influential international organizations, and the steps taken during that period are bearing fruit today. Thus, the first lady of our country, Mehriban Aliyeva, carries the reputation of UNESCO's goodwill ambassador.

A worthy follower of Heydar Aliyev's course, Ilham Aliyev decently continues Heydar Aliyev's policy in protecting human rights and freedoms during his presidency.

- Secular, legal state-building is advancing with confidence;
- A political consensus was reached between the ruling elite and the population;
- Civil solidarity and stability are maintained;
- The release of prisoners with amnesty decrees successfully continued.

These steps taken by Ilham Aliyev created sympathy for him in public opinion in Azerbaijan and international circles.

“Almost all honest, objective social and political groups in society, as well as non-governmental and human rights protection organizations, have openly expressed their sympathy for these decrees of the head of state. Of course, these steps taken by President Ilham Aliyev are admirable facts in all senses. Thus, once again, the head of state confirmed his respect for his citizens and loyalty to the principles he defended. Furthermore, it proved that signing these decrees was the logical result of continuing Heydar Aliyev’s traditions. Those who assumed that the government’s attitude towards human rights and freedoms is based on the orders and pressures of international organizations made a severe mistake.²²⁶ Because the Great Leader’s organizational ability, which comes from his rich and powerful statecraft experience, does not create conditions for the President of the young country to take a wrong step. Heydar Aliyev’s school of politics and statehood is the most vivid example for Ilham Aliyev.

President Ilham Aliyev demonstrated his respect for human rights during the elections to the Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan held on November 6, 2005. Ilham Aliyev has gained a reputation as the head of state whom everyone loves for prioritizing the interests of the country and citizens over political interests, developing democratic institutions in the country, and creating solidarity, trust, and confidence among different layers of society and political forces, guarantees the rights and freedoms of all citizens, regardless of their political and national affiliation, outlook, and gender.

Throughout Heydar Aliyev's philosophical heritage and political activity, protecting the rights and freedoms of people and citizens has always been at the center of attention. Here we can mention that several important decisions have been made to improve the material well-being of the country's citizens, and minimum wages have been raised.

It is possible to evaluate this step as a manifestation of Ilham Aliyev's sincere attitude toward the people. The genius leader Heydar Aliyev's ideas in this field ensured the realization of democracy in our country, a complex embodiment of concepts and principles defending freedom, and its transformation into practical norms and procedural complexity. Democracy, which has given the legal status of liberty in various activities of people, has been established in our country, and man has existed as a legal, political, and social asset. Democratic principles are essential in all areas of our society and have become an integral part of our cultural and spiritual wealth.

Vasif Talibov, Chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, rightly notes, "When we look at the past year, we are once again convinced that there is no alternative to Heydar Aliyev's political course in our country. This course, this way, is the only correct way to ensure socio-economic development in Azerbaijan in terms of new requirements. This is the route of our country's yesterday, today, tomorrow, and future. As the President of our country, Mr. Ilham Aliyev, who successfully continued this path, said, the essential thing to turn Azerbaijan into a powerful state is to continue Heydar Aliyev's policy in the country."²²⁷

Summary

1. Heydar Aliyev was a living example of a comprehensive approach to politics, taking all aspects of politics together. Heydar Aliyev's phenomenal personal qualities, combined with his unprecedented ability to analyze ingenious politics and diplomacy, raised him to the level of an incomparable world politician.

Heydar Aliyev's logical, clear, and consistent policy, united with his wisdom and ingenious understanding, incorporated the unity of political, economic, cultural, and moral factors. The highest requirements of Heydar Aliyev's political philosophy are to ensure the reconciliation of state, society, people, and individual interests.

Heydar Aliyev's complex policy is characterized by determination, principality, responsibility, accuracy, democracy, tolerance, humanism, social justice, and efficiency. The Great Leader was an explicit example of approaching politics from the perspective of unity of national and universal interests.

2. Heydar Aliyev was the savior, founder, protector, and creator of the independent state of Azerbaijan in the modern era, developing the oldest traditions of statehood. Heydar Aliyev was a genius head of state who played a notable role in developing two of the three republics, the second and third republics, that existed in the history of Azerbaijan.

He preserved and developed our statehood during his life and political activity. Even in the Soviet era, he prepared the economic and cultural basis for future independent statehood. This period is characterized as the "illegal preparation" stage,

while the stage during independence is the “active struggle stage.”

Heydar Aliyev’s statehood activities and ideas of statehood formed a unity and went down in history as a turning point in the development of statehood. He preserved the state’s independence, eliminated the threat of destruction of the state, internal and external threats, created a legal basis to develop the economy, culture, and spirituality, strengthened the rule of law and democracy, and established stability. The consciousness of independence and statehood came true. Heydar Aliyev innovated the practice of state building and created a national state that synthesizes Western and Eastern traditions of statehood. He ensured the consolidation of the state, its irreversibility, inviolability, the merging of ancient traditions of statehood with modern statehood, the unity of statehood ideology, statehood psychology, and thinking.

A national-democratic, legal, secular state was established, embodying the ideas of statehood of Heydar Aliyev. Heydar Aliyev led Azerbaijan’s national, independent state from the difficulties and complexities of the transition period to the technocrat era, globalization, the establishment of professional government, substantial order, democracy, and the rule of law.

3. Heydar Aliyev’s policy, uniting on socio-economic grounds, was more vital and substantially influenced.

While developing the national economy, Heydar Aliyev relied on global experience. Heydar Aliyev’s brilliant political thinking, combined with his final economic knowledge, modernized Azerbaijan based on the synthesis of Western and Eastern socio-economic models and ensured its economic integration with the world.

The political, economic, cultural, and technological reforms carried out by Heydar Aliyev were based on liberal democratic values. Heydar Aliyev freed the economy from state control, challenged free competition, implemented the market economy, created a favorable investment environment, improved the quality of the economy, and implemented social programs.

During all periods of his political activity, Heydar Aliyev, along with developing the internal socio-economic life, expanded foreign economic relations and created a new qualitative phase in economic reforms. This genius successfully implemented the liberalization of the economy, privatization of state property, land reforms, and the fulfillment of social demands. It ensured the development of the oil and non-oil sectors.

In foreign economic relations, signing the "Contract of the Century," signing of GUAM, and implementing the TRASEKA program played an important role.

Heydar Aliyev strengthened the interaction between politics and economy, ensured the indivisibility of political and socio-economic policy, took into account the state's regulatory role during the transition to political and socio-economic policy, and was able to turn Azerbaijan into a powerful state with a strong economy.

4. For the Azerbaijani society, which has experienced different ideological processes and is dominated by different ideologies, demonstrating his extraordinary genius, Heydar Aliyev put forward a new national ideology under new conditions - the doctrine of Azerbaijanism. With his genius, he understood that it is essential to preserve the inheritance, history, and national-spiritual traditions in the national ideology and to revive and develop modernity and innovation.

As a genius leader in all fields, he organized the unity of humanity with nationality in the national ideology. The Great Leader prioritized statehood and national moral values in the national ideology.

Heydar Aliyev applied the ideology of Azerbaijanism to protect the Azerbaijani society from separatism and nationalism and to strengthen the close unity of the society. Apart from nationalism and statehood, independence, secularism, equality, national progress, patriotism, populism, Turkism, Islamism, freedom, brotherhood-friendship, mutual aid, cooperation, and citizenship form the basis of the ideology of Azerbaijanism put forward by the great personality.

Azerbaijanism combines the socio-cultural and ethnic-geographical-political aspects of the philosophical-sociological doctrine of modern independent Azerbaijan.

In Azerbaijanism, along with the synthesis of Orientalism and Westernism, the interest in statehood in the national sense has been combined with specific secularism, modernity, and innovation uniquely.

In modern globalization and modernization conditions, the theoretical-philosophical legacy of the Great Leader - republicanism, justice, democracy, humanity, etc. The ideology of Aliyevism, which embodies the principles, dominated Azerbaijan's social-political, cultural-spiritual life.

5. Heydar Aliyev preferred the idea of national and universal unity by prioritizing historical inheritance in national culture.

Heydar Aliyev played a unique role in the development of culture. Azerbaijan's material and spiritual culture underwent a renaissance with his initiative.

The genius created the conditions for education, science, literature, art, and music to rise to the level of modern development, to rise to the level of world standards, and opened vast opportunities by preserving the historical inheritance of spiritual culture.

In the Soviet era, he protected nationally oriented creative intellectuals from persecution by promoting our classical heritage with his subtle policy and encouraged them to create works with a national spirit.

Within the framework of Heydar Aliyev's cultural policy, he strengthened the factors of statehood, national consciousness, and national spirit in culture, took care to protect historical monuments, and restored and preserved them for future generations.

Through the development of high culture, which is the highest, the most significant factor that recognizes the people of genius, he introduced Azerbaijan to the world level.

6. Making the protection of human rights a reality is the practical importance of Heydar Aliyev's theoretical-philosophical legacy.

The decrees issued during Heydar Aliyev's tenure and the adopted Constitution served as a legal basis for the protection of human rights and freedoms:

- The death sentence abolished;
- pardons and amnesties were implemented;
- Constitutional Court, Ombudsman, and other human rights protection institutions created;
- the rule of law realized;
- the mutual responsibility of the state and the citizen has become a reality;
- the division of power took place;

- citizens' political, economic, social, etc. rights and freedoms ensured;
- children's rights;
- on citizenship;
- on free assembly;
- On migration;
- On labor migration and others.

The adoption of laws was the main guarantor of the protection of human rights and freedoms.

The power of Heydar Aliyev's policy lies in the fact that this policy ensured the development of Azerbaijan in all areas and is successfully continued by his worthy successor, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, in current conditions. This is indicative that more successful practical work will be done in our independent country, which is currently experiencing a period of rapid development.



CHAPTER III

**“I TRUST HIM AS MUCH AS
I DO MYSELF...”**

(strong nation, powerful state, robust leader)

History proves that only countries with strong traditions of statehood can ensure their future existence and development. Heydar Aliyev, a great personality and statesman devoted to the Motherland and the people with his whole being, dedicated his life and rich statesmanship experience to Azerbaijan's happy future and its rise to the level of developed civilized states.

The great Leader's most outstanding service to the future generations in the history of Azerbaijan is, without a doubt, that Azerbaijan embarked on the path of rapid development. It is the Great Leader's foresight in politics and his concern for the future development prospects of the country that resulted in the fact that today Azerbaijan has a strong head of state and lives its prosperous period under the leadership of honorable Ilham Aliyev who successfully continues the policy of Heydar Aliyev, knows his outlook, charisma, and statecraft traditions in the world's politics, and has fully mastered the state management system.

The concept of responsibility in statehood is a particular category and is of vital importance. "The responsibility of the leader who manages the state shows itself for the nation and the state. Here, it is essential to note that political responsibility only derives power from a strong mind and comprehensive intelligence. Needless to say, it would be impossible to get to know the subtleties of politics, without these personal factors.

It means politics is a system measured by grasping human ideas step by step, feeling the power of intelligence, and understanding the power of thoughts. The strategy of preserving and strengthening statehood itself requires a very strong political responsibility. It is an indisputable fact that

the Great Leader Heydar Aliyev is a historical personality, one of our commanders who implemented the tactics of statehood with full political responsibility, protected our pride comprehensively, confirmed our national and moral values in humanity with the power of our state, and deeply understood political responsibility. Ilham Aliyev was born in the family of Heydar Aliyev, a world leader with such characteristics. He grew up in the family of Heydar Aliyev, who took responsibility for the whole country.”²²⁸

One of Heydar Aliyev’s most outstanding and historical services to our nation is preparing a worthy successor capable of boldly managing Azerbaijan, which has embarked on rapid development. In all the years of his political power, the National Leader, who lived with endless love for the Motherland, the people, and the land, and the act of building and creating, also recommended a candidate who would be worthy of leading the country in order to make Azerbaijan a more powerful state in the future. The Great Leader addressed the people before the 2003 presidential elections: “Ilham Aliyev is a knowledgeable, pragmatic person, has deep knowledge of modern world politics and economy, energetic and enterprising personality. I assure you that both Ilham Aliyev and the New Azerbaijan Party will continue to unite the worthy children of our people around them and do a lot for the development of the Azerbaijan state and the prosperity of our people. I believe that with your help and support, Ilham Aliyev will be able to finish the fateful issues, plans, and works that I could not bring to an end. I believe in him as much as myself and have great hopes for his future.”²²⁹

A succession of power is crucial for every country. It is well known that stability is a prerequisite for a purposeful and dynamic state of society. This has been confirmed many times

throughout history. Therefore, it is natural for Heydar Aliyev to worry about his successor. He started preparing his successor in advance. Ilham Aliyev says in one of his interviews: "My father passed on his political experience to me step by step. He explained to me how he could act in this or that situation. However, he first listened to me; sometimes he agreed and sometimes objected. I took part in the official talks of the President of Azerbaijan more and more often. I was usually silent and absorbed what was happening. Now I am fully convinced that the path taken by Heydar Aliyev is the most important factor in the successful and safe development of Azerbaijan. Of course, this path should be continued with certain adjustments. I will try to make it happen for many years and decades."

The secret of Ilham Aliyev's phenomenon, the brightest example of political succession, is his successful activity stemming from his high diplomatic skills, flexible thinking, and wisdom".²³⁰

Undoubtedly, the young political Leader who will ensure Azerbaijan's confident progress in the path of sustainable development and progress in the coming years was educated in the school of politics and life of the National Leader Heydar Aliyev, who had the pragmatic and rich statesmanship ability to overcome the difficult and complex trials of the years. Ilham Aliyev later said about this: "I studied in Moscow from the age of 15. By the way, I was sent to school early - when I was 5 years old. At the same time, I gave "family exams." Not once a semester, but constantly. They were conducted by Heydar Aliyev. I attended the reception of guests at home. I used to listen to my father's high-class conversations at the table. Most importantly, I learned many truths. For example, such a truth: the value of each person is measured by his rich spirit and knowledge.

I also learned the first lessons of politics at home, which I just needed in the future! In summary, not only “father-son” relations but “teacher-student” and even earlier “predecessor-successor” relations arose between us. Perhaps I recall that period in a very solemn - nostalgic tone. However, my adoration and gratitude for my father are so great that I cannot remain calm and indifferent when I write about him. I repeat: I spent my university years not only at school and the Moscow State University, communicating with others, but also at home and in the family”.²³¹

Thus, Ilham Aliyev, who received great political lessons from the National Leader, noted, “My father passed on his experience as a politician to me step by step. He explained how he could act in this or that situation.”

Indeed, Ilham Aliyev justified the trust and hopes of the Great Leader and the people. After his victory in the presidential elections held on October 15, 2003, Ilham Aliyev defined the path of rapid development of Azerbaijan, benefiting from the rich statecraft experience of the National Leader from the first years of his leadership.

“Today, under the leadership of President Ilham Aliyev, every success achieved in the domestic and foreign policy of Azerbaijan is the embodiment of the intelligence of the Great Leader Heydar Aliyev, the manifestation of the ideas of national progress that he left as a legacy. His inauguration as President in 2003 was a new stage in the progress of Azerbaijan through progress and its development. That year was the year of further strengthening our independence and intensive formation of a stable political system and multi-system economic structure in the country. Since then, the republic’s democratization processes have expanded, our country’s integration into world processes

has become more intensive, and an important socio-political base has been created to further develop the national economy. As a result of the confident steps taken by Ilham Aliyev, who is a worthy graduate of Heydar Aliyev's school of politics, in major politics, not only in the socio-economic system but also in political and social institutions, fundamental innovations, effective intensive reforms have been carried out."²³²

Since the early 2000s, Ilham Aliyev has actively participated in the process of renewal of the country's political palette. The II congress of the New Azerbaijan Party, the country's ruling party, held on November 21, 2001, made fateful decisions in the organization's life. Changes were made to the party's charter, and Ilham Aliyev was unanimously elected as the first deputy chairman. On October 15, 2003, he was elected as the first deputy chairman of YAP in the presidential elections, and on March 26, 2005, he was unanimously elected as the chairman of the New Azerbaijan Party.

It should be emphasized that after the election of Mr. Ilham Aliyev as Deputy Chairman of the New Azerbaijan Party in 1999, First Deputy Chairman in 2001, and Chairman in 2005, a new stage in the party's activities began. "I believe in him as much as myself and have high hopes for his future." It is no coincidence that these thoughts, voiced by the great statesman Heydar Aliyev 18 years ago, were said about Ilham Aliyev, who wrote the title of Supreme Commander-in-Chief in golden letters in the history of Azerbaijan."²³³

The state of Azerbaijan has developed faster, its economic power has increased, and its reputation in the international political arena has strengthened since Ilham Aliyev took office as President. The first years of his rule were characterized by the country's dynamic development, rapid modernization, and

becoming the owner of influence and voice in the world. Our President attracts attention with his confident, courageous, and logical speeches at the chairs of the prestigious international organizations - UN, NATO, and OSCE, resolutely protect national interests at all levels and conduct an independent foreign policy. In the international backstage, his view and opinion are respected in the search for ways out of global crises. President Ilham Aliyev has initiated a new stage in our lives with his thoughtful reforms and wise decisions and has made Azerbaijan one of the most developing countries in the world.

Ilham Aliyev, who came to power thanks to the strong support and trust of the people, knew very well that the priority directions of Azerbaijan's economic development at the new stage should be defined, and the foundation of the sustainable development of the country should be laid taking into account world realities. "President Ilham Aliyev's adoption of the "State Program on the Socio-Economic Development of Regions in the Republic of Azerbaijan" which defines the future development of Azerbaijan in 2004, one year after he was elected President in 2003, implementation of the goals set in this economic development program step by step led to the emergence of a new model of economic development in the world - the Azerbaijan model of economic development. Thus, the attention of the world's leading financial organizations was directed to Azerbaijan. In the annual reports of the World Bank and international financial companies, Azerbaijan managed to attract the attention of the world's developed countries by occupying one of the leading places among the countries to be invested. Azerbaijan, which occupies an important place in the world political arena, certainly reached this peak with the successful policy implemented by President Ilham Aliyev."²³⁴

We should especially note that under the leadership of President Ilham Aliyev, the successful implementation of the measures envisaged within the framework of the State programs on the socio-economic development of the regions of the Republic of Azerbaijan (2004-2008, 2009-2013, 2014-2018, 2019-2023 years) ensured the diversification of the country's economy, the sustainable development of the non-oil sector, the directing of large-scale investments to priority areas, the realization of infrastructure projects and the start of new production and processing enterprises. Azerbaijan's economy has reached the fastest development level in the world in a short span. Despite the financial and economic crisis worldwide, positive tendencies in the economic development in Azerbaijan have kept their advantage. "The analysis of state programs on the socio-economic development of the regions realized during the years 2004-2018 shows that the specific weight of the regions in the country's macro-economic indicators has increased significantly in the past period. As a result of accelerating the development of local entrepreneurship, restoring and expanding the activities of local production and processing enterprises, rebuilding economic and socio-cultural infrastructure facilities, reducing poverty, and opening new jobs, great successes have been achieved in raising the standard of living of the population."²³⁵

As a result of Ilham Aliyev's well-thought-out development strategy, the determined policy aimed at accelerating the country's economic development soon gave impetus to qualitative changes in this area. As a result of the successful implementation of state programs on the Socio-economic development of regions since 2004, the view of the regions has fundamentally changed, and the population's welfare has improved. During this period, President Ilham Aliyev signed numerous decrees and orders

to ensure the sustainable development of our country. The reforms carried out based on the mentioned documents have formed a fertile ground for forming a highly competitive liberal economy in our republic, ensuring transparency, optimizing the business environment, and increasing budget revenues. By increasing the gross domestic product production by 3.4 times during this period, Azerbaijan was ranked among the countries with the most dynamic economic development rates globally. Also, our country's strategic foreign exchange reserves have increased quite a lot, which is one of the clear examples reflecting the success and effectiveness of the economic development strategy. "As a result of the successful implementation of numerous projects, the revenues earned by our country have been purposefully directed to the development of the non-oil sector, the private sector, and the construction of modern infrastructure throughout the republic. At the same time, measures to support the development of the non-oil sector were completed with large-scale reforms and various incentive mechanisms. Azerbaijan's economy has risen to first place in the CIS due to its competitiveness. In his speech at the first meeting of the sixth convocation of the Parliament, President Ilham Aliyev touched on these points and expressed his satisfaction with the success of our country in the direction of economic development and emphasized: "The successes achieved in the economic field during the last 16 years are unique in the world. Which country was able to increase its economy 3.4 times in 16 years?!"²³⁶

In 2013, historic agreements were signed to develop and strengthen Azerbaijan's oil and gas potential. During this period, the implementation of the Trans-Adriatic Pipeline Project (TAP), and Trans-Anatolian (TANAP) gas pipeline was

started. The implementation of the TANAP and TAP projects, which are of exceptional importance in ensuring the energy security of the region and Europe, strengthened Azerbaijan's position and reputation in the Eurasian region during the presidency of Ilham Aliyev. These projects will continue to benefit the country's economy for many years to come. In addition, the final investment decision on the "Shah Deniz-2" project, one of the most significant energy projects in the world, was signed, which created conditions for the full development of Azerbaijan's largest gas field. This project is one of the most successful steps of Azerbaijan's transnational gas export policy and served to strengthen the country's economic power. The "Shah Deniz-2" agreement, called the "21st-century project", was signed on December 17, 2013, and the foundation of the "Southern Gas Corridor" was laid on September 20, 2014. This contract made it possible to increase the economic and financial opportunities of Azerbaijan. The President of Azerbaijan extremely rightly assessed the "Southern" gas corridor project as a great and historic event. On October 30, 2017, the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway was opened, and this line was put into use.

In 2018, the official opening ceremonies of the Southern Gas Corridor, which plays a significant role in Europe's energy security, and the TANAP pipeline were held. Also, the "Contract of the Century" was extended until 2050. At the same time, on the head of state's initiative, great works were done in the direction of the creation of East-West and North-South international transport corridors, and the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway was commissioned. New highways have been built up to the borders of Azerbaijan with Russia, Iran, and Georgia.

With these and other initiatives, President Ilham Aliyev has created a critical cooperation platform in the region,

which international experts consider an essential factor in the development and security of the region. As a result of the thoughtful and visionary policy of President Ilham Aliyev and the implementation of transnational projects, the economy of Azerbaijan has entered a period of rapid and dynamic development. Today, Azerbaijan is also among the few space countries in the world. In 2013, our first telecommunication satellite, "Azerspace-1"; in 2014 "Azersky" satellite observed the Earth's surface; and in 2018, another telecommunication satellite - "Azerspace-2," was put into orbit.

The human factor is at the center of Ilham Aliyev's policy that aims to build and create people to a better day and a more prosperous life. Serving the people and being the President of every Azerbaijani is his life philosophy. Measures to improve the socio-material condition of citizens are one of the leading directions in Ilham Aliyev's presidential activity. When he was first elected President, he promised to create 600,000 new jobs in the country. Then this number seemed like a dream to some. Years passed, and what has considered a dream became a reality. During the first years of Ilham Aliyev's leadership, more than 1,800,000 new jobs were created in Azerbaijan. As a result of these and other relevant steps, poverty in our country has decreased from 50 percent to 5 percent. The economy of Azerbaijan, which is developing at the fastest pace in the world, increased by 3.4 times, industrial production by 2.7 times, and agriculture by 1.5 times. One hundred eighty billion dollars were invested in the country's economy. In the past period, reforms in the agro-industrial complex expanded, and a strong class of entrepreneurs was formed in the country. Millions of manat concessional loans are allocated to finance investment projects

of business entities through the state line. The agricultural sector has developed widely, and Azerbaijan is now a rare country that ensures its food security.

Thus, during these years, the development strategy laid down by National Leader Heydar Aliyev continued with great determination and success by President Ilham Aliyev. As a result of the implemented socio-economic reforms and the modern management model authored by the head of state, Azerbaijan has become one of the leading countries in the world and significantly improved its position in international rankings.

Professor Irada Huseynova rightly points out that “the happiness of the Azerbaijani people lies in the fact that Mr. Ilham Aliyev is the head of state of our country who passed the rich school of administration and national statehood of our National Leader Heydar Aliyev, deeply mastered Heydar Aliyev’s course of Azerbaijanism and can continue it, serve their homeland, people, nation, and state with dignity and is accepted and recognized by the Azerbaijani society as the only personality capable of carrying the mission of Heydar Aliyev’s policy in the new century - the XXI century in terms of political-ideological, cultural and intellectual, management. The happiness of President Ilham Aliyev is that he is a student of the world-famous political figure and wise statesman, the most outstanding Leader of the 20th century, the national pride and source of trust of the 50 million Azerbaijanis of the world, and a graduate of the greatest Azerbaijani, Heydar Aliyev school, Heydar Aliyev school of patriotism. Today, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, is a political leader who has deeply mastered the statecraft and management style of the Great Leader Heydar Aliyev, a pragmatic politician who has acquired the ability to analyze the realities of the modern world

at the level of rich political thinking, a skilled diplomat, and a worthy successor of the blood memory and genetic qualities of a distinctive, genius personality like Heydar Aliyev."²³⁷

The rapid development of Azerbaijan characterizes the first years of the young state leader's rule. The achievements were the real results of Heydar Aliyev's political course. These years are characterized by the highest level of people's trust in the government. The presidential elections held in 2018 once again confirmed the hopes of the Azerbaijani people for the future. In the elections held on April 11, 2018, Ilham Aliyev was re-elected as the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, having won 86.02 percent of voters' votes.

These elections can be considered a celebration of statehood traditions founded by National Leader Heydar Aliyev. The election of Ilham Aliyev as the President for the next seven years by winning the great trust of the people in the voting, which is unequivocally evaluated as fair, democratic, and transparent elections all over the world, is a clear example of the unity of a strong people, a strong state, and a strong leader. This example is crucial in terms of the future development of our country as a real manifestation of the electoral culture of Azerbaijan and the successful completion of democratic elections. The results of the elections, which took place with the high level of activity of our citizens, once again demonstrated to the whole world the loyalty of the Azerbaijani people to the policy of the great Leader Heydar Aliyev. This victory once again proved that the unity of the strong leadership is unshakeable. Immediately after the announcement of the voting results, the people flocked to the streets of Baku to show their support for their Leader. In his speech to the people after the elections, the head of state said,

touching on the importance of this great victory for our country: "In these elections, the people of Azerbaijan voted for stability, security, development, and progress, and highly appreciated the work done in the last 15 years. We won all these successes together with you. People-power unity, our purposeful policy has turned Azerbaijan into a powerful state today."

The results of the elections once again demonstrated that the people voted for the concept of development defined by the Great Leader Heydar Aliyev. Our people have voted for their well-being, peace, tranquility, prosperity, tranquility, future outstanding achievements, rapid development, and continuation of great achievements. The results of the voting, recognized by the international community, have once again shown that against the background of the complex processes taking place in the world, Azerbaijan is developing with high dynamics, social and political stability is ensured, and the unity of the Leader and the people in the country is unshakable. All this should be evaluated as the result of the excellent policy implemented by President Ilham Aliyev.

President Ilham Aliyev's activities related to strengthening the foundations of our country's independence showed themselves mostly in foreign policy. Under the leadership of Ilham Aliyev, who preferred a balanced concept in foreign policy, Azerbaijan's international reputation increased even more. The number of friends in our country has increased, and new ones have been added to the list of countries that want to ally with us. Azerbaijan was recognized and accepted as a reliable partner in the world. One of the most significant factors proving this was the election of Azerbaijan as a member of the UN Security Council. This event, which is the most

outstanding achievement in the history of our independence, is a manifestation of the importance the international community shows to the policy conducted in Azerbaijan and the activities of President Ilham Aliyev, as well as the trust and confidence in Azerbaijan. As a result, our country has become the leading player in all regional issues. As a result of the offensive diplomacy defined by Ilham Aliyev, the myth created by the Armenian propaganda and the Armenian lobby was destroyed. The attention of international organizations was directed to this problem, the essence of the Nagorno-Karabakh problem, the truths about Azerbaijan were spread worldwide, and international public opinion changed in favor of Azerbaijan. The world community began to recognize and condemn the Khojaly genocide. As a result of Ilham Aliyev's well-thought-out foreign policy over the last 18 years, Azerbaijan's reputation in the world has increased, and the leading countries of the world accept the successful activity model of the head of state. In 2020, our country ranked high in the rankings of prestigious international organizations due to its economic indicators. In the "Doing Business" report of the World Bank, Azerbaijan ranked 28th among 190 countries. Azerbaijan was included in the list of the ten most reforming countries by the World Bank. In the Davos World Economic Forum reports, our country is among the most advanced in several indicators. In addition, according to the Economic Freedom Index announced by the Heritage Foundation based on the results of 2020, Azerbaijan has risen to the 38th rank. All this shows that the state policy aimed at economic and social progress is bearing fruit in the Republic of Azerbaijan, which implements the modernization course.

Development of the non-oil sector: the fruits of a successful policy

President Ilham Aliyev's decisions in further economic development and signed documents are an essential direction in ensuring and strengthening the economic stability of our country. As a result of purposeful activity in this field, significant achievements have been made in the development of the non-oil sector, which is the main driving force of the country's economy, its weight in the total domestic product has prevailed, and the production of products with high competitiveness and export potential has expanded.

In the successful economic policy platform of the head of state, transformation into an export-oriented economy creating high-added value was defined as an important goal based on the export-oriented economic model provided in the "Azerbaijan 2020: vision of the future" Development Concept. In this context, one of the main tasks is to maintain the high growth rate of the non-oil sector and expand its export opportunities.

In order to stimulate the export of non-oil products, to increase the production and export of competitive non-oil products, access to traditional and new markets, and to further expand the favorable conditions in this field, President Ilham Aliyev on January 18, 2016, "Additional measures on the stimulation of export of non-oil" was signed.

As a result of the implementation of the adopted state programs on socio-economic development of the regions for the purpose of diversification of the country's economy, the continuous rise of the non-oil sector and regions, the non-oil industry has been consistently developed over the past years, and thousands of new industries of significant importance for

the country's economy have been established, and enterprises based on modern technologies have started to operate.

First of all, under the "State Program for the Development of Industry in the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2015-2020", numerous industrial parks and neighborhoods, technoparks (Sumgait, Balakhani, Mingachevir, Garadagh, Pirallahi, Neftchala, Masalli, etc.) were created, serious measures were taken in the expansion of production areas, an increase of export opportunities of non-oil industry and development of innovative products. Aluminum, urea, plastic processing plants in Sumgait, polypropylene and high-density polyethylene plants of "SOCAR Polymer" company (the amount of investment in these plants exceeds 800 million dollars), a household waste recycling plant in Balakhani, Baku shipyard, car plants in Ganja, Nakhchivan and Neftchala, Sumgayit, Gadabay, and Dashkasan gold-copper refineries, Ganja aluminum semi-finished products, agricultural machinery factories, and other industrial enterprises were commissioned in those years and play an essential role in strengthening the country's economic potential.

In recent years, in the context of the global financial crisis, the increase in international pressure on the nature of economic development as a whole has accelerated the development and implementation of the relevant strategic road map. The socio-economic policy implemented by President Ilham Aliyev and the diversification of the economy, which is one of the main directions of this policy, play a decisive role in ensuring the sustainable development of Azerbaijan. Taking into account this reality, to ensure the development of the national economy, the "Main directions of strategic roadmap for national economy and main sectors of economy" was adopted by the order of

President Ilham Aliyev dated March 16, 2016. The Strategic Road Map for the national economy perspective covers three periods - up to 2020, up to 2025, and after 2025, including short, medium, and long-term periods.

During the past period, the successful implementation of strategic roadmaps under the leadership of President Ilham Aliyev served to macroeconomic stability, growth of the non-oil sector and exports, favorable business environment and investment attraction, continuous improvement of infrastructure and social welfare of the population, as well as the strengthening of the international positions of our country. As a result of multifaceted and fundamental reforms, the non-oil sector in Azerbaijan is experiencing a period of development, Azerbaijan's export opportunities are expanding, and dependence on imports is decreasing. The current economic situation in Azerbaijan and global and regional trends are taken into account in the Strategic Road Map, which is based on serious analyses. The main goal of implementing the conceptual document is the reduction of poverty through creating jobs, housing, education and health services, communal services, and the transition from a targeted social assistance system to rehabilitation. It is known that the non-oil sector plays a decisive role in creating jobs and positively impacts both economic and social development. In this framework, the development of regions, the creation of modern economic and social infrastructure, and the implementation of other projects laid the foundation for successful, positive trends. Within the framework of the State Program of Socio-Economic Development of Regions in our country, the highway industry has developed rapidly, and many modern bridges and tunnels have been built. A total of 6 airports are available to citizens in the regions, 4 of which have international status. In

addition, state support measures in the regions, earmarking millions of manat concessional loans to poultry farming, animal husbandry, dairy complexes, meat slaughtering and processing enterprises, have led to increased production and a significant decrease in the import of meat and meat products in recent years. In addition, providing millions of manat concessional loans to horticulture and viticulture farms, greenhouse complexes, and fruit and vegetable processing enterprises in the regions has created an export opportunity for these products in addition to meeting the domestic demand. While meeting the food demand through local production, concessional loans were also granted to establish large farms.

When discussing the development of the non-oil sector, it is necessary to talk about the decisions taken and the works done to restore the former glory of cotton cultivation in the country. At the republican meeting on the development of cotton farming held in Sabirabad on September 17, 2016, under the chairmanship of President Ilham Aliyev, important tasks were set before the relevant institutions in this field. President Ilham Aliyev spoke at the meeting: "Production of export-oriented products is a priority task for the country today, and this task must be fulfilled. What is it about? First, we must do it to realize our country's available agricultural potential at 100 percent. An inch of soil should not be left empty. This will increase productivity, bring even greater financial income to people, and it will be of great benefit to the state. We must ensure the flow of currency to Azerbaijan. Therefore, the production of export-oriented products is of particular importance. Cotton is also an export-oriented product."²³⁸

Speaking about critical challenges the country faces, President Ilham Aliyev, noted that "the main goal of the new

economic development program for e us is the development of the non-oil sector in our country, diversification of the economy, and support to the private sector.” In this sense, during the past period, industrialization and the development of the non-oil industry were one of the main directions of President Ilham Aliyev’s economic diversification policy. For this purpose, the non-oil industry was chosen as one of the priority directions of the country’s future economic development when the first state program on the development of regions was adopted. This policy was continued in subsequent years, and 2014 was declared the “Year of Industry” in Azerbaijan. The development of the non-oil industry reduces the dependence of the country’s domestic production and consumer market on the income from the production and export of hydrocarbon carriers and serves the diversification of exports. Over the past 18 years, hundreds of modern industrial enterprises, new production areas, and industrial parks have been created in different regions, the share of local products in meeting domestic demand has increased significantly, and export opportunities have expanded. As President Ilham Aliyev noted, local production is revived, new jobs are created, and the diversification of our economy is ensured. To the strategic line of President Mr. Ilham Aliyev, “The future development of Azerbaijan should be related to the development of the industry,” as a result of the industrialization policy implemented in our country, hundreds of modern industrial enterprises and new industries were created, the share of local products in meeting demand increased significantly, and the volume of exports increased.

Due to the development of the non-oil sector and the reduction of dependence on imports, there has been an increase

in Azerbaijan's foreign exchange reserves. In 2020, the growth in the non-oil industry in Azerbaijan was 12.5 percent.

The head of the country said that the diversified development model of the economy would be applied in our territories freed from occupation. According to the new goals set by the President for the post-war period, the liberated regions will become the leading force of our next development. The liberated lands have great potential - renewable energy, valuable natural resources, gold deposits, copper deposits, rivers, water reservoirs, fertile agricultural land, and tourism opportunities. A modern management system should be established by the existing situation in the liberated regions, and urban planning and the functions of state bodies should be ensured in a planned manner. The end of the war makes it easier to attract investment.

In this way, the creation of all necessary production areas, a good business environment for attracting new investments, political stability, unity of people and power, security were ensured in Azerbaijan, favorable geographical location, infrastructure, trained professional personnel, export markets, with neighboring countries and have productive business relations.

The importance of the reforms implemented in our country based on the political will of President Ilham Aliyev should be specially noted. The scope of these reforms includes such important directions as optimizing the business environment in the country, improving the banking and financial sector, simplifying customs import-export operations, and ensuring transparency in all areas. All these contributed to the development of the non-oil sector in the country.

In several economic analyses, it is also noted that in the last 18 years, our country has been focused on the diversification of

the economy. In recent years, Azerbaijan, distinguished by its solid internal stability, received large volumes of oil revenues, which were purposefully allocated to priority areas of strategic importance in terms of national interest and directed to implementing new programs on the non-oil economy. Thus, under the leadership of President Ilham Aliyev, our republic has chosen such a successful model of economic development, where the main factor is not the oil factor but the non-oil sector. Thanks to the targeted policy, the share of the non-oil sector in the gross domestic product of our republic has increased to 80 percent, which is an outstanding achievement.

In addition, as an important branch of the non-oil sector in Azerbaijan, entrepreneurship development is supported politically and financially. Since 2004, loans for approximately 2 billion manats have been allocated to many entrepreneurial subjects in our republic. Thanks to continuous state support, the weight of the private sector in employment and tax revenues in the country has exceeded 70 percent.

Systematic reforms carried out to ensure economic progress in our country in the last ten years under the leadership of President Ilham Aliyev are one of the main factors that ensure the improvement of the investment and business environment. Recently, necessary steps have been taken to improve the investment climate in Azerbaijan, and critical legislative initiatives have been implemented. Both the liberalization of the tax and customs policy and the measures implemented in the direction of investment protection has stimulated investments in the country.

As a logical result of this, more than 250 billion dollars were attracted to the national economy during the past period. About half of them are foreign investments. Another

noteworthy point is that more than 130 billion dollars of funds were directed to the non-oil sector. This becomes even more important against the background of the crisis in the oil market. Thus, the short-term drop in oil prices to a negative level has once again confirmed that there is no alternative for us to switch to a non-oil economy.

When discussing the measures taken to further stimulate the development of the non-oil sector, it is necessary to mention the exploitation of Azerbaijan's significant natural and mineral resources and the strengthening of the export potential. "AzerGold" Closed Joint-Stock Company, established according to President Ilham Aliyev's Decree No. 1047 dated February 11, 2015, is engaged in the study, research, exploration, management, extraction, processing, and sale of non-ferrous and ferrous metal ore deposits in the country, the essential works carried out in connection with the application of technologies, modernization of the material and technical base and its practical use, as well as the development of this field.

It should be noted that since 2020, the field of activity of "AzerGold" has been further expanded. The country's development and management of ferrous metal ore deposits are also entrusted. "Dashkasan Demir Filiz" Limited Liability Company started operating with the relevant Decree of the head of our state. The main goal of this project is to put iron ore deposits into operation in a short period and to meet the demand for raw materials for the production of metallurgical products of better quality, replacing scrap metal.

On July 22, 2021, President Ilham Aliyev, while getting acquainted with the activities of the "Chowdar" Integrated Regional Processing Area of "AzerGold" CJSC in Dashkasan,

especially noted the prospective opportunities of this area: "For the development of the non-oil sector, this area has particular importance. Mining is becoming a leading sector in our non-oil sector and the prospects are very good. Today we celebrated the opening, and at the same time, there was a presentation about the work to be done. The extraction of gold and other precious metals will be solved on a larger scale in Azerbaijan. In parallel with this, there are concrete plans for the development of iron ore deposits, in the traditional area of Dashkasan. Some time ago, a special program was drawn up on my instructions, state investment resources were involved. This area will be very profitable. At the same time, thousands of jobs will be created, and dependence on imports will decrease. Because during the last five years - this is indicated in the presentation - 1.7 billion manats of the country went to import iron products alone. The development of this sector will allow us to drastically reduce our dependence on imports, create a value chain with greater value, and at the same time, we will have export opportunities. Because today the development of our mining industry should go this way."²³⁹

Thus, the socio-economic policy implemented by Ilham Aliyev and the diversification of the economy, which is one of the main directions of this policy, has become a decisive factor in ensuring the sustainable development of Azerbaijan. Thanks to this purposeful policy based on solid foundations, in recent years, the development dynamics of the non-oil sector in Azerbaijan have surpassed the growth dynamics of the oil sector, which is of great importance in achieving the goals reflected in the country's strategic priorities.

Ilham Aliyev – Strong Leader

If we look at the path our country has taken in 18 years, we will see that the economy of Azerbaijan is developing continuously and dynamically. With his pragmatic and flexible policy, systematic and consistent approach, and revolutionary reforms, President Ilham Aliyev turned Azerbaijan into a powerful state from an economic point of view and promptly responded to every challenge of the time. All international, large-scale projects implemented in the region during these years were implemented with the participation of Azerbaijan and its national interests.

It is no coincidence that at a time when the deep financial crisis caused by the impact of the coronavirus pandemic led to economic decline and increased social tension in several countries, our country was protected from the impact of the global crisis and measures to improve social and economic development and the well-being of our citizens continued consistently. Thus, during the last period, state funds and other financial resources were mobilized, and the total financial support package exceeded 3.5 billion manats. With the initiative and leadership of the President of the country, Ilham Aliyev, flexible and necessary preventive steps were taken to prevent the spread of the coronavirus disease in Azerbaijan. In this direction, our country played an active role in the world by showing global solidarity. The extraordinary Summit meeting of the Turkic Council held on April 10, 2020, via video conference at the initiative of President Ilham Aliyev went down in history as the first international event dedicated to the coronavirus pandemic at the level of heads of state, and our country was evaluated as an exemplary country for the measures taken

against the pandemic. On May 4, 2020, at the initiative of Ilham Aliyev, a Summit meeting was held on the topic "We are together against COVID-19" through a video conference in the format of the Contact Group of the Non-Aligned Movement. Realizing another global initiative, President Ilham Aliyev, this time at the Summit meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement, which unites 120 member states and 17 observer countries, as well as 10 observer international organizations, not only showed the way out of the coronavirus scourge but also shared the effective results of the programs implemented in this direction.

Thus, Azerbaijan is among the countries that have taken the most serious measures in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic that is spreading all over the world. While preventing the spread of the coronavirus in our country, effective measures were implemented under the leadership and personal control of President Ilham Aliyev. The World Health Organization has repeatedly appreciated the measures taken by Azerbaijan in the fight, calling it an exemplary country in this field. The steps taken by the head of state from the first day became an example for all structures and citizens and created great motivation. About 10 new modular hospitals have been opened in Azerbaijan, further strengthening the existing capabilities in the fight against the coronavirus. Entrepreneurs also joined the calls for the transfer of donations to the Fund to fight against Coronavirus in Azerbaijan, which was established on the initiative of the President not to lay off employees, and showed high solidarity in the society.

It is also important to note that President Ilham Aliyev's measures to combat the coronavirus and his purposeful steps to solve this problem cover not only our country but the whole world. On July 10, 2020, at the special session of the UN General

Assembly held on the initiative of Mr. Ilham Aliyev, the measures to fight against the coronavirus, the ways to solve this problem were widely discussed by the countries of the world, and more effective and efficient targets for the fight against the coronavirus were determined. The fact that the President of Azerbaijan put forward this admirable initiative is an excellent contribution of our state to the world's fight against the coronavirus and human solidarity. This humanist and progressive proposal once again proves that Mr. Ilham Aliyev is a global leader concerned not only for his country and region but for the fate of the whole world, who thinks about the future of humanity as a whole and wishes for the happiness of every person.

“At a time when the world is facing the coronavirus, the initiatives put forward by President Ilham Aliyev prove that Azerbaijan is trying to ensure security not only for its health but also for the health of the world's population. Our country has always been closely involved in the strengthening of international cooperation, intercultural dialogue, and events of a global nature. Considering the importance of international solidarity in the fight against the pandemic, it conducts an active policy in this direction.”²⁴⁰

Professor Irada Huseynova notes that “the most striking result of President Ilham Aliyev's leadership of the country in the last 18 years is that today Azerbaijan is, in the true sense of the word, a country with a completely independent policy. Today, the independent state of Azerbaijan has its own political signature, statehood, and development path. The policy of the country's government based on national interests, economic development and democratization, legal state-building, and consistent and purposeful activity in effective diplomacy ensured the practical realization of national independence. Mr. Ilham

Aliyev, who successfully continued the line of modernization, believes that this path will lead our country to a knowledge and information society. Socio-cultural modernization of Azerbaijan implies the quick and high-quality application of new technologies and market mechanisms and the creation of institutions that can condition the nation's civil renewal with the help of creative and innovative consciousness. As a result of the socio-economic reforms successfully implemented in the past years - state programs that stimulate sustainable and balanced development, decrees and orders covering all areas of public life, our republic has been on the path of rapid development in the world in recent years, has successfully emerged from the global financial and economic crisis, and has a unique national development model."²⁴¹

The expansion of the sports movement in Azerbaijan is also connected with the name Ilham Aliyev. The Great Leader Heydar Aliyev used to say that no activity like sports can make the country known in the world. Guided by this idea, President Ilham Aliyev turned Azerbaijan into a sports country in the past. To achieve this goal, Olympic centers, and modern sports infrastructure were created throughout the country, and attention and care to athletes were increased. The Olympic movement in Azerbaijan gained unprecedented momentum. The results are obvious. The holding of the first European Games was entrusted to Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan hosted the 42nd World Chess Olympiad, the Women's European Volleyball Championship, IV Islamic Solidarity Games. With one of the most prestigious sports competitions in the world - the Formula 1 European Grand Prix, which has been held in Baku for two years, Azerbaijan became the center of attention of the whole world. Azerbaijan scored a great victory at the Rio Summer

Olympic Games. Our national team, which won 18 medals for the first time in history, ranked 14th in the world, 7th among European countries, 2nd among CIS republics, and 1st among Muslim countries.

President Ilham Aliyev's respectful approach to our national moral values, various religions, and civilizations, further strengthening strong traditions of tolerance in the country, made Azerbaijan one of the main centers of multiculturalism, interreligious and intercultural dialogue not only in the region but in the world as a whole. Today, multiculturalism is Azerbaijan's state policy and lifestyle. It is now accepted all over the world. Azerbaijan has rich experience in realizing essential projects to develop the dialogue of cultures, preserve cultural diversity and regulate mutual relations between civilizations, and hold prestigious forums. The Azerbaijani model of tolerance is the most perfect example in the world, and the holding of the VII Global Forum of the UN Alliance of Civilizations in Baku confirms this.

As we remember the principal moments of Ilham Aliyev's 18-year social and political activity, who created the example of the Leader of the 21st century, youth policy occupies an important place in his multifaceted pragmatic statehood course. The youth policy of the head of the country has created an excellent stimulus for the new generations of Azerbaijan and significantly increased their development and career opportunities. The approval of the following state program, "Youth of Azerbaijan in 2017-2021," has created new opportunities for the initiative of young people in our society, strengthening their patriotic spirit and citizenship position and expanding their interests. In general, thanks to the multifaceted reforms carried out under the leadership of Mr. President, the activity of young people

in all fields, the close participation of knowledgeable young people in management, and their appointments to essential positions are a clear manifestation of great attention and trust in young people in our country. By declaring 2020 as the “Year of Volunteers” in Azerbaijan, the head of the country gave great importance and contribution to this movement. The expansion of the volunteering movement is playing a positive role in promoting kindness, new rules of behavior in society, and ensuring young people’s self-development. Volunteering has become an example of attachment to the school of patriotism, one’s people, state, and national moral values for our young people. The highly professional organization of the Eurovision Song Contest held in 2012, the I European Games held in 2015, the IV Islamic Solidarity Games held in 2017, and the Formula-1 Baku Grand Prix and the visit of thousands of foreign citizens to Azerbaijan in order to introduce our country to the world is one of the most successful steps taken.

The principles of humanism in the philosophy of statehood of President Ilham Aliyev, being one of the crucial directions, had a substantial impact on the deepening of philanthropic feelings in our society. With resounding approval and great joy, our people welcomed the amnesty acts and amnesty decrees signed by the head of state. President Ilham Aliyev, who continued the inheritance of the visionary policy founded on solid foundations by the great personality Heydar Aliyev in all areas according to the requirements of the time, always focused on the operation of the amnesty institute based on flexible and efficient mechanisms. The work carried out in this field has made it necessary to treat everyone with trust and respect, regardless of who they are, and to spread humanitarian ideas widely in society. In the last 18 years, 35 amnesty decrees and decrees signed by the President,

numerous acts of amnesty accepted at the initiative of a big-hearted person have brought joy to tens of thousands of people.

On the initiative of the head of state, the Amnesty Act announced on the occasion of November 8 - Victory Day, dedicated to our Great Victory over the enemy, is the next manifestation of the humanitarian policy of our state. As mentioned in the preamble of the amnesty act, Victory in the Patriotic War increased the self-confidence and trust of the Azerbaijani people and strengthened the statehood of Azerbaijan. Announcing the amnesty at such a stage indicates that the humanist policy implemented in our country, starting with the Great Leader Heydar Aliyev, is continuing.

On the eve of the first anniversary of our historic victory in the Patriotic War - Victory Day, the adoption of the Decision "On declaring amnesty on the occasion of November 8 - Victory Day" by the Parliament at the initiative of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief, the architect of this Victory, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev contributed to the joy of the victory.

Thus, the last 18 years entered the history of Azerbaijan as a period of comprehensive and rapid development. The unity of a strong people, a strong state, and a strong leader has become the motto of modern independent Azerbaijan in the last 18 years. During these years, Azerbaijan has strengthened daily and taken a worthy place in the world arena. All achievements are based on the Strong Leader factor. Influential heads of state and political and public figures of the world evaluate Ilham Aliyev as a phenomenal charismatic Leader and a wise politician and attach great importance to the active role he plays in Azerbaijan, regional and world politics as the political successor of the Great Leader Heydar Aliyev:

President of the Republic of Turkey Rejep Tayyip Erdogan: "Azerbaijan has a prestigious position in the international world today. The greatest share in today's success of Azerbaijan, which has achieved significant progress in the political and economic fields, undoubtedly belongs to the honorable Mr. President, my dear brother Ilham Aliyev."

President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin: "Under the leadership of Honorable Ilham Aliyev, Azerbaijan is advancing confidently on socio-economic development and strengthening its position in the international world. We greatly appreciate the personal contributions of Mr. Ilham Aliyev to strengthening strategic partnership relations between our countries. The trust and mutual understanding between us are really very valuable for me."

The First President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev: "We highly appreciate the contribution of Mr. Ilham Aliyev to the building of the Azerbaijani society, as well as to the promotion of the country and its economic development. The Republic of Azerbaijan achieved great achievements in this short historical period and became an active and influential member of the world community."

Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China: "In recent years, a stable socio-political situation has been observed in Azerbaijan under the leadership of President Ilham Aliyev. Significant results are achieved in economic development, and the status and reputation of Azerbaijan in the international community are constantly rising. The Chinese side is pleased about all this."

Suleyman Demirel, the 9th President of the Republic of Turkey: "The development we see in Azerbaijan is the result of serious efforts of President Ilham Aliyev. We are satisfied

and happy with this ongoing development under his strong leadership. Whatever we see pleases us as if we were in our own country.”

Shaukat Aziz, former Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan: “The world needs leaders like Mr. Ilham Aliyev, who support the improvement of people’s living standards, education, and the opening of new opportunities for progress and development. Mr. Ilham Aliyev is a symbol of peace, tolerance, and broad thinking.”

Former Prime Minister of the State of Israel Ehud Barak: “Honorable President Ilham Aliyev, as a statesman, has taken on an important mission to move his people forward, to achieve peace and freedom, which are the basic values of humanity.”

Alexander Kwasniewski, the former President of the Republic of Poland: “The loyalty shown by Azerbaijan and personally by President Ilham Aliyev to values such as interreligious and interethnic tolerance and peace is known to the whole world.”

Former President of the Republic of Latvia Valdis Zatlers: “President Ilham Aliyev has become a wise, responsible, and determined leader of his people. This is a clear manifestation of His incomparable talent and the noble activities that He has carried out for many years. I admire Mr. Ilham Aliyev’s activities and successes.”

Former Director General of ICESCO, Abdulaziz bin Osman al-Tuwaijri: “With the skillful and wise leadership of Mr. President Ilham Aliyev, all spheres of life in Azerbaijan have developed comprehensively and successfully, and the country has become a symbol of dialogue, peace, and tolerance throughout the world.”

Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All of Russia: "Mr. Ilham Aliyev is known worldwide as an experienced and professional political figure capable of solving the most difficult issues. He continues the policy of his respected father, Heydar Aliyev, and selflessly serves the welfare of the Motherland and the people in the position of the highest state. It is gratifying that Ilham Aliyev attaches great importance to supporting inter-ethnic and inter-religious peace in the republic in his activities."

Rector of the Moscow State Institute of International Relations, Academician of the Russian Academy of Sciences Anatoly Torkunov: "All those who know the respected Ilham Aliyev note that he is a far-sighted statesman, a wise leader, a person who is loyal to his work and works with all his being for the welfare of his citizens."

Frederick Starr, Chairman of the Central Asia and Caucasian Studies Institute of the prestigious Johns Hopkins University in the United States: "One of the strongest features of President Ilham Aliyev is that it is not important for him to always be in the center of attention. He is a skilled, balanced person who does not allow thoughtless decisions and treats people with respect to his opinion. I have heard many times that he spoke with respect to the representatives of the opposition in Azerbaijan. He is a person who can separate personal feelings from politics. These are all characteristics of a very responsible person. I think he has served his country very well so far."

The following words of the outstanding writer of our time, Chingiz Aytmatov, about President Ilham Aliyev sound like a figuratively expressed formula of a prominent literary man about the head of state: "Ilham Aliyev is the leading standard of the globalized world."

Formation of Flexible Management Model

It is known that public administration is a socio-political function of the state. It is of great importance in regulating all spheres of public life, ensuring sustainable development, welfare, and satisfaction level, and forming a professional and efficient public service. In the theory of public administration, there are three main approaches to formulating the basic principles of public administration - legal approach; political approach; management approach. According to the legal approach, the principal values of public administration are the values of the rule of law and the protection of citizens' rights. A civil servant is subject to the requirements of the rule of law and the Constitution. According to the political approach, the main task of public administration is to embody the will of the people as well as possible. Civil servants should be politically responsible (accountable) according to the current interests of citizens.

In essence, management is carried out on the basis of models and methods arising from the objective necessity of each era as a special social function aimed at regulating development processes through the reconciliation of needs and forms of activity.

The successful and purposeful policy of President Ilham Aliyev is the transition of our country to a new stage of development, the creation of new democratic mechanisms and an efficient and transparent, modern management model at the level of service to the people, a new way of thinking in citizen-civil servant relations, the formation of personnel potential, and the elimination of the causes that lead to corruption. In 2007-2011, the "National Strategy for Increasing Transparency

and Combating Corruption” was implemented to improve the activity of state bodies according to modern standards. Increasing transparency, accountability, and application of new technologies in the activity of state bodies has been established as the main principles in the “National Action Plan for the Promotion of Open Government for 2012-2015.” Under the Action Plan, due to the reforms based on the modern trends of global development and national-historical traditions of statehood, the forms and methods of providing public services have been regularly improved, and the public service has become an essential socio-legal mechanism consisting of professional personnel. The carried-out reforms led to adding new functions such as forecasting, strategic analysis, evaluation, marketing, and human resources management to the traditional functions of state administration and the provision of active use of innovations and modern technologies. According to the decree “On some measures in the field of organization of electronic services of state bodies” signed by the head of the country on May 23, 2011, electronic services of state bodies were created. In the National Action Plan for the promotion of open government for 2012-2015, one of the measures envisaged increasing transparency and promoting open government was the improvement of electronic services. “Transparency is the issue that determines the future of every country. Because without transparency, we cannot carry out any reforms, and the country cannot develop rapidly either economically or politically”, said President Ilham Aliyev,” who took an innovative step and created the State Agency for Public Services and Social Innovations under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan within the framework of reforms aimed at improving the activity of state structures and increasing

transparency, eliminating bureaucratic obstacles between citizens and state structures. The agency was created due to the need to increase transparency in state bodies, to provide services to citizens in a more qualitative, convenient, new style and with the application of modern innovations, to comply with ethical rules in relation to citizens, and to ensure citizen satisfaction. Establishing the agency is of great importance for developing “citizen-civil servant” relations and forming a new way of thinking and activity in officials.

As it is known, when several government bodies provide the same services, a healthy competition environment is created between them, preventing corruption and procrastination and ensuring citizen satisfaction. Considering this feature in the reform process resulted in creation of “ASAN service” centers that provide the services of several bodies in one institution. The establishment of the “ASAN service” centers on the initiative of the President, transparency in the activities of state bodies, improvement of services provided to citizens, and acceleration of the transition to electronic services implemented by applying better quality, convenience, new style, and modern innovations were ensured. It is no coincidence that the Azerbaijani brand “ASAN service” has aroused great interest in the world, and a number of countries have learned about this experience.

President Ilham Aliyev has won the deep sympathy of the public as the initiator of establishing “ASAN service” centers in our country. On December 5, 2019, at the opening of the “ASAN Hayat” complex in Shamakhi, the head of the country said: “Today, this service, which was created on my initiative, is received with great sympathy not only in our country but also in foreign countries. I am glad that “ASAN service” has a rating of 99.4 percent. It shows that the service

is really a great achievement. It has led to great changes in the field of public services. At the same time, the "ASAN service" has caused revolutionary changes in the social consciousness of our society. Because the public services sector was always very problematic, and citizens suffered a lot. Bureaucracy, procrastination, corruption, and bribery were the main problems of the service sector. After "ASAN service" started its operation, full transparency in this field has already been ensured."²⁴²

It is a very important point that the "ASAN service" brand, which was created as a logical result of President Ilham Aliyev's initiatives to create an efficient management mechanism in the country, is internationally recognized. "ASAN is our intellectual product. I am delighted that Azerbaijan invented an intellectual product and exported it. I believe that the export of intellectual products and services should be given great attention in our future activities. The presentations at the "Bakutel" exhibition also show that we are already exporting services, including satellite services and related innovations. The "ASAN service" center is already operating in Afghanistan, and we have already signed memorandums of understanding and agreements with several countries. ASAN is expanding its activities in the world, and it is possible for us to cooperate with many countries in the future. Our main condition is that the service provided in Azerbaijan should also be provided there because it is our brand, and the center's name should be ASAN in all countries. It is no coincidence that ASAN has already been awarded international awards and is both an intellectual brand of Azerbaijan and reflects our policy and intention. Because our policy is that there should be transparency, honesty, and cultural service in every field, and no violations should be

allowed. I believe that “The ASAN service” is one of the most effective mechanisms against corruption and bribery. Radical measures are being taken regarding these issues. In Azerbaijan, practical measures are being taken to eliminate corruption and bribery or reduce it significantly. These measures are giving results and will continue to give results. Therefore, in addition to administrative and punitive measures, institutional measures should be taken to narrow the scope of corruption and bribery and thus bring Azerbaijan to the path of modern, swift development. We achieve this.”²⁴³

The preparation of the Development concept “Azerbaijan 2020: A Vision of the Future” by the order of the President of the country is a clear indicator of the beginning of a new development stage in the country. The main strategic goal of the concept is to achieve development characterized by sustainable economic growth and high social welfare, effective state administration and the rule of law, full provision of all people’s rights and freedoms, and the active status of civil society in the public life of the country taking into account the available opportunities and resources.

The modern era of globalization requires each country to establish a flexible management system. The training and promotion of highly prepared personnel with innovative thinking, who have deeply mastered the modern development trends of the time, and who take into account the challenges of the complex world they experience in their activities are considered essential tasks. At the current stage of reforms, forming a flexible management model based on progressive criteria is relevant for Azerbaijan.

Novruz Mammadov believes that the primary goal of personnel reforms implemented in recent years is to improve

the social welfare of the population, formulate a sustainable development strategy independent of oil, and change the philosophy of public administration in general. "Mr. Ilham Aliyev, first of all, thinking about the interests of his countrymen, takes these and other decisions related to state administration and implements structural reforms. The Decree of the head of state dated January 14, 2019, "On additional measures related to the improvement of public administration in the Republic of Azerbaijan," is of great importance in terms of ensuring flexibility and efficiency in the management system. Since the complex political, economic, and humanitarian processes taking place on a global scale make the application of the modern reformist vision more urgent, the head of state considers it extremely important for the government to be ready for these challenges. On February 21, 2017, the appointment of Mehriban Aliyeva, President of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, Goodwill Ambassador of ISESCO, as the First Vice President of Azerbaijan, in this sense, served the purpose of increasing the efficiency of the state administration and the continuity of the multifaceted reforms implemented in Azerbaijan in the post-oil era and. The successful activity of Mrs. Mehriban Aliyeva as the First Vice-President ensured the acceleration of this process and brought a new breath to the administration."²⁴⁴

The citizen is at the center of the state policy aimed at establishing efficient public administration, which is determined as a necessary guarantee condition of our republic's new stage of development. Her satisfaction is considered the main indicator of the quality and ease of state services, ensuring transparency and enriching the personnel potential is successfully continued in harmony with the dynamic development of all areas of public life. One of the factors that ensures the dynamic development

of every country is the formation of personnel potential that meets the requirements of the time and the creation of a flexible state administration system based on efficient mechanisms. Historically, the solid moral unity of the people and the government was possible precisely in societies where every citizen's interests were provided at a high level. Experience shows that the government, which is the representative of public interests, always does free service to the people based on laws with a progressive spirit. To realize this goal, forming a monolithic, robust, and professional team and bringing modernity, dynamism, and initiative to public administration becomes an objective necessity. "During the global financial crisis, forming a flexible management model based on these and other progressive criteria is also quite relevant for Azerbaijan. In this sense, the purposeful policy pursued by the President of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, who objectively assesses the realities of the new world order, is aimed not only at minimizing the adverse effects of the global economic crisis on our country but also at ensuring systemic quality changes in state administration."²⁴⁵

The progress-oriented reforms that have taken place in our country in recent years and their positive results show that Ilham Aliyev, who said that "Azerbaijani citizens are at the center of our policy," has created a clear example of selfless service to the people with his multifaceted and purposeful activities. On January 30, 2017, the head of state rightly said at the conference on the third anniversary of the implementation of the "State Program for the Social-Economic Development of the Regions of the Republic of Azerbaijan in 2014-2018": "I have expressed my views on this issue many times. I have said it and reiterate it today, so everyone knows, hears, and concludes.

Officials live for the people, not the other way around. An official is a servant of the people; he should provide service and help to the citizen and not act alone. He should not make any illegal demands. He should behave modestly. He and his family members should be role models. He should not engage in bribery and robbery. As I said, the official should be like this. When I appoint each state official as the head of the executive power or another position, I give instructions to go and serve the people, provide service, serve the state, and work cleanly. Nevertheless, unfortunately, some of them do not get results. They will also be punished."²⁴⁶

Objectively assessing the realities of the new world, the purposeful policy pursued by the President of Azerbaijan in recent years, in this sense, is aimed not only at reducing the adverse effects of the current global crisis in our country to the maximum extent but also at ensuring systemic qualitative changes in state administration.

The structural and personnel reforms carried out by President Ilham Aliyev aim to solve issues such as increasing the efficiency of public administration, making it transparent, eliminating negative situations that worry society, forming a professional staff base, and promoting worthy candidates to important positions. President Ilham Aliyev said that public administration reforms will be carried out in our republic from now on, thereby ensuring systematic and stable economic and social reforms, and the country's continuous development will be accelerated.

Thus, in the activities of Ilham Aliyev, the facilitation of management and the provision of citizen satisfaction were also the focus of attention as a strategic line. The establishment of modern service centers such as "ASAN service," "ASAN

communal,” and “DOST” at the initiative of the President once again reveals the essence and philosophy of the modern management system in Azerbaijan.

During the presidency of Ilham Aliyev, the role of science and intellectuals (technocrats) working in the scientific and technical field increased in the management and power structure. The harmonious unity of humanitarian politicians, managers, and technocrats meets its interests in our country’s modernization conditions.

“President Ilham Aliyev, as an innovative leader who represents a new way of thinking in public administration policy, has started reforms in the most modern directions from the moment he came to power. Since the new directions determined by the head of state were formed based on considering the internal natural logic of life, the realities of the country, and the recent world experience, it paved the way for real, sustainable development in all areas. Ilham Aliyev brought to the Azerbaijani political system an example of political activity based on logical judgments and analytical analysis, progressive, positive, serving national goals, based on realism, and removed radicalism, political blackmail, and extremism from our political system. He is a charismatic leader who can generate positive energy, prefers social activities, is distinguished by his oratory and communication skills, and simultaneously by his extraordinary quality.”²⁴⁷

Directions of Ilham Aliyev's multifaceted development concept

Each citizen feels the successful results of the large-scale reforms implemented in various spheres of society under the leadership of President Ilham Aliyev in his life and the development of his creative abilities. The fruits of President Ilham Aliyev's multifaceted policy course are showing themselves in all initiatives, especially in education and culture. The development trend observed in each field in Azerbaijan attracts particular attention in the education sector. During Ilham Aliyev's presidency, thousands of school buildings were built or reconstructed in the republic, a wide-based educational infrastructure was created, and our schools' material and technical base were provided with new ICT equipment. This development is undoubtedly based on the ideas of Great Leader Heydar Aliyev and the strategic course implemented based on those ideas. The steps taken based on great attention and purposeful instructions of the head of state, implemented state programs have served to achieve qualitatively new development trends in the education system and achieve high results. This also makes significant contributions to the work of raising and nationalizing the national personnel potential in terms of quantity and quality in our country.

It is known that education policy is considered an important component of the development concept in the strategic goals of each country. In the age of modern globalization, the only way to national progress in Azerbaijan is through the development of science and education, new knowledge, intellectual labor, and the wide application of computer and information technologies at all levels of management. During the leadership of President

Ilham Aliyev, the development of higher education became the main priority, and the development of human capital was one of the main directions of state policy. During this period, the network of higher education institutions was further developed and expanded; their number increased from 46 in 2003 to 51, and the number of students from 120 thousand to 171 thousand. In addition to these, new basic higher education institutions providing high-quality higher education have been established. ADA University, Baku Higher Oil School, which meets the most modern requirements in Azerbaijan, is considered one of the leading educational institutions in our country and the world. Also, Baku branches of old universities, such as the Moscow State University, named after M.V. Lomonosov, and the First Moscow State Medical University, named after I.M. Sechenov, which are known worldwide, have progressive traditions and a well-known reputation, have been established. Azerbaijan-French University (UFAZ) has started its activities to create an opportunity for the citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan to receive a quality education within the framework of higher education standards of leading countries without going abroad. Here, four majors (chemical engineering, computer science, geophysical engineering, oil and gas exploration and exploitation) are taught in English. A double diploma is awarded the French universities of Strasbourg and Rennes 1.

The reforms carried out in the field of education, the adopted State programs, as well as the preparation of the National Strategy for the wide-ranging development of education in Azerbaijan in 2011-2021, the holding of competitions are an indication that our education is once again in the center of attention of the head of state.

To ensure that young people study abroad in the necessary disciplines for the country and become an essential factor in the country's development, the decree on the approval of the "State Program on Education of Azerbaijani Youth Abroad in the years 2007-2015" was also signed. It means that within the framework of that program aimed at the development of human capital, more than 4,000 citizens of Azerbaijan have the right to study at 379 leading universities in 32 countries of the world, funded by the State Oil Fund. Those universities are among the 500 leading universities in the world.

Within the program's framework, 3,558 Azerbaijani citizens have received the right to study at the world's most prestigious higher education institution. Hundreds of young people have studied or are studying in essential fields for our country in prestigious higher education institutions such as Harvard University, Yale University, Oxford University, Bristol University, Sorbonne University, Kyoto University, Toronto University, Heidelberg University, and Bilkent University, the Moscow State Institute of International Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation. Those young people have been invited to experience the world's leading organizations and companies (UN, NASA, Microsoft, Google, Bloomberg, Samsung, LG, and so forth). By closely participating in the social and cultural life of the countries where they live, they are particularly active in promoting Azerbaijan's history, culture, and art and working with diaspora. The organization of these young people in countries such as the United States of America (USA), Germany, Australia, Great Britain, France, the Republic of Korea, and Japan around the ideology of Azerbaijanism and national values serves to protect the interests of our country in those countries. Having

completed their studies with high academic performance, the young people returned to Azerbaijan and started working in various enterprises and organizations.

Those graduates are involved in modernizing the academic skills of professors and teachers of higher education institutions (“ADA” University, Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Baku State University, Baku Higher Oil School, Azerbaijan State University of Economics, etc.) and teaching. Being role models in the organization, they play an essential role in the development process of those educational institutions.

On October 24, 2013, President Ilham Aliyev approved the “State Strategy for the Development of Education in the Republic of Azerbaijan.” The reforms carried out within the framework of the state strategy laid the foundation for quality changes in Azerbaijani education. The years that have passed since the adoption of the state strategy that contributes to the training of knowledgeable personnel in Azerbaijan, which is developing strongly and dynamically, purposeful initiatives have been launched that will allow the reconstruction of the content of education, personnel training, management in education, and ensure sustainable development.

In President Ilham Aliyev’s policy of statehood, stimulating teachers’ work is particularly important. In general, the improvement of the socio-material condition of educational workers is the basis of the strategy implemented by the President of Azerbaijan. According to the decree of the head of the state, “On increasing the workload and salary of teachers whose knowledge and skills have been assessed diagnostically in state general educational institutions,” dated January 16, 2015, the weekly workload of teachers whose

knowledge and skills have been assessed diagnostically in state public educational institutions has been increased by 1.5 times; monthly salaries have been increased by an average of twice. Decree of the head of state "On increasing the salaries of teachers working in state general education institutions, whose knowledge and skills have been assessed diagnostically, including directors and deputy directors of those institutions, as well as heads of pre-school preparation for young people" dated December 17, 2021, from January 1, 2022, teachers working in state general education institutions financed from the state budget of the Republic of Azerbaijan, whose knowledge and skills have been diagnostically evaluated, the monthly salary of directors and deputy directors of those institutions have been increased by 20 percent on average, and an average of 40 percent has increased the salary of pre-service training leaders of youth. This process has become continuous in recent years, covering all levels of education. All these measures should also be evaluated as quality changes that increase teachers' reputations in the country. The relevant decrees signed by the President of Azerbaijan in this field in recent years have been greeted with great enthusiasm by school staff and teachers and have contributed to the further improvement of education.

In addition, the head of state made essential decisions in increasing the accessibility of higher education, improving the social protection of students, training highly qualified and professional personnel in the country, and forming a competitive environment in higher education. According to the order of the President of the country, the scholarship system has been improved, the quota of scholarships financed by the state has been increased by 23 thousand units, and the number of students receiving scholarships is planned to be increased to 50 percent

in the next two years. In addition, the number of scholarships granted to students was increased by an average of 20 percent; these measures covered more than 110 thousand students. At the same time, the state-reserved places for the undergraduate level of higher education institutions have been increased by 66 percent, and the admission plan has been increased to 42 percent. According to the decrees of President Ilham Aliyev, children who have the status of forced refugees, who have lost their parents and are deprived of parental care, family members who have received the status of the family of martyrs, disabled during the defense of the territorial integrity, independence and constitutional structure of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the freedom, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan, education fees for children of citizens who died for the cause of death, went missing in connection with a military operation and were declared dead by a court, children who lost their parents and were deprived of parental care, as well as persons among them, with disabilities of the I and II degrees, as well as persons under the age of 18 with limited health, is paid at the expense of budget funds. Group I, II, and III disabled persons studying in vocational education institutions, family members of martyrs, persons under the age of 20, and parents of group I disabled persons whose monthly income is below the subsistence minimum are also exempt from tuition fees.

President Ilham Aliyev has always paid great attention and care to Azerbaijan's science and education fields. Several important projects and state programs have been implemented thanks to this care and state support. It can be said with certainty that science and education have become the priority areas of Azerbaijan's state policy. According to the decree signed by

President Ilham Aliyev on April 9, 2018, every year, March 27 is celebrated as "Science Day" in Azerbaijan.

The Youth Fund was established in 2011 to support implementing projects aimed at science, education, culture, and other fields of the country's youth. The Presidential award for youth was established in 2013. The establishment of the Presidential award for young people by the decree of the head of state and the allocation of 2 places to the field of science and education in that document is a clear example of the state's attention to this field. Baku State University, the flagship of Azerbaijani education and science, has been the focus of attention of our Great Leader Heydar Aliyev, since the 1970s and of our Honorable President, Ilham Aliyev, in the last 18 years. Both leaders expressed their support in countless works, from the strengthening of the university's material and technical base to the construction of new educational buildings, from strengthening the scientific potential to organizing the teaching process with innovative methods, from regularly evaluating the work of scientists with state awards, to improving the social well-being of each employee.

The most outstanding value given to Baku State University, which celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2019, was the valuable contribution of President Ilham Aliyev. With the order signed by the head of the country on November 14, 2017, the university's anniversary was widely celebrated in the country and abroad. In that historical document, the right path taken by Baku State University, which was established as the first higher education institution of a new type in the Muslim East, was especially noted, and its historical services in establishing the higher education system in the country, conducting scientific research, and accelerating the

process of national self-awareness, in general, was especially emphasized.

In the globalized world, strengthening the global competitiveness of the higher education system is essential. Considering the modern challenges in this field, President Ilham Aliyev approved the “State Program on increasing the international competitiveness of the higher education system in the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2019-2023” on November 16, 2018, making the knowledge economy a priority in our country. The formation, the continuation of state support for the development of human capital, and the increase of the international competitiveness of the higher education system in the country, in general, are critical.²⁴⁸

In addition, “Azerbaijan 2030: National Priorities for socio-economic development” was approved by the decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated February 2, 2021. The document specifically mentions that to be ready for increased competition in the world in the coming years, each country’s priority is to form highly competitive human capital. In order to successfully implement this priority, the following three goals must be achieved:

- education following the requirements of the XXI century;
- creative and innovative society;
- the healthy lifestyle of citizens.

In the document, establishing an educational system following the requirements of the 21st century is indicated as a priority task for the country. “To continue the increasing competition in the world, the long-term development of the economy must rely on modern and strong education. Through education, the share of human capital in the national wealth should be continuously increased. In the strategic period,

special importance should be given to “lifelong education” based on the harmonious development of competence, social habits, and skills. The scope of early and preschool education should be expanded and gradually include all children of the appropriate age. In order to strengthen general education, which is the guarantor of society’s development, the ongoing modernization of the education system should be continued, content reforms should be deepened, and integrative teaching experience should be developed. On this basis, the country’s position in international assessments (PISA, PIRLS, TIMSS, ICILS) should be significantly improved. In order to prepare the young generation for the future era of digital technologies, the education system should pay attention to the instillation of digital skills from school age and give them new skills, qualifications, and professions that are fundamentally different from the current ones.

People’s opportunities to receive high-quality education should be expanded, personnel training should be adapted to the requirements of the labor market, and specialists should be trained according to international certificates within the framework of measures to develop the vocational training system. In order to create human capital with high professional skills due to solid education, the competitiveness of higher education institutions should be ensured at the international level in terms of quality.”²⁴⁹

On September 30, 2021, signing the relevant decree “On the expansion of educational opportunities for the youth of Azerbaijan in prestigious foreign higher education institutions” by the head of the country aims to continue the tradition of studying abroad, which was founded by the National Leader Heydar Aliyev, in the era of modern challenges, transforming

“black gold” to human capital, increasing educational coverage and accessibility, and in this context, supporting the involvement of young people in advanced foreign education with various programs.

During these years, increasing the comprehensiveness of education, ensuring quality education, and improving higher education opportunities for citizens belonging to the vulnerable population group have always been at the center of attention of the head of the country. Due to high state concern, President Ilham Aliyev established the Education Student Loan Fund under the Ministry of Education to ensure access to education for people from low-income groups, create equal education opportunities, and expand the scope of education. This decision, which citizens welcomed in our country, was evaluated as support for educating children of socially vulnerable families. Granting educational loans under favorable conditions will allow them to grow up as educated people by receiving higher education and improve their financial situation in the future. The Education Student Loan Fund’s great mission is to create human resources and human capital, also provided in “Azerbaijan 2030: National Priorities for socio-economic development.”

Thus, during the years of President Ilham Aliyev’s rule, the development of the field of education was one of the priority directions in ensuring the sustainable development of our country. “Education is the future of every country. We are proud that the literacy rate in Azerbaijan is almost 100 percent. This is a huge indicator. We must ensure that all children are educated and knowledgeable about building a good life for themselves in the future and becoming valuable citizens of our country. Therefore, the quality of education now comes to

the fore. Reforms are being made in this direction as well. At the same time, reforms are being carried out to stimulate the activity of teachers. Teachers' salaries are increased. Without a doubt, the main value of each school is related to the indicators of its activity. Every school should work to have a high level of education."²⁵⁰

Our head of state noted that Azerbaijan is a successfully developing country. In recent years, we have made remarkable achievements in all directions. We must make this development sustainable. To achieve this, people must be prepared and young people must be knowledgeable. If we look at the history of developed countries and today, we will see that education, technology, and science are developing in those countries. We are also going this way. The fact that the young generation in Azerbaijan is knowledgeable and educated strengthens our country. Because in the economy, industry, and all fields, excellent specialists are needed. Our country has a very successful dynamic of development. Personnel training, specialists, and professionals will certainly give additional strength to this dynamic. Therefore, significant steps are being taken, and reforms are being made regarding the quality of education.

As a result of the wise and decisive policy of the President of Azerbaijan, Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev, and the bravery of the heroic Azerbaijani Army, the Great Victory in the 44-day Patriotic War also gave an impetus to educational projects in our Karabakh. After the Great Victory, the foundation of a number of new educational institutions was laid in our lands, freed from the enemy. On May 12, President Ilham Aliyev laid the foundation of secondary school No. 1 in Shusha. In 1830, the first secular school in Azerbaijan and the

South Caucasus was built in Shusha. In 1980, on the initiative of Great Leader Heydar Aliyev, the 150th anniversary of this school was celebrated. Armenian vandals completely destroyed this educational institution, which operated as school number 1 before the occupation. Today, the construction of a new school in Shusha, which has already changed its appearance, is another example of President Ilham Aliyev's high support and concern for this area. In addition, the head of the country also laid the foundation of the new building of school No. 1 in Aghdam city, with a capacity of 960 students. At the meeting of President Ilham Aliyev with district public representatives and intellectuals on May 28 in Aghdam on Republic Day, the master plan of Aghdam was also discussed. The master plan, which will turn Aghdam into one of the most beautiful cities in the world, also envisages the establishment of Karabakh University. As one of the most essential opportunities created by the 44-day Patriotic War, it is very proud to mention Karabakh University, which will be a unique example of a modern university model in the region.

The decision to establish the Karabakh and Eastern Zangazur Regional Education Departments by the appropriate order of the head of the country is also an indicator of attention and concern for the development of education in our Karabakh.

It is known that the school environment is of particular importance in raising healthy, patriotic youth in our country. "Today, our politics are based on our national interests, national values, Azerbaijani values. These values should be, above all else, for every citizen of Azerbaijan. We must make sure that the next generation develops in this direction. Therefore, patriotism, attachment to the Motherland, and national and moral values must be widely spread in schools, and teachers

must work more actively in this direction. In response to this call from the head of state, the teacher of an Azerbaijan school gave special importance to the education of the new generation in the spirit of patriotism."²⁵¹

Thus, President Ilham Aliyev, with his visionary policy and special care, managed to bring Azerbaijan's education to a new level of development in terms of form and content. The head of our state said: "Reforms carried out in the field of education so far should be further deepened. Education should develop following the general development of our country and meet the most modern requirements. In recent years, much work has been done in this field, the education field is always at the center of attention, and this is natural. Because today and the future of every country is directly related to education." This clear position of our Honorable President, the tasks and recommendations calculated for the mighty tomorrow of Azerbaijan constitute the basis of the achievements made in education today, and clearly show that the only way to national progress is through education.

President Ilham Aliyev, who continues the political course of the Great Leader with dignity in all fields, has paid particular attention and care to the field of culture since the time he led our country and has set the protection of our culture, national-spiritual values, and traditions as a priority. "The people of Azerbaijan have always been loyal to their national and moral values. Today, Azerbaijan maintains a consistent policy to protect our national values. We are proud of our national and moral values and traditions," said President Ilham Aliyev. On the initiative of President Ilham Aliyev, fundamental reforms have been carried out in the field of culture, and the development of our national and moral values has been kept

in the spotlight. Significant projects have been implemented to protect our national and moral values, promote our culture in foreign countries, and restore historical monuments. At the same time, the President has consistently signed decrees for the enrichment of the cultural sector and has always personally focused on their implementation. At the same time, the state paid attention and care to people who work in culture and art. The scope and continuity of the works confirmed once again that in our country, there is great attention and concern for preserving and enriching the culture and spiritual values. In these decrees, it was once again confirmed that the state has greatly supported the development of all areas of our culture.

On the other hand, Azerbaijan's contributions to the cultural field and its enrichment are of an international character.

Today, Azerbaijan is the center of intercultural and intercivilizational dialogue worldwide. In 2008, President Ilham Aliyev proposed the "Baku Process" on intercultural dialogue and turned from a regional initiative into an international platform.

During the office of President Ilham Aliyev, necessary measures were taken to expand the cultural relations of Azerbaijan, located at the crossroads of Eastern and Western civilizations, with Western countries. In 2009, Azerbaijani culture days were organized in several European countries, especially in Switzerland, a 100-day series of cultural events dedicated to Azerbaijani culture. In 2009, within the framework of the program of declaring Baku the Capital of Islamic Culture, the numerous events carried out throughout the year have once again confirmed that Azerbaijan is attached to Islamic values and has preserved them throughout history, treating them with respect. All this, being the most prominent cultural event in the

history of our republic, marked the beginning of a new era in the field of integration of our country into the Islamic world.

The events held in our country with the support of UNESCO and ISESCO are considered the integration and development of Azerbaijani culture in the international world. At the UNESCO level, celebrating the anniversaries of especially prominent artists - our poets, composers, and scientists - exemplifies the high value given to Azerbaijani culture and art. These prestigious events strengthened Azerbaijan's reputation as an example of religious tolerance and its contributions to the inter-civilizational dialogue.

Thanks to the attention and care of the head of state Ilham Aliyev and the first lady Mehriban Aliyeva to our culture, protection, and restoration of our historical and cultural resources, in 2019, at the meeting held within the framework of the 43rd session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, "Historical center of Sheki together with the Khan Palace of Azerbaijan" was included in the World Heritage List. This is the value given to Azerbaijani culture at the international level.

The latest and proudest works done in the field of culture are undoubtedly related to the name of Karabakh, Shusha, the capital of our culture, after our glorious Victory in the Patriotic War. The restoration of Shusha already started in January 2021, and great work has been done in a short period. The head of state declared the city of Shusha as the cultural capital of Azerbaijan by the decree dated May 7, 2021. Also, after 30 years, the Kharibulbul festival was held again in Shusha, the cradle of our culture, and on August 30, the Heydar Aliyev Foundation reorganized the Days of Vagif Poetry. In the example of all the works done, Shusha regains its glory, new museums are opened here, exhibitions are held, and cultural events are organized.

As a continuation of the purposeful policy of the head of state, immediately after the Shusha victory, in addition to the construction of infrastructure in the city, the restoration of historical and cultural monuments was started, and the Shusha City State Reserve Department was established. Today, in Shusha, which was declared the cultural capital of Azerbaijan, massive projects have been started to restore the true historic face of the city. In a short time, the preparation of the Master Plan of Shusha, the restoration of the bust of the mighty poet Molla Panah Vagif and the museum-mausoleum complex to its original appearance, the opening of the house-museum of Bulbul and the statue of Uzeyir Hajibeyli, as well as the process of restoration of the historical, religious and architectural monuments here, are the most critical aspects of our country.

The declaration of 2022 as the “Year of Shusha” in our country by the decree of President Ilham Aliyev dated January 5, 2022, demonstrates once again that the state always pays special attention and care to the protection and promotion of our national, cultural and historical heritage in our country. As mentioned in the order, the city of Shusha is an extremely native and sacred place for our people, and love and attachment to this city are an inseparable part of the spiritual existence of every Azerbaijani.

The announcement by President Ilham Aliyev on the city of Shusha as the cultural capital of Azerbaijan and the year 2022 as the “Year of Shusha” is undoubtedly the restoration of the previous status of the city of Shusha, the restoration of its historical glory, the centuries-old rich culture and architecture of our people, and serves to promote the art of urban planning in the world. It should be unequivocally noted that these wise

decisions of the President of Azerbaijan will make unparalleled contributions to the development of Azerbaijani culture.

Ensuring the harmonious development of the cultural sphere in our country is the result of the great attention and care of the head of state to this sphere. At the same time, it is a guarantee that the national-cultural renaissance of Great Leader Heydar Aliyev will live forever. Thus, during the past 18 years, due to the cultural policy, which is part of the successful policy of the head of state, the development in this field has become more widespread. Also, during these years, the process of strengthening our country's international political and cultural influence has continued rapidly.

These years can be unequivocally characterized as the years of cultural revival in Azerbaijan. Multifaceted and rapid development established in our country indicates our culture's high level of development and the fact that it is a worthy member of the world's cultural heritage.

President Ilham Aliyev has always paid attention to the development of science. By the decree signed by the head of state on October 21, 2009, the creation of the Science Development Fund under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan served the purpose of stimulating fundamental scientific research, strengthening the study of the country's natural resources, cultural and historical heritage, and increasing the efficiency of research conducted in various fields of science. According to the decree of President Ilham Aliyev dated March 14, 2014, the 70th anniversary of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences was celebrated officially. The Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, "On the financing of doctoral education of young scientists of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences in European scientific centers," dated February 9, 2010, accelerates

the conduct of scientific research in the republic at the level of modern standards, the increase of the country's scientific personnel potential, and the integration of Azerbaijani science into the international space of science. Within the framework of this order, our young scientists are already continuing their research on promising directions for our country in prestigious research centers of the world. This also made it possible to bring the quality of scientific research of Azerbaijani scientists to the European level and to expand the integration of our young researchers into world science.

Progressive reforms in the field of science carried out by President Ilham Aliyev conditioned the creation of new scientific institutions. The Ganja Branch of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences was established by the decree of the head of the country dated December 19, 2012. Based on that order, it was decided to create the Institute of Humanitarian Studies, the Institute of Country Studies, the Nizami Ganjavi Center, the Institute of Bioresources, the Botanical Garden, the Institute of Ecology and Natural Resources, and the Institute of Agrarian Problems to be included in the division.

The Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan, "On Science," approved by President Ilham Aliyev, includes specific activities on the legal regulation of innovative initiatives and entrepreneurial activities of scientific research institutions and scientific workers.

Academician Irada Huseynova notes that the attention and care shown by the state of Azerbaijan and Mr. President to the training of scientific personnel are very proud and commendable. "Mr. President, distinguished by his great management and organizational skills, innate talent, high intelligence, comprehensive and deep knowledge, innovative

approach to problems and their solution, can be called a great patron of science and education, scientists and teachers. It is no coincidence that the special attitude of the Great Leader to the country's temple of science - the National Academy of Sciences, is the main leitmotif of Ilham Aliyev's science policy. Mr. President continued and further developed the policy carried out by the Great Leader to improve the legal base of science. On June 14, 2016, the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan, "On Science," which opens new perspectives in advancing science in Azerbaijan, was adopted based on his purposeful recommendations."²⁵²

In addition, the decree on the establishment of "Science Day" in Azerbaijan by the head of the country and dozens of orders, decrees, and decisions signed by the head of state in connection with the field of science and education, implemented state programs are a clear example of attention and care to the field of science.

The results of President Ilham Aliyev's pragmatic policy (Father's will)

During all 18 years of his leadership in Azerbaijan, one of the main concerns of President Ilham Aliyev was building an army and ensuring the integrity of Azerbaijan's territories. Adhering to the principles defined by the National Leader, the head of state Ilham Aliyev stated the importance of settling the Karabakh conflict, which is the priority of our country's foreign policy, only within the framework of the norms and principles of international law, under the condition of ensuring the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and declared the necessity of strengthening the efforts of international organizations in this field.

President Ilham Aliyev, who has given particular importance to the issue of army building since the first years of his leadership, has brought the decision of this priority issue closer to the solution. Serious work has been done in this area, and continuous measures have been taken to bring the army to the level of world-class armies. The Azerbaijani armed forces have been updated in modern quality that meets world standards. It is no coincidence that at the swearing-in ceremony in 2003, the head of state appreciated the work done and said, "Great work has been done in the field of army building in Azerbaijan. "A strong army has been created in our country, and this process will continue" in the following years, he proved his loyalty to this line with his continuous work in the field of army building, strengthening of our army, and strengthening of combat capability. On May 10, 2004, in his speech at the opening ceremony of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, President Ilham Aliyev confidently declared that "Today, the Azerbaijani

army is capable of solving all the tasks ahead. As the economic potential of Azerbaijan strengthens, after our country becomes a rich state, of course, the potential of our army will also be greatly strengthened, allowing us to solve all the issues in our favor.”

Finally, in 2016, the first appropriate response was made against the Armenian military units. The strategic height of Lalatepe, under occupation, was liberated by the Azerbaijani army, and they got the territory under control. The most important result of these battles was the liberation of Lalatepe hill and thereby ensuring the safety of Jojug Marjanli. According to the order of the President, a new settlement was built in Jojug Marjanli in a short period, and 60 families were moved there in the first stage. This event was regarded as the beginning of the “Great Return.”

This event evoked hopes that the day when the occupied lands of the Motherland will be liberated is not far away. On June 24, 2016, President Ilham Aliyev stated about this historical event and the new opportunities it created during the opening of a new residential building built for the military: “The April battles, I have already said, will remain in history as our great military victory. The Azerbaijani Army showed great heroism, freed a part of the occupied lands, to be more precise, a part of the Aghdara, Fuzuli, and Jabrayil regions, from the invaders, and returned the strategic heights under its control. The April battles also clearly demonstrated the results of the purposeful work carried out by the Azerbaijani state in army building during the last years under the leadership of President Ilham Aliyev. In his speech at the sixth Congress of the New Azerbaijan Party on February 8, 2018, the head of state said: “The April 2016 battles clearly showed the enemy and the whole world what the Azerbaijani Army is capable of. Our glorious historic victory on

the battlefield creates and will create new opportunities for a fair solution.”

In general, it should be noted that President Ilham Aliyev has resolutely conveyed Azerbaijan’s uncompromising position on the Karabakh issue to the whole world during all periods of his power: Our lands will be completely liberated! Ilham Aliyev again demonstrated this position at the swearing-in ceremony on April 18, 2018: “The enemy saw the strength of our army. April battles are our glorious history, our great victory. The Azerbaijani Army freed a part of the Aghdara, Fuzuli, and Jabrayil regions from the invaders. We control thousands of hectares of land. These lands are being reinstated, the flag of Azerbaijan is waving in these lands, people are returning, and a new settlement has been built. Our military victory shows the strength and invincible spirit of the Azerbaijani people. It shows that the people of Azerbaijan will never come to terms with this occupation. It shows that we will liberate our land. To achieve this, we must be stronger and will be.”²⁵³

During all these years, the work of strengthening the army has not stopped even for a moment. The work carried out by the country’s leadership in this field was accompanied by strengthening the material and technical base of the Azerbaijani army, and increasing the professionalism of the personnel.

In addition to building an army, the President of Azerbaijan, Mr. Ilham Aliyev, during his leadership of the country, was always committed to peace negotiations and tried to resolve the Karabakh problem through negotiations. However, after every unsuccessful attempt of the OSCE Minsk Group, he openly declared:

* Azerbaijan will not compromise even an inch of its territory to anyone!

* Azerbaijan will not allow the creation of a second Armenian state on its territory!

The Commander-in-Chief also warned:

* If the issue is not resolved peacefully, the lands will be returned by other means!

Armenia responded to all the initiatives of the Azerbaijani leadership to settle the conflict based on the existing international norms and principles with its hypocritical, unconstructive, insidious statements and behaviors. On August 5, 2019, the Prime Minister of Armenia, Nikol Pashinyan, made a statement in Khankendi that "Karabakh is a part of Armenia-dot." In response to this, on October 3, 2019, at the XVI annual meeting of the "Valdai" International Discussion Club, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, during his speech noted: "First, to put it mildly, this is a lie. Both Aran and Nagorno-Karabakh are recognized by the world as integral parts of Azerbaijan. Armenia itself does not recognize this illegal institution. Karabakh is the historical, ancient land of Azerbaijan. Thus, Karabakh is Azerbaijan and an exclamation mark!" On February 15, 2020, during the panel discussions at the Munich Security Conference, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, once again conveyed to the Prime Minister of Armenia, Nikol Pashinyan, and the international community, his rightful position on the conflict and condemned Armenia's false claims and policy of aggression against international law based on historical facts and strong arguments.

"Azerbaijan is already a country that will not tolerate the occupation of its land. Azerbaijan is already a country that will use its economic, political, and military potential and achieve what it wants. Sometimes the process of building an army in Azerbaijan causes concern for someone. It should not; it is our

sovereign right. We have been enduring this occupation for many years. Our biggest concession is our commitment to peace talks. However, we must use all these opportunities and create a new situation.” And such a situation emerged in September 2020. In response to the aggressive attacks of Armenia, on September 27, our Valiant National Army gave a worthy response to the enemy with counter-attack operations and launched the “Iron Fist” operation to liberate our lands, which have been under the occupation of the enemy for many years. As a result of the determined and goal-oriented activities of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev, thanks to the heroism of our Victorious Army, our territories, which were under enemy captivity for nearly 30 years, were liberated during the 44-day Patriotic War. Our homeland has become whole. On November 8, our victorious army freed the city of Shusha, the ancient land of Azerbaijan, from occupation. On November 10, the occupier Armenia signed the act of capitulation with a tripartite declaration (Azerbaijan, Russia, Armenia). Justice has been restored. The enemy was expelled from our lands, the issue was resolved by military means, and our victory was consolidated by political means. Operation “Iron Fist” has been successful.

During the Second Karabakh War, President Ilham Aliyev was interviewed by about 30 foreign media. In these interviews, the head of state brought to the attention of the international audience the rightful position of Azerbaijan and the reasons for the start of the war in a systematic way, with political foresight. It was these interviews that ensured Azerbaijan’s victory in the information war. These interviews demonstrated the Great Leader role of President Ilham Aliyev as the commander of the information war all over the world.

Academician Isa Habibbeyli points out that during the Patriotic War and after the historic Victory, the clear logic and well-aimed answers expressed in President Ilham Aliyev's interviews with more than thirty leading news agencies of different countries in Azerbaijani, Turkish, Russian, and English languages, faith in our people, and our army, and the ability to maneuver in any situation played a unique role in the fate of the war. "As the Commander-in-Chief, Ilham Aliyev has demonstrated an extraordinary level of talent and ability both on the political-ideological front and in the information war, as well as in the field of directly leading military operations. It can be said that President Ilham Aliyev alone during the Patriotic War carried out the political-ideological struggle. The Commander-in-Chief won the war in international public opinion with in-depth interviews based on iron logic that he gave to influential world news agencies during the most difficult days of fierce fighting. During the Patriotic War, the world's countries encountered a different leader in the person of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, who had high training, extraordinary skills, and a broad outlook."²⁵⁴

Isa Habibbayli believes that with the victory of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev, the independent state of Azerbaijan:

- Cleaned its lost ancient lands from invaders.
- Ensured territorial integrity.
- Our Heroic Army has shown its military skills and capabilities to the world.
- Achieved great unity in the country.
- Ensured the implementation of UN resolutions related to Nagorno-Karabakh.

- Saved the world from false Armenian fiction and Armenian fascism.

Academician Ziyad Samadzade, giving an in-depth analysis of President Ilham Aliyev's interviews and speeches intended for foreign audiences during the war, notes that "It is natural that there is high international interest in a determined, influential political leader and head of state. It is quite logical that this interest is especially high during the war. The last decades of human history are full of wars. However, during that war, no head of state came into the interest of a large number of leading mass media. In this regard, the fact that many well-known media organizations of the world approached Ilham Aliyev for an interview is primarily since the President of Azerbaijan is an influential Leader."²⁵⁵

President Ilham Aliyev said about the importance of these interviews at a press conference for local and foreign media representatives on February 26: "During 44 days in the war, I gave more than 30 interviews because it was needed. I wanted to convey our message to the world. I wanted to convey the truth and our position to the world. Every day I made statements and appealed to the people of Azerbaijan. Because it was needed, our people needed it, our army needed it. My appeals and messages played a big role in our overall victory."

Victory in the 44-day Second Karabakh War, being a glorious page of Azerbaijan's history written on the battlefield, made our country and people more prominent and better known to the world. The war for the liberation of our occupied lands lasted for 44 days. Despite the severe pressure and threats against Azerbaijan by the pro-Armenian states and some international organizations, the territorial integrity of our country was restored thanks to the courage, determination, and

perseverance of the Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev and our Victorious Army. "After regaining the state independence, Azerbaijan has achieved great development and success in all fields by demonstrating organized unity and solidarity in many historical testing moments of our recent past. In the last 18 years, the successes achieved by Azerbaijan under the leadership of President Ilham Aliyev, the worthiest follower of the Great Leader, finally created the opportunity to realize the greatest dream of father Aliyev. Our people liberated Karabakh from the enemy under the leadership of the President, Commander-in-Chief - son Aliyev. After 30 years, the territorial integrity of the independent state of Azerbaijan was ensured. On November 8, when Shusha, considered the crown of Karabakh, was freed from occupation, the country's Supreme Commander Ilham Aliyev solemnly declared: "I am a happy man that I fulfilled my father's will. We freed Shusha! This is the big Castle! The soul of our martyrs, the Great Leader is happy today! "Yes, for the successful completion of the Second Karabakh war, we are also indebted to the Great Leader Heydar Aliyev, his visionary political course, and we are grateful to his spirit."²⁵⁶

During the 44-day Patriotic War, the liberation of Shusha, in particular, caused great joy for our people and Azerbaijanis worldwide. This is a separate history, a heroic saga. The liberation of Shusha was also the fulfillment of the dreams of National Leader Heydar Aliyev. National Leader Heydar Aliyev stated how important Shusha is for Azerbaijan and said: "...Shusha is a corner of Azerbaijan with the most precious and great history. Those who created Shusha built the city of Shusha and built the fortress of Shusha were the owners of the land of Azerbaijan and created the city and fortress of Shusha for the constant protection and preservation of the land

of Azerbaijan in Karabakh. This is a great monument created by the Azerbaijani people, our ancestors, not only a city but a great historical monument. Great culture, cultural heritage, and examples of the heroism of the Azerbaijani people with a history of several centuries have been created in this city and around it. "Shusha is a native city, land, fortress, monument, not only for the residents of Shusha but for all Azerbaijanis, for every citizen who loves his homeland and nation." Saying that Shusha is a city of monuments, National Leader Heydar Aliyev highly appreciated its exceptional importance for Azerbaijan: "There is no Karabakh without Shusha, and there is no Azerbaijan without Karabakh."

On November 8, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev addressed the people of Azerbaijan in the Alley of Martyrs and gave the famous news that millions of people were waiting for with great impatience:

"Giving this good news to the people of Azerbaijan on this historic day is perhaps one of the happiest days in my life.

Dear Shusha, you are free!

Dear Shusha, we are back!

Dear Shusha, we will revive you!

Shusha is ours! Karabakh is ours! Karabakh is Azerbaijan!"²⁵⁷

The 44-day Patriotic War, which resulted in the liberation of our lands from the enemy, showed the right of Azerbaijan and the Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev's leadership and ability to the whole world. "Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev, who ended the 30-year occupation in 44 days, earned the title of Victorious Commander-in-Chief in this war. He was given this name as the only commander who took back our occupied lands from the enemy with military force in the last two hundred years

of Azerbaijan's history. The Patriotic War clearly revealed his skill as a commander. Diplomatic tactics, statements, meetings, and extensive interviews with foreign media show how skilled a diplomat and politician he is. The extension of the presidency of the President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, who chairs the Non-Aligned Movement, the largest political body in the world after the UN, is a high value given to his global leadership efforts. As a celebration of Ilham Aliyev's historic victory, the Victory Parade held in Azadlig Square is the most beautiful embodiment of this glorious victory. The Military Trophy Park created by Ilham Aliyev in the center of Baku, who said that the Azerbaijani people have the right to live as a victorious nation, as a great nation, is another symbol of the President's victory.²⁵⁸

Academician Isa Habibbayli notes that on November 8, 2020, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, on the day of the liberation of Shusha, and in fact, when our victory in the Patriotic War was secured, his respectful visit to the Alley of Honor and the grave and monument of the National Leader of our people is one of the most impressive and unforgettable historical events of the forty-four-day war period. "With this instructive event, President Ilham Aliyev gave an honorable report of the successful completion of a historic mission founded and bequeathed by Great Leader Heydar Aliyev in solving the 30-year-long Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. This important event, which is extremely important from the point of view of statehood, is also important from the point of view of political succession. The act of pilgrimage in the Alley of Honor is a clear example of how and to what extent Heydar Aliyev, the founder of the independent state of Azerbaijan, implemented the ideals of independent statehood. This moment of the visit, which is a rare page in the history

of modern Azerbaijan, is of great importance as an instructive event worthy of special study for the ideological-political and spiritual education of new generations.”²⁵⁹

For 44 days, the state, army and the people united and showed the power of the “Iron Fist” to the enemy. The Patriotic War once again demonstrated to the world how proud and invincible the people of Azerbaijan are. Azerbaijan proved to the world community that it is a powerful country by winning a great victory in both the military and diplomatic fields. Azerbaijan also showed that it is determined to restore historical justice, territorial integrity, and the right of people displaced from their ancestral lands to return to their native lands. The world witnessed that the four resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council regarding the immediate, complete, and unconditional withdrawal of Armenia from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan in 1993, which remained unimplemented, the resolutions and decisions of other important international organizations, such as the General Assembly of the United Nations, the Non-Aligned Movement, European Parliament the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation were implemented thanks to the strength of the Azerbaijani Army, the decisive policy of its Commander-in-Chief, the determination, and unity of its people. The occupied party had to implement the UN resolutions by military means. This was perhaps the first event in the history of the UN.

Azerbaijan ensured the celebration of justice by liberating our lands in the 44-day Patriotic War. He affirmed the pride and joy of the Azerbaijani people and their right to live safely. President Ilham Aliyev stated at the seventh congress of the YAP: “We will never forget the Khojaly genocide. We will never

forget the heroism of our martyrs. Nevertheless, we took revenge on our martyrs, including the victims of Khojaly. We took our revenge on the enemy on the battlefield. We are fully satisfied with the victory achieved. This is how we should live from now on. The blood of our martyrs did not remain unavenged, we took our revenge and punished the enemy. In front of the world, they knelt before us, surrendered, raised a white flag, and they will live forever with the stigma of this defeated country. We will continue to live as a proud nation and a fighting state. We won both on the battlefield and in the political field.”

The heroic Azerbaijani army taught the enemy a lesson and clearly demonstrated how to conduct a modern war.” The second Karabakh war showed our strength and modernity. Because we fought the war of the 21st century, and today it is no longer a secret that our operations in the Second Karabakh War, our successes, and our Victory are studied in the world’s leading military schools. The world press has reported many times that the world’s leading countries, including the United States of America, Great Britain, Germany, and other developed countries, are studying all aspects of the Second Karabakh War. They want to adapt their army to modern standards and modern requirements. We have not only modeled the war of the 21st century, but we have also won a Victory that has never been seen in the world. In difficult terrain conditions, in front of several enemy fortifications, we showed our professionalism, skill, strength, military science and achieved what we wanted, we expelled the enemy from our lands.”²⁶⁰

The liberation of Shusha, the cradle of our national culture, by our victorious army is a rare event in world military history and has a special place in the annals of the heroism of our army: “Taking Shusha - the impregnable fortress - is a separate heroic

saga. Every person in Shusha and the citizens of Azerbaijan who have already come to Shusha see that taking Shusha and liberating it from occupation required great heroism, bravery, and sacrifice. Our heroic soldiers climbed these steep rocks and freed Shusha from the invaders in hand-to-hand combat. However, the invaders were firing at us from tanks and cannons. We had martyrs in the battles fought for Shusha. However, the national spirit that led us forward ensured this Victory. The liberation of Shusha meant the collapse of the Armenian army and the Armenian state."²⁶¹ Yes, as the President said, the national spirit and unity became the main factor that ensured our Victory in the 44-day Patriotic War. It was the power that forced Armenia to kneel. The opportunities created by the Great Victory create new chances for Azerbaijan, regional states, and the world. The head of the country mentioned this in his speeches and statements in his interviews with foreign media.

Liberation of our lands from enemies opens up new perspectives for our country and the region. Ahead of us is a period of great return and progress. One of the main priorities of the Azerbaijani state is to carry out restoration and reconstruction works, to ensure the safe return of IDPs to their lands. Even though the hostile enemies destroyed and looted all the infrastructure, residential buildings, houses, and historical and cultural monuments during the 30-year occupation, the state of Azerbaijan will soon turn those territories into a paradise. Large-scale restoration and construction works are being carried out at the highest level and great speed. The air gate of Karabakh - Fuzuli International Airport, which was built and handed over in just a few months, the "Smart Village" project implemented in the village of Aghali, Zangilan district, and the construction of the "Zafar Yolu" highway are part of the large-scale works. All

this shows that Azerbaijan is a powerful state and is capable of fulfilling all its tasks. Now Azerbaijan is looking to the future with greater confidence and is confidently continuing its progress. The President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, said in his meeting with the representatives of the Fuzuli district community on October 17: "The war has already remained in history, the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict has also remained in history, we must look to the future. Today we create the future, we create it with our own hands. I am sure that all our plans, as well as all the goals announced so far, will be met and the goals for the next period. We will achieve these goals, strengthen our country, strengthen our army again, and ensure the safe life of the people of Azerbaijan. Of course, we will return the displaced people who lived in suffering, including spiritual suffering, to their native land in the shortest possible time." The Patriotic War, in which justice triumphed, gave us true heroes who fearlessly sacrificed their lives for the sake of the Motherland. The life path of those heroes is a good school of patriotism for each of our young people, and for future generations. The eternal life of our heroes who reached the peak of martyrdom is an example for all generations. Every Azerbaijani-living youth should not forget their history, should learn deeply, benefit from the school of heroes, and should keep them alive.

Thus, as stated in the statement adopted at the meeting of the Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan on November 5, 2021, "under the leadership of President Ilham Aliyev, great achievements have been achieved in all spheres of life in the Republic of Azerbaijan. The socio-economic development strategy established based on requirements of the modern era has made Azerbaijan one of the most dynamically developing countries in the world and the leading state of the South Caucasus

region. The military policy started after the Great Leader Heydar Aliyev returned to power in 1993 and successfully continued for the past 18 years has allowed Azerbaijan's Armed Forces to be developed on the basis of high standards and ranked among the 50 most powerful armies in the world. All these factors and the unshakable unity between the government and the people ensured the resolution of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict. The historical mission of preventing the ethnic cleansing, invasion, and expansionism policy carried out by the Armenian chauvinists against the people and state of Azerbaijan for an extended period has been successfully fulfilled, and historical justice has been restored. The victory of November 8 was a celebration of the invincible will and great leadership skills of Commander-in-Chief, fighting determination, bravery, high military-technical, moral-psychological training, and professionalism of the Azerbaijan Armed Forces. The liberation of Karabakh and Eastern Zangezur, the ancient historical land of Azerbaijan, saved our nation from the pain of defeat for many years and turned it into a victorious nation."

"The second Karabakh war also showed our strength and modernity. Because we fought the war of the 21st century, and today it is no longer a secret that our operations in the Second Karabakh War, our successes, and our Victory are taught in the world's leading military schools. Our Victory is not only the victory of our people, but the entire Turkish world is proud of our victory. We have created a new reality. We have created a new reality by shedding blood, showing courage, and driving out the enemy. Today, everyone must and will settle up with us," President Ilham Aliyev said in his speeches.

"Mighty Azerbaijan has resolutely demonstrated that it is capable of changing the political, economic, military, and

humanitarian landscape of the region where it is located and that no one will be able to show force and pressure.”²⁶² While appreciating the liberation of our lands from the occupation, which was under the occupation for 30 years by the Azerbaijani Army led by Commander-in-Chief, architect of the Great Victory, Ilham Aliyev, it is impossible not to remember the speech of National Leader Heydar Aliyev in his address to the people on the eve of the next presidential elections in 2003 voiced with unique inner confidence “Ilham Aliyev will do what I could not do.

The great hopes of the Great Leader, who always wished for the integration of Azerbaijan, were reflected in these thoughts.

Professor Ali Ahmadov notes that “these wise words of Heydar Aliyev became an example of great political foresight. Ilham Aliyev fulfilled all his hopes. The Liberation of Karabakh as a result of the 44-day Patriotic War is the most prominent embodiment of these ideas. Ilham Aliyev successfully completed the work that Heydar Aliyev started, and brought Azerbaijan an unusual source of pride. He put a historical stamp on the power and greatness of the independent Azerbaijan state founded by Heydar Aliyev. On the occasion of the liberation of Shusha on November 8, 2020, President, Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev said, “Today I visited the grave of Great Leader Heydar Aliyev and bowed before his soul. “I said in my heart, I am a happy man that I have fulfilled my father’s will” said by Ilham Aliyev can and should be considered the greatest celebration of Heydar Aliyev’s dreams. It is impossible to express the logical conclusion of the great work started by Heydar Aliyev better than this. The liberation of Karabakh is the greatest tribute to the memory of National Leader Heydar Aliyev, who rendered great services in this direction and lives in everyone’s heart.”²⁶³

New Opportunities

Azerbaijan's victory in the 44-day Patriotic War created new political realities. First, the Great Victory, which resulted in the liberation of our lands from the enemy, can be called an epochal event due to its results, the opportunities it created, and its importance. Because this victory means an end to the occupation that has been going on for more than 30 years and the fulfillment of its dreams regarding the restoration of our territorial integrity, as well as a complete change of the landscape of the geo-geography where we live and where the interests of the great powers of the world intersect. After the Great Victory, the atmosphere of dialogue between different political forces in our country has led to new progress in politics and consolidation. The clearest example of this is the seventh congress of the New Azerbaijan Party held on March 5, 2021, in which six political parties- Azerbaijan People's Democratic Party, Azerbaijan Peasant Party, National Liberation Party, Azerbaijan Citizen Party, Azerbaijan National Movement Party, and Azerbaijan Democratic Entrepreneurship Party decided on joining to New Azerbaijan Party (YAP).

It should be noted that this decision deepens the dialogue environment in our country and further strengthens democratic traditions. On the other hand, joining six political parties to YAP comes from the trust and confidence in the ruling party. The policy of national solidarity implemented under the initiative and leadership of President Ilham Aliyev, as well as the Victory in the Patriotic War, created national unity in the country. The holding of the Congress coincided with the new realities created by the historic Victory in the 44-day Patriotic War. Ilham Aliyev

once again assessed the tangible results of the progressive reforms and defined the contours of the socio-economic projects and reforms to be implemented in the coming period.

If we look at the history of the last 18 years, we can clearly see that Azerbaijan is a country carrying out large-scale reforms. During the past years, the correct determination of specific goals set by Ilham Aliyev and their implementation ensured stable development in the country, both in the political and economic spheres. At the same time, its reputation in the international world has increased even more.

Among the events that took place in Azerbaijan during this period, the most important is the restoration of the territorial integrity of our country and the achievement of a brilliant Victory in the Patriotic War. From the 44-day Patriotic War victory marathon, we were left with infinite joy, pride, and great responsibility. Restoring our homelands freed from occupation and the most effective organization of the Great Return is the most critical challenge of the next few years. As the President said, the results of the Second Karabakh War also created new realities and new regional cooperation opportunities. Fundamental conditions for ensuring long-term peace and, at the same time, new opportunities for entering a new era have been formed.

We can confidently say that the main concepts defined by Ilham Aliyev will ensure the faster development of the country in the post-war period. The priority directions of the ruling party's activities aim to achieve these goals. Today, the course of both domestic and foreign policy implemented by Ilham Aliyev is the only correct course. In order to support this course, Ilham Aliyev, in his final speech at the congress, invited his political associates to support all the processes, reforms, and construction

works going on in the country within the framework of the policy defined officially, and to mobilize party members around these goals.

The President once again declared that Azerbaijan is a country with a completely independent policy, saying that no one can dictate us. The most reformist President today also creates new realities. Many projects implemented by Ilham Aliyev's initiatives in previous times brought innovation to the region and established new formats of cooperation. The booming energy policy and transport policy of the President of Azerbaijan not only led to the creation of energy and transport corridors, but also formed new cooperation formats in the region and, in a broader sense, in the Eurasian space. As the President said, today the number of countries united around these projects and implementing these projects along with Azerbaijan is increasing. This inevitably requires cooperation between those countries, even between countries that did not have such warm relations with each other in the past. The situation after the Patriotic War has determined the further diversification of these relations, and the number of countries willing to become partners in the projects to be realized will increase.

A completely different situation has arisen in the region. While evaluating this, the President emphasized that the results of the Second Karabakh War created new realities and new regional cooperation opportunities. It has created essential conditions for ensuring long-term peace, and at the same time, new opportunities have been formed to enter a new era in our country. Another factor that causes optimism is that the neighboring countries share the same position as Azerbaijan. There is no difference of opinion regarding the region's future development and the implementation of integration

projects. The post-war period creates good opportunities for cooperation, mutual trade, the opening of communications, and new transport corridors. If we consider only the Zangezur corridor, we will see that it is not only in the interests of Russia, Azerbaijan, Turkey, Iran, and Armenia but also in the interests of the neighboring countries. As Ilham Aliyev said, opening a new transport artery of Eurasia is possible. This, of course, can be the region's leading provider of long-term peace. All this again confirms that Azerbaijan, a part of the region, has always been evaluated as an example of successful cooperation and a responsible country. New realities also show that according to Ilham Aliyev's new development concept, Azerbaijan is walking confidently on the right path.

The most significant reality that Azerbaijan created in the region with its victory is that Azerbaijan itself fulfilled the resolutions of the UN Security Council, which demanded the complete and unconditional withdrawal of Armenian troops from the territory of Azerbaijan. "That is why now is the time to think about peace and turn the page," said Ilham Aliyev, noting that "opening all communications is an important issue in post-conflict settlement. Existing modern infrastructure and transport will allow Azerbaijan to implement projects in its territory in a relatively short time. Because today we already have a diversified transport network. Azerbaijan is a landlocked country. Nevertheless, despite this, we managed to create one of Eurasia's most important transport and logistics hubs. Together with our neighbors, we completed the construction of the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway. It has made a great contribution to the East-West transport corridor. At the same time, we invested in creating the North-South transport corridor in Azerbaijan. Recently, the first cargo from Finland to India was delivered from the territory

of Azerbaijan. Undoubtedly, the cargo volume to be transported through Azerbaijan will increase, either through the East-West or North-South transport corridors.”

The President said that active work is being done to build infrastructure in the territories liberated from occupation, and three international airports have been built in our territories liberated from occupation. “The first - the airport in Fuzuli will be put into operation by the end of the year. Second, the airport in Zangilan will be ready next year, and the international airport in Lachin in 2023. Thus, the number of international airports in Azerbaijan will reach nine. As a result of the second Karabakh war, more companies will work in the territories liberated by Azerbaijan and there will be broader activities.

Today, large-scale construction works are underway in the liberated territories. Areas are cleared of mines, new roads are built, bridges and tunnels are built, new power plants are built, and innovative projects are implemented. These events, which are followed with interest by many countries of the world, show the economic strength and prestige of the Azerbaijan state. At the same time, the process of building an army continues.

“After this historic victory, Mr. Ilham Aliyev announced the beginning of a new era of construction in the history of our country. This policy can be divided into three groups according to their priority directions: further strengthening the army’s potential; ensuring the security of the occupied territories; forming the new infrastructure of the occupied territories.”²⁶⁴

Azerbaijan’s military-political victory over the enemy and its consequences, the new opportunities it creates, will be discussed for a long time in the world’s think tanks and military circles. We can note that after the Glorious Victory, thanks to new opportunities, the position of Azerbaijan has strengthened

both in the region and the whole world, and our country's reputation has strengthened. As President Ilham Aliyev noted at the seventh congress of the New Azerbaijan Party, a new era has begun after the war: "We must think about the future. We have to get ahead of the times. I have said that now our main opponent regarding the reconstruction of Karabakh is time. We must plan the future of the country in such a way that long-term sustainable development is ensured, independence is eternal, the power of our country increases, our influence increases, and the people of Azerbaijan always live in security in their ancestral land."

Indeed, today we face a new important task: to restore the territories looted and destroyed by the enemy, to create a new infrastructure for permanent residence in our liberated lands, to ensure security, and to create conditions for our people to return to their homeland after many years. Today, not only the liberated regions' residents but the entire Azerbaijani people are impatient to see Karabakh beautified, rebuilt, and turned into a paradise. On this road, everyone is with the Azerbaijani state and its Leader and supports all his decisions.

Zangezur Corridor is one of the most important results of the Patriotic War, in which the people of Azerbaijan united under one fist. President Ilham Aliyev declared at the seventh congress of YAP that "the reflection of this issue in the tripartite statement is our great political victory. Zangezur Corridor is a historical achievement. Currently, active works are being carried out in the corridor, and many proposals and transport and communication projects are already on the table. Now Armenia refuses to cooperate. Now Armenia wants to obstruct the implementation of the Zangezur corridor. However, we will force them. We will achieve everything we want from our lands,

just as we drove them out. Thus, Armenia will have no choice but to accept the political will of Azerbaijan.

The post-war situation determines new directions of cooperation worldwide and in the region. President Ilham Aliyev emphasized this at the seventh congress of YAP: “The results of the Second Karabakh war have created new realities and new cooperation opportunities for the region. Stable development has been ensured in both the political and economic spheres in Azerbaijan, and it has become a country with great prestige and respect in the international world. After the Great Victory, the most visible example of the celebration of brotherly relations with Turkey, which was always with Azerbaijan during the 44-day Patriotic War, was the participation of the heads of state of both countries - the President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev and the President of the Republic of Turkey Rejep Tayyip Erdogan in the groundbreaking ceremony of the Zangezur Corridor and the opinions voiced have already confirmed the emergence of a new power center in the region.

After the Great Victory, Fuzuli International Airport was opened and the foundation of the Horadiz-Jabrayil-Zangilan-Aghband highway, in other words, a part of the eagerly awaited Zangezur corridor, was laid. The laying of the foundation of a part of the Zangezur corridor by the President of Turkey, Rejep Tayyip Erdogan, along with the President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, became a bright example of Azerbaijan-Turkey brotherhood and alliance. The signing of the “Shusha Declaration” during the first official visit of the President of Turkey to Shusha on June 15, 2021, is a reality of today as a logical component of the alliance. Furthermore, the joint efforts of the leaders of the two brotherly countries will produce results that contribute to lasting peace in the region. On November 7, the

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, and first lady Mehriban Aliyeva participated in the opening of Victory Road in the Fuzuli district. The construction of the Victory Road in a short period symbolizes the brilliant Victory won by the people of Azerbaijan. The project, implemented in a short time, showed the strength of the Azerbaijani state, its potential, and, most importantly, the determination of President Ilham Aliyev to the whole world. The construction of the highway, which was built to perpetuate the path used by our Glorious Army when liberating Shusha, the cultural capital of our country, from the enemy, and named "Victory Road" by the Victorious Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev, was carried out under the constant supervision of the head of our state.

Later, at the beginning of November, the participation of the President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev in the 8th Summit Meeting of the Cooperation Council of Turkic-Speaking States held in Turkey was remembered as a proud event. In a magnificent and historical event that gives a sense of pride in the Turkish world, the President of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, was awarded the Supreme Order of the Turkic World for his efforts to liberate the Karabakh and his contributions to the further strengthening of Turkish unity. It celebrated the value given to our nation and its leader.

By the way, it should be noted that in general, President Ilham Aliyev has exceptional services in the realization of the idea of uniting Turkic-speaking countries in a political, economic, and cultural context. The transformation of the Cooperation Council of Turkic-Speaking States into the Organization of Turkic States has political significance. Speaking at the Summit, President Ilham Aliyev emphasized that this organization was established for long-term goals: "We cooperate

in international organizations. In the UN, the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation, the OSCE, and other organizations, our countries always support each other, which should be so because we are united by common history and historical and cultural roots. We build our business on this solid foundation. Our unity strengthens our countries and is a critical factor in regional cooperation. Also, President Ilham Aliyev defined the directions of cooperation at the first meeting and showed the spectrum of this activity. President Ilham Aliyev divides the directions of cooperation into 4 categories - economic and oil-gas industry, international relations, humanitarian-cultural, and transport logistics. These categories cover all spectrums of economic and political relations. Many of the ideas strategically voiced by President Ilham Aliyev at the first meeting have already come true. The implementation of the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline, the construction of the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway line, and the activities of the TURKSOY organization can be cited as examples. The great role of this institution in the cultural integration of the Turkic peoples is undeniable. During this period, the increase of member states from 4 to 7, the transformation of the Cooperation Council of Turkic-Speaking States into the Organization of Turkic States, as well as the adoption of the "Turkic World Vision - 2040" document are indicators that this organization is calculated for a long-term perspective.

Thanks to the strong position of the President of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, political will, and the heroism of our Victorious Army, the liberation of our lands became the focus of the analytical think tanks of the whole world. Political researchers unequivocally note that after the Great Victory achieved by Azerbaijan, ensuring stability in the region and opening the

Zangezur Corridor will play an important role in regional and global cooperation. This corridor's opening is very important for the region and other countries in establishing economic relations and transit transportation. In addition to connecting the Nakhchivan exclave with Azerbaijan, this corridor will also serve the existing trade and transport links. Communications will be restored through Zangezur Corridor and trade flow will be established. Experts also note that the opening of the Zangezur corridor is essential for the long-term development of the economy in the region.

This triumphant victory in the Patriotic War caused significant changes in the South Caucasus region. This victory of the Republic of Azerbaijan created new geopolitical conditions to preserve and develop security and cooperation issues in the region. The Zangezur Corridor, passing through Nakhchivan, opens broad perspectives for constructing communication lines that connect the Mediterranean Sea and the Caspian Basin. The participation of foreign companies in implementing new projects in Nagorno-Karabakh and other territories freed from occupation is of great importance. The connection of the railway lines to the railways of Nakhchivan and then to the Turkish railways through the Zangezur corridor will condition the strengthening of the political and economic relations of the Turkic states. Russia and Iran can also benefit from these projects. All these factors will lead to the expansion of interstate economic cooperation in maintaining peace in the South Caucasus.

Azerbaijan's victory in the Second Patriotic War fulfilled a historical mission to bring all Turkish states closer together. In the tripartite Declaration signed on November 10, 2020, there was also a provision regarding the construction of new transport-sea communications connecting Nakhchivan with the

main territory of Azerbaijan. Communications passing through Zangezur, the ancient land of Azerbaijan, will connect the entire Turkic world and, at the same time, will create additional opportunities for other countries. One of the most important results of the Karabakh war was the defense of our republic's rights and just position on international platforms. The Non-Aligned Movement, which is the second largest organization in the world after the UN, and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation unequivocally supported Azerbaijan.

"President Ilham Aliyev forever wrote his name in history as the Leader who restored Azerbaijan's territorial integrity, created the Azerbaijani people's heroic annals, and became a true hero of the 44-day Patriotic War. Having won a great historical victory in the Patriotic War under the leadership of the President and the victorious Commander-in-Chief, Ilham Aliyev, Azerbaijan succeeded in restoring its territorial integrity and historical justice. This stage, which started on September 27 and lasted until December 1, created the beginning of a completely different and new era, not only in Azerbaijan but also in the South Caucasus as a whole. On the other hand, our country defined its important place and role in this new geopolitical balance by creating a new balance of power in a large strategic region. All this happened so quickly that many of the power centers that determine world politics watched the events from the outside and could not intervene in them at all. However, we also witnessed very radical and active intervention attempts. Thus, Azerbaijan has provided an important strategic perspective by forming a new reality."²⁶⁵

In order to provide a modern and decent life for sustainable settlement in the territories freed from the occupation of the Republic of Azerbaijan, implement construction-restoration

and improvement works, as well as support for safe living, efficient activity, and continuous increase of well-being, support the families of martyrs and people who were injured for the protection of the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan "YASHAT" Fund and "Karabakh Revival Fund" were established by the relevant decrees of the President of the country. After these decrees, which the country's public welcomed, Azerbaijani entrepreneurs also actively transferred donations to those funds. Now a new stage has begun for Azerbaijan. This is the period of construction and restoration of our liberated cities and regions.

When talking about the results of the 44-day Patriotic War, it should be noted with a sense of pride that during the reign of Ilham Aliyev, the patriotic youth responsible for the country's future grew up. President Ilham Aliyev said in his speech at the seventh Congress of YAP: "The new generation of young people growing up in Azerbaijan was also brought up for this purpose. The young generation grew up loving the Motherland and hatred for the enemy and freed our lands from invaders. They died showing patriotism and self-sacrifice, became martyrs, veterans, showed heroism, and restored historical justice."

President Ilham Aliyev considered the growth of our youth loyal to national and moral values, in a patriotic spirit, as a priority task, one of the important directions of the state strategy. It is no coincidence that the attention and care given to young people in our country have made them the most influential force in society. Young people are trusted, and their educational and career opportunities are always taken into consideration.

Our youth made a historic contribution to ensuring the integrity of our country by giving a worthy response to the deviant enemy in the Second Patriotic War. President Ilham Aliyev's address to the people from Shusha on March 20:

“Representatives of all generations participated in the war and showed heroism. However, everyone should know that the main mission was carried out by young people who grew up during my presidency and young people who were children in 2003. First of all, we are indebted to them, we are indebted to all the people of Azerbaijan. All our people were bringing this victory closer, and all the factors combined determined the results of this war.”

In his post-war speeches, the head of the country emphasized the importance of educating our youth in the spirit of patriotism and that was reflected in the Second Karabakh War: “When I addressed the people of Azerbaijan on the Jidir plain in Shusha, I said that when I came to power in 2003, people who are 25-30 years old today were children. We raised them in the spirit of patriotism and loyalty to the state, and they liberated our land from the invaders. Including the young people who have never been in the occupied lands, but were originally from those lands, and fought for their land. Thus, during the period of President Ilham Aliyev’s rule, the political-ideological and spiritual activities have ensured the strengthening of the consensus of our people, including the cultivation of the spirit of loyalty to the Motherland among the young generation. The youth of Azerbaijan, brought up on the basis of national values, successfully fulfilled the mission of properly representing our country at the international level and the responsibility of ensuring the territorial integrity of our republic with responsibility and honor.

Thus, we can note the following significant results of the pragmatic policy of the President of Azerbaijan, the Supreme Commander-in-Chief, which led to the achievement of the Great Victory, which resulted in ensuring the territorial integrity of our country:

* We were always in the 50th place in the international rankings, now after the war, of course, we will rise to even higher places. We showed our strength during the war.

* Our Victory is not only the Victory of our people, the whole Turkish world is proud of our Victory.

* After the Great Victory, the dialogue environment in the country led to new progressive political consolidations.

* The policy of national solidarity implemented under the initiative and leadership of President Ilham Aliyev, as well as the Victory in the Patriotic War, created national unity in the country. The concept of national unity and solidarity established by the Great Leader is the source of the brilliant Victory of our people in the 44-day Patriotic War.

*The new opportunities created by the Great Victory have further increased Azerbaijan's reputation in the world.

* The Victory won in the 44-day Patriotic War and the formation of Azerbaijan-Turkey relations at a high level led to the achievement of the main goal indicated in the political programs of a number of parties.

* As a result of the successful state policy implemented by President Ilham Aliyev, Azerbaijan has become the most stable and powerful country - the leading state in the South Caucasus region. The Great Victory strengthened Azerbaijan's leading position.

*Azerbaijan has attracted the attention of the world community and gained the status of a worthy partner. Undoubtedly, the basis of this trust is the determined and purposeful foreign policy course of the Azerbaijani leadership.

*Armenia is isolated, while Azerbaijan has established relations with all its neighbors based on very effective friendship and good neighborliness.

*The 44-day history of Victory strengthened the unity and solidarity efforts of all political forces and people in Azerbaijan. Our country has entered a new period of development. Azerbaijan has managed to fundamentally change the situation in the region. Today there is no such country that we have any problem with that country.

* “The 44-day Patriotic War focused the attention of the world community on Azerbaijan and the fair struggle of our country. The post-war situation determines new directions of cooperation worldwide and in the region. Azerbaijan has achieved rapid development in political and economic spheres and has become a country with great prestige and respect worldwide.

* Azerbaijan fought the war of the 21st century. We should plan so that in fifty years we will be ready for the war of the following century. Because where international law does not work, only the power factor can be decisive. Azerbaijan entered a new era. It is an entirely new geopolitical situation in the region and in our country. Therefore, we must take all our steps correctly always to win. The flag of Azerbaijan is always high”, said Ilham Aliyev. He also defined the future development goals of Azerbaijan.

The new realities created by the 44-day Patriotic War have more comprehensive and global significance:

* The position and role of Azerbaijan in the system of international relations, which created new realities in the South Caucasus with its glorious Victory in the Second Karabakh War, has become stronger. Today, Azerbaijan is considered a new military-political power center, a state whose words are heard internationally and whose position is accepted. The conditions created by Azerbaijan for ensuring long-term peace, cooperation,

and security in the region are also appreciated by international organizations and power centers.

* Of course, the most priority issue of the new realities in the region after the Second Karabakh War is the opening of communications and the creation of new transport transit routes.

* One of the most significant proposals for the region's security and further development is the 3+3 format.

*With the participation of Azerbaijan, Georgia, Armenia, Turkey, Russia, and Iran, it is planned to further develop regional cooperation by adding the countries to the east of the Caspian Sea. There are opportunities and infrastructure for this. In particular, projects such as the Baku-Tbilisi-Kars railway, Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline, and "Southern gas corridor," TANAP, and TAP are projects developed from this point of view. These do not belong to one country, but these projects that the Caucasus, Europe, and Central Asia will use together.

* Interest in our region is growing. Because after the Zangezur corridor is put into use, Azerbaijan will have created a new transport artery in the Eurasian space.

*The possibility of a direct connection with Nakhchivan through the Zangezur Corridor will strengthen economic integration and accelerate industrialization in Nakhchivan. On the other hand, it will stimulate the socio-economic development of the liberated territories of Azerbaijan. The operation of the infrastructure along the corridor also means creating additional jobs and developing the region.

*The opening of the corridor will affect the region's economy and Turkic-speaking countries. The ancient land of Azerbaijan will primarily play the role of a core that unites the

Turkic world. As Ilham Aliyev said, the Turkic world will be united again after many years through the Zangezur corridor. Conditions will be created to increase the importance of “East-West” and “North-South” transport corridors.

*The Zangezur Corridor can greatly benefit the countries of the Asia-Pacific region, in addition to Azerbaijan, Armenia, Turkey, Russia, and Iran. The most important thing is that the corridor will serve to remove the obstacles that have been preventing regional cooperation for years.

In short, with all this, President Ilham Aliyev once again confirms that he is always a leader open to proposals for cooperation under the new realities that have arisen in the region. With these proposals and his commitment to his promise, the President of Azerbaijan has turned our country into the most reliable partner in the world.

Undoubtedly, it is necessary to talk about the lessons to be learned from the Great Victory. “The main conclusion of the political history of the last 17 years, which brought the Azerbaijani nation to great Victory, is the creation of a powerful and highly influential state in the international world, the liberation of the occupied territories. The lesson learned from the path taken is that natural stability, a strong state, and a powerful head of state are the basis of the progress of the Azerbaijani nation and the achievement of its goals. That is why the following views of President Ilham Aliyev are the main formula for the future development of the state and nation of Azerbaijan: “Innovation, development, strength - these are the main factors. And the love of the Motherland.”²⁶⁶

Professor Irada Huseynova notes that our Victory in the 44-day Patriotic War showed that President Ilham Aliyev is not only a head of state with political will but also a resolute

Supreme Commander who has deeply mastered the science and experience of war. "Having a leader like Mr. Ilham Aliyev is the dream of every nation. It is proud that President Ilham Aliyev, who came out of the most challenging times with determination, delivered our truths to the international audience based on facts, either in about 30 interviews with foreign media during the 44-day war, or in a press conference for local and foreign journalists, and it is another victory of Azerbaijan in the information struggle.

Our people are sure that as a result of the joint activities of the head of our state, the victorious Commander-in-Chief Ilham Aliyev, and the First Vice-President of Azerbaijan, Mehriban Aliyeva, the Great Return will be achieved and will be noticed with great success in the world. The proud, invincible people of Azerbaijan only deserve victory and success. There is a solid foundation for the happy future of Azerbaijan. The founder of the modern independent state of Azerbaijan, the Great Leader Heydar Aliyev, and President Ilham Aliyev, who successfully continued his political course, created this foundation."²⁶⁷

International-level meetings and foreign visits held by President Ilham Aliyev after the Great Victory are once again the results of the consistent and continuous policy of the Azerbaijani leader in terms of protecting his decisive and determined position. The results of President Ilham Aliyev's meeting with either NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg or European Union Council President Charles Michel in Brussels showed that the leader of Azerbaijan once again revealed the rightful position of his country. The new reality created by the Great Victory is that at the meeting of NATO's North Atlantic Council, the member states of the Alliance once again expressed their support for the territorial integrity, sovereignty,

and inviolability of our internationally recognized borders. At the Brussels meetings, it became clear to all of Europe that Azerbaijan is the party that dictates the conditions in line with the new realities and has a say in drawing the new geopolitical landscape of the South Caucasus. As a result of President Ilham Aliyev's decisive position and wise policy, all proposals put forward by Azerbaijan were accepted. This is the result of the policy that currently the political and military organizations of the world accept the position of Azerbaijan.

Ilham Aliyev's meetings and speeches in Brussels, as well as the speeches of the leaders of several European countries, showed that the new reality created by Azerbaijan after the 44-day Patriotic War has changed a lot. Many people in Europe have to come to terms with the new reality created by Azerbaijan. All these are undoubtedly the realities created by the Great Victory authored by the Leader of Azerbaijan, the Commander-in-Chief, that an institution like the European Union expressed its unequivocal support for the rightful position of Azerbaijan in establishing peace in the region, opening all communications, delimiting and demarcating borders.

Diplomatic successes achieved by President Ilham Aliyev during his visit to Brussels will have an exceptional impact on normalizing relations with Armenia because the parties with interests in the region understand well that the opening of the Zangezur corridor and the restoration of communications is the only way out for the development of relations in the region. The international community is sure that Azerbaijan, which has written the history of 44 days of Victory, will fully restore its territories freed from occupation as soon as possible and ensure the Great Return. This certainty is based on the logic of the wise

and far-sighted, decisive policy of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief, our honorable President Ilham Aliyev.

The results of the Brussels meetings once again confirmed that the world powers accepted the new reality created by Azerbaijan in the region. This reality was created as a result of exceptional innate intelligence, patience, and the determined position of President Ilham Aliyev. As a result of the solid political strategy and quick maneuvering skills of our head of state, Ilham Aliyev, who has the image of a reliable partner in the world before the war, during the war, and in the post-war period, Azerbaijan is also determining the post-war agenda of the region today.

If we look at the historical development of each nation, we will see that the role of leaders is exceptional and decisive in achieving great success. The leadership skill belongs to those politicians who, in addition to protecting their people's and state's national interests, continuously develop their country and can move it forward tirelessly. The people of Azerbaijan are delighted that our country was led for a long time by a genius like Heydar Aliyev, a phenomenon of world politics, who dedicated his whole life to his native people whom he loved more than his life. Our people are also happy because the ideas of our National Leader Heydar Aliyev, the priorities he defined, and the comprehensive development concept of our statehood are being successfully continued by his worthy successor, the honorable President Ilham Aliyev. Thanks to all this, our country has been experiencing a period of stability, development, and prosperity for years.

Ali Huseynli notes, "Today, Azerbaijan is in reliable and strong hands. A politician who benefits from Heydar Aliyev's genius and has high political intelligence and potential for new

conditions

-Ilham Aliyev's leadership of our country with great talent and ability, continuing Heydar Aliyev's political course, and his actions for the sake of Azerbaijan with great mastery make the hearts of each of us beat with pride. In this work, each of us citizens of Azerbaijan should help our President, thereby contributing to protecting our statehood, independence, and territorial integrity."²⁶⁸

Ilham Aliyev, who said "I will be the President of every Azerbaijani" when he was elected the President of the country for the first time in 2003, proved once again that he is the President of every Azerbaijani with his vast works. The work done under his wise leadership gives us reason to say that our country's future will be brighter. Today, modern Azerbaijan is advancing confidently on the foundation laid by the Great Leader. Our successes and achievements are connected with the name of Great Leader Heydar Aliyev. Heydar Aliyev's ideas, valued as Azerbaijan's yesterday, today, and future, promise greater success for our country in the coming years under the leadership of Mr. Ilham Aliyev.



CHAPTER IV

**A WORTHY FOLLOWER OF HEYDAR
ALIYEV'S LEGACY MEHRIBAN ALIYEVA
PHENOMENON**

Benevolence and goodwill: a life dedicated to the nation

The immortal legacy of Great Leader Heydar Aliyev is considered a vital program document to successfully continue the policy based on national and moral values in our country for many years. This program, based on the promotion of patriotism in our society and the spread of the ideology of Azerbaijani nationalism which the Great Leader authored, is clearly reflected in the activities of Mehriban Aliyeva, who is the First Vice President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, President of Heydar Aliyev Foundation, Goodwill Ambassador of ISESCO and First Lady of Azerbaijan. Mehriban Aliyeva, who gained an excellent reputation as a defender of humanism, philanthropy, and national values with her phenomenal talent and multifaceted activities, is a stateswoman loved by the people and ensures the implementation of these activities.

“It is necessary to educate our society based on the independence and freedom of the nation and national moral principles of Azerbaijan.” Mrs. Mehriban Aliyeva responds to this wise saying of Great Leader Heydar Aliyev with her practical activities. The name and activity of the first lady, who is the embodiment of kindness and goodwill, is an example in our society. Mehriban Aliyeva’s large-scale projects in education, health care, and culture, both within the country and abroad, reflect the greatness of her personality, good intentions, and inexhaustible possibilities.

In the book “Mehriban” authored by the assistant of the first Vice President, Anar Alakbarov, he fairly characterized Mehriban Aliyeva as “not only the first lady of the country but

everyone's beloved, dear Mehriban": "Writing and expressing opinions about Mrs. Mehriban requires great responsibility. Today, various books have been written about the first lady, whose name has permeated all areas of the country's public life, and materials detailing her activities have been published inside and outside the country. These publications mainly contain official information and do not provide a comprehensive impression of her character and inner world. For this reason, given that most of my professional activity is closely related to her name, I would like to write about Mrs.Mehriban, who has become a symbol of kindness in our country today and to present her inner world by adding new lines to the completed portrait formed in public consciousness. Over the years, I have been observing her caring attitude towards people, how she carefully considers the requests and needs of citizens, and how she takes care of children deprived of parental care; she indeed has a big heart. She is loved for her actions, and she earns respect and trust of people. Thanks to this love, she is not only Mehriban Aliyeva, the country's first lady, but everyone's beloved, dear Mehriban."²⁶⁹

The national pride of the people

Throughout history, female rulers and warlords have gone, and they have left an eternal mark on the fate of the nations they belong to. It is with great honor that we mention the names of our women who raised the prestige and honor of Azerbaijani women. The lives and activities of Tomris, the ruler of the Massagets, Nushaba, the ruler of Barda, Sara Khatun, the mother of the mighty ruler Uzun Hasan who was the founder of the Agh Goyunlu state, Tuti Bika, Burla Khatun, Banu Chickek, Seljan Khatun, Nigar are eternal in our history with their heroism and wise decisions. Academician Zarifa khanim Aliyeva, Aida Imanguliyeva, Adila Namazova, Zahra Guliyeva, Vajiha Samadova, Maral Rahmanzade, and other women whose names we mention with respect and reverence in the recent history of Azerbaijan are known not only in our country but also worldwide. In the modern history of our country, when we talk about the women of Azerbaijan, first of all, the President of Heydar Aliyev Foundation, First Vice President Mehriban Aliyeva, comes to mind. Today, Mrs. Mehriban Aliyeva, who has won the hearts of millions with her benevolent and humane charitable mission, is an outstanding statesman capable of representing her state and people with dignity worldwide.

In our country, which is living the brightest days of its independence, studying the rich statehood heritage of the Great Leader, widely promoting his immortal ideas, conveying them to future generations, as well as promoting Azerbaijan on an international scale, have become especially actual and vital in the modern and rapidly changing globalization era. Mehriban Aliyeva heads the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, established on

May 10, 2004. The Heydar Aliyev Foundation was created based on the desire of the Azerbaijani people to express their respect for the memory of their National Leader and to constantly instill the Azerbaijani philosophy of the Great Leader and the ideas of national statehood created by him to new generations. The Fund quickly achieved great success in our country and beyond the borders of Azerbaijan. The basis of these successes is the perseverance and initiative of the first lady of Azerbaijan, Mehriban Aliyeva.

The first lady of our country considers it her civic duty to convey the truths of Azerbaijan to the world, promote our culture and moral values, protect our national gene pool and attract society's attention to these directions. Mehriban Aliyeva's special attention and motherly care to the socially vulnerable parts of the population, diseased and children deprived of parental care, has erected an eternal monument to her in the hearts of our people. Today, Mrs. Mehriban Aliyeva is the spiritual mother of children deprived of parental care and the support of mothers of martyrs, refugees, and internally displaced persons. With the voice of her kind heart, the first lady spends all her energy and time selflessly for the well-being and happy life of people. With the support of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation and the initiative of Mrs. Mehriban Aliyeva, various programs aimed at supporting refugees and internally displaced persons, children suffering from thalassemia and diabetes, reconstruction of orphanages, construction of new buildings for them serve the abovementioned purpose.

Thanks to the high organization of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, Azerbaijan is recognized worldwide as a sports country. The first European Games, the IV Islamic Solidarity Games hosted by our country with great success, revealed

that Mehriban Aliyeva has high organizational skills. The organization and holding of the "Eurovision" international song contest in our country at a high level was made possible by Ms. Mehriban. Azerbaijan has impressed even developed countries with the magnificent organization of these prestigious international events.

The noble and benevolent mission of Mrs.Mehriban attracted the attention of not only the national community but also the international community in a short period. In August 2004, she was awarded the title of UNESCO for her services in the preservation and development of Azerbaijan's oral folk literature and national musical heritage, and in November 2006, for her large-scale activities in the humanitarian field, including the development of inter-civilizational and intercultural dialogue, the promotion of Islamic cultural heritage and great support in solving the problems of children in need of care she was awarded as the goodwill ambassador of ISESCO.

Mrs.Mehriban Aliyeva has been awarded many times for her large-scale philanthropic activities and high achievements in service to the highest ideals of humanity. Mehriban Aliyeva was awarded 'Ruby Cross' Order of Philanthropists of the Century International Charity Foundation of Russia for her philanthropic activities and contributions to strengthening the friendship between the peoples of Russia and Azerbaijan. Mehriban Aliyeva was awarded the title of "Woman of the Year" in our country in 2005 and the "Golden Heart" international award in 2007 for her high achievements in the field of philanthropy and service to the highest ideals of humanity. The awarding of the first lady of Azerbaijan with the "Heydar Aliyev Prize" by order of the head of state Ilham Aliyev dated May 5, 2009, is the worthiest award given to her

persistent activity. In 2009, Mehriban Aliyeva was awarded the Order of Grand Commander's Cross of Poland "For Services," and in 2010, the Order of the French "Legion of Honor" and the "Golden Mozart" medal of UNESCO. Awards include the "High Service to the Turkish World" award, the Crans Montana Forum Gold Medal, etc. Mehriban Aliyeva is an Honorary Professor of the First Moscow State Medical University, named after the world-famous I.M. Sechenov of the Russian Federation. All these awards are high values given to the first lady's noble deeds, high humanism, large-scale charitable activities, perseverance for developing dialogue between civilizations, achievements, and service to the highest ideals of humanity. There are enough reasons why the multifaceted activity of the first lady of Azerbaijan has been received with sympathy not only in our country but also outside its borders: along with the promotion of national and spiritual values and intangible heritage on a global scale, she has promoted peace, stability, the development of intercultural dialogue in the civilized world, in a word, contributed to the realization of higher ideas aimed at the progress of humanity with her persistent activity.

The projects implemented by the Heydar Aliyev Foundation serve to modernize our country, be recognized internationally, and increase its reputation. The Heydar Aliyev Foundation duly represents our country internationally and protects our national interests by achieving great successes and building its activities adequately to the new urgent challenges of the globalized world. The Heydar Aliyev Foundation, which is famous not only in Azerbaijan but also beyond the borders of our country, is always with those who need help and makes significant contributions to universal culture, peace, and tranquility. Mehriban Aliyeva, President of the Foundation and

goodwill ambassador of ISESCO, has duly justified this trust shown to her. The Heydar Aliyev Foundation, a follower of the rich traditions of the National Leader of the Azerbaijani people, Heydar Aliyev, has an invaluable role in presenting the high values and principles of humanism in the world with its wide-ranging activities.

The projects implemented by the first lady of Azerbaijan also attract attention due to their universal nature. Mrs. Mehriban makes excellent contributions to realizing universal values, such as inter-civilizational dialogue and multiculturalism in the world, and to the unification of efforts in these fields, and this mission continues. The following sentences of **the former Director General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova**, addressed to Mrs. Mehriban are very proud: "It is an honor for us - for UNESCO, to see you among the goodwill ambassadors. It is not easy to describe the extent of your achievements in one word. You are a true standard-bearer of UNESCO's humanist values."

As a goodwill ambassador of UNESCO and ISESCO, Mehriban Aliyeva tirelessly conveyed our country's history, cultural heritage, and political and social realities to the world community. The following thoughts of Mrs. Mehriban are an accurate picture of the goals of the higher mission she undertook: "Of course, as a goodwill ambassador of UNESCO and ISESCO, I had to regulate my international activities during all these years. First of all, it was an opportunity for me to convey to the world community the history and cultural heritage of Azerbaijan, as well as the current political and social realities of Azerbaijan. It was necessary to convey the meaning of modern Azerbaijan, its importance, political position, and potential of this country to the world community. I think that I have managed to do a lot in this direction. Therefore, I am

optimistic about the future. I think that the experience and habits gained during all these years will help me”.

The former Director General of UNESCO, Koichiro Matsuura, highly appreciated the activities of the first lady of our country and said that Mehriban Aliyeva’s work both in Azerbaijan and worldwide in the direction of protecting, promoting and developing her heritage is commendable. Mehriban Aliyeva was awarded as the Goodwill Ambassador of UNESCO for her tireless efforts in preserving and developing Azerbaijan’s oral literature and national musical heritage. The Heydar Aliyev Foundation, headed by Mehriban Aliyeva, regularly carries out events aimed at promoting Azerbaijani culture and intangible cultural heritage. I have been a participant in these events many times. The participants have especially emphasized their high-level organization. The projects implemented under Mehriban Aliyeva’s leadership aim to form a young generation loyal to national and moral ideals and humanistic and humanitarian values, expand inter-civilizational dialogue, deepen cooperation with international institutions, and promote a better Azerbaijan in the world. “Relations of Azerbaijan with UNESCO, one of the most prestigious institutions of the UN, have reached an unprecedented level today due to Mrs.Mehriban’s efforts.”

K.Matsuura praised Mehriban Aliyeva’s role as a goodwill ambassador in promoting the new international Convention on the Protection of Intangible Cultural Heritage at UNES-CO and said: Mrs.Mehriban Aliyeva became a very active goodwill ambassador who is responsible for the protection of Intangible Cultural Heritage, a completely new area of UNESCO. He promoted the new Convention successfully not only in Azerbaijan but also in other parts of the world. Mrs.Mehriban

played a significant role in promoting both the Convention on Intangible Cultural Heritage and the Convention on World Heritage.”

K.Matsuura, who especially highlighted Mehriban Aliyeva’s services in inscribing the rare pearls of Azerbaijan in the list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of UNESCO, noted that as a result of her effective activity, Azerbaijani mugham and art of Azerbaijani ashig, the art of performing tar, as well as the Azerbaijani carpet, Novruz holiday, Kalaghayi art were included in this list. He emphasized that in addition to this, the Walled City of Baku with Shirvanshah’s Palace and Maiden Tower was also included in the UNESCO World Heritage List. Noting that Mehriban Aliyeva has an excellent reputation among UNESCO goodwill ambassadors, K. Matsuura also stated that the organization highly appreciates her initiatives.

Mehriban Aliyeva’s multifaceted public activity is appreciated abroad and is set as an example. **Mark Schneier, President of the US Foundation for Ethnic Understanding:** “The first lady has done a lot to expand women’s rights and opportunities in Azerbaijan. Because of this, she has inspired the majority of Muslim women around the world. Surprisingly, the attributes of her leadership, the principles of loyalty to the values of humanism and tolerance are consistent with the traditions that form the Foundation of Azerbaijani society.”

The Russian publication “LIVEJOURNAL” characterized the First Vice President of Azerbaijan, Mehriban Aliyeva as the most influential lady of the South Caucasus:

“Mehriban Aliyeva is such a politician that people worldwide talk about her and want to talk about her. Undoubtedly, Mehriban Aliyeva is currently at the peak of her career. Nevertheless, given her character, self-confidence, and

extreme endurance, we can safely say that perfection is not limited. The incredible popularity of Mrs. Aliyeva in Azerbaijan, Russia, and other countries is a real phenomenon.”

The international community highly recognizes the first lady’s contributions to universal culture. **The former President of Latvia, Valdis Zatlers**, highly appreciates the activity and leadership qualities of First Vice President Mehriban Aliyeva: “Baku has become a place where various humanitarian, intercultural and interreligious summits are held. First Vice President Mehriban Aliyeva plays an active and important role in these processes. I remember the international forum on “Expanding the role of women in intercultural dialogue” organized by the Heydar Aliyev Foundation under Mehriban Aliyeva. This forum was held in June 2008. The First Vice President of Azerbaijan makes a great contribution to the development of intercultural dialogue, as well as acts as a shining example of female leadership by inspiring women not only in Azerbaijan but also all over the world. First Vice President Mehriban Aliyeva was awarded the Gold Medal of the Nizami Ganjavi International Center for her contributions to global projects and the development of education, science, and culture.”

V. Zatlers adds that the example of Mehriban Aliyeva encourages women to participate in public life actively, and this is a perfect example: “The state of Azerbaijan can be proud of its history in the field of women’s rights. First Vice President Mehriban Aliyeva is an outstanding person who demonstrates the growing role of women in Azerbaijan’s social and political life.”

Justice for Khojaly! - the celebration of justice

In the multifaceted activities of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, special attention has been given to carry out purposeful and consistent work in the direction of conveying the truths of Azerbaijan to the world community, protecting our national interests in the international arena, and exposing the fact of aggression that our country is facing. As a result of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation's purposeful activity in promoting the Khojaly genocide in the world, profound successes were achieved. As the first lady of our country, Mehriban Aliyeva noted, the Khojaly tragedy, which is considered one of the most severe crimes against humanity, has already received its political and legal value all over the world and has been recognized by the countries of the world: "The Khojaly genocide is a crime committed against all humanity and will never be erased from our memories. This event shook our nation but did not break its will and determination, it united us more closely as a nation, and with this invincible unity, we achieved the celebration of right and justice - the recognition of the Khojaly tragedy as an act of genocide against our people on a global scale..."

With the support of the Foundation, conferences, and events dedicated to the Khojaly tragedy were held in different countries for many years, and special propaganda was carried out in this direction. During the actions, photos depicting the atrocities committed by Armenians in Khojaly, materials published in prestigious publications of foreign countries about the Khojaly tragedy, booklets entitled "Truths of Karabakh" and the book "War against Azerbaijan: targeting cultural heritage" were presented.

“Justice for Khojaly!” launched in 2008 with the initiative of Leyla Aliyeva, the vice-president of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, to fully inform the international community about the Khojaly genocide. From the first day, the campaign aimed to raise international awareness about the historical causes and consequences of the Khojaly genocide, the Karabakh conflict, and the need for the unconditional and immediate withdrawal of the Armenian armed forces from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. The campaign is aimed at commemorating the victims of the Khojaly genocide, providing support to the surviving families, and ensuring that these events are not forgotten, especially by the younger generation.

It is no coincidence that after this campaign was launched, decisions were made by the parliaments of several countries to recognize the Khojaly genocide, and monuments to the Khojaly genocide were erected in various countries.

“On February 24, 2008, the first Khojaly genocide monument was erected in the Netherlands (The Hague). Later, on May 30, 2011, Khojaly monuments were opened for the first time in Berlin, Germany, on February 24, 2012, in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Sarajevo), and on August 23, 2012, in Tlaxcoaque-Khojaly square in Mexico. In 2016, a monument was erected in memory of the victims of the genocide in Israel. On March 28, 2014, the first monument to the Khojaly genocide was erected in Ankara, Republic of Turkey. The monument is located in the Khojaly Genocide Memorial Park. There is also a Khojaly Museum in the park. On April 22, 2015, in Izmit, on February 27, 2016, in Izmir, and on February 9, 2018, in Sakarya, memorial complexes were erected in memory of the victims of the genocide. Monuments of the Khojaly genocide were also built

in Turkish cities such as Utsk, Denizli, Kojaeli, Istanbul, Kayseri, Kahramanmarash."²⁷⁰

As a result of the successive events held within the framework of the international awareness campaign "Justice for Khojaly!", the explanation conducted with the political and public community of various foreign countries, the truth about the Khojaly genocide has become widely known in the world. Within the framework of the campaign "Justice for Khojaly!" protests, pickets, seminars, and conferences were held in front of the parliaments and state institutions of various countries, books were published, and films were made. The activity of our young students studying abroad in the events held in different countries increased the scale and importance of the works in this field, and the works carried out within the campaign had positive results. As a result, the number of countries that officially recognize the events of Khojaly as genocide has increased yearly. This propaganda campaign covers a broad geography, from America to Europe, Central Asia, Middle and Far East countries, Australia, and Africa.

"The Khojaly genocide was recognized and remembered in parliamentary acts adopted in many countries. So far, Relevant parliamentary resolutions have been adopted by the legislatures of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, the Czech Republic, Honduras, Jordan, Mexico, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Sudan, Djibouti, Guatemala, Paraguay, Slovenia, Scotland, Indonesia, and Afghanistan, as well as the by more than 20 states of United States."²⁷¹ The Mexican Senate called the Khojaly tragedy a genocide, Pakistan adopted a resolution condemning the genocide, the Colombian Parliament recognized the incident as a genocide, the parliaments of the Czech Republic, Bosnia and Herzegovina officially recognized the Khojaly genocide, the

parliaments of Peru, Honduras, Djibouti, and 24 states of the United States recognized the fact of the massacre in Khojaly. In addition, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, which has a member of 56 countries, assessed the Khojaly tragedy as a crime against humanity and recognized it as genocide, and this process is ongoing. The Khojaly tragedy is widely commemorated and communicated to the public in more than 80 countries annually.

“Let us note that spreading the truth about the Khojaly genocide to the world and supporting our proper position during the 44-day Patriotic War had a special political significance. Purposeful works within the framework “Justice for Khojaly!” carried out for years have a special place in our Great Victory.”²⁷²

First Vice President

Mehriban Aliyeva’s multifaceted activity indicates the greatness of her mission to serve the nation faithfully, the traditions of statehood founded by Heydar Aliyev and is currently being continued by the Honorable President Ilham Aliyev. The appointment of Mehriban Aliyeva to the position of First Vice President on February 21, 2017, is evaluated as a logical result of her rich activities and organizational skills.

“The President of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, whose entire existence is connected to the immortal ideas of the National Leader Heydar Aliyev, who has made worthy contributions to the multifaceted domestic and foreign policy implemented by President Ilham Aliyev, has long been politically and morally entitled to holding the second highest position in the supreme administration system of the independent Azerbaijan state.

Mrs. Aliyeva's exceptional services in protecting our people's national culture and moral values system and instilling healthy values in society made her known to society as a reliable social and political figure. The reason why Mehriban Aliyeva was appointed as the First Vice President of the Republic of Azerbaijan was not only because of her excellent management experience and the love of her people but also because she was the closest comrade-in-arms, helper, and moral supporter of the President of the country, Ilham Aliyev."²⁷³

In her first speech as First Vice President on February 21, 2017, Mehriban Aliyeva noted the following thoughts: "Humanity, Compassion, mutual respect, and kindness should not be forgotten in our daily activities. On the contrary, achieving the highest victories and climbing the greatest heights is possible by holding these moral values high. I assure you that I will try to build my future activity based on these principles. I will put the interests of our country and people above all else, and I will try to serve Azerbaijan properly."

Today, we are witnessing the successful implementation of Aliyeva's ideas in real life. First Vice President Mehriban Aliyeva, who took on a noble mission and new responsibilities related to the achievement of national goals for the sake of the economic development of Azerbaijan and the welfare of our people, has deservedly justified the trust of the President of the country Ilham Aliyev and our people with the work she has done in this high and responsible position during the past term. All this is a clear example of serving the people with loyalty. In Mehriban Aliyeva, solving the problems of socially vulnerable parts of the population, including internally displaced persons, families of martyrs, and veterans, has a special place. She dedicated her first meeting as First Vice President to improving

the living conditions of refugee and internally displaced families. Immediately after that consultation, a corresponding action plan was prepared, and actual work started. The housing and living conditions of hundreds of thousands of refugees and internally displaced persons were improved quickly.

The Heydar Aliyev Foundation has always given special attention to the families of the soldiers who died during the Patriotic War and our veterans. The Fund is closely interested in the concerns of people from this category and regularly implements measures to solve the issues that concern them. On the instructions of First Vice President Mehriban Aliyeva, the Heydar Aliyev Foundation sent our veterans who were seriously injured during the April battles and the 44-day Patriotic War to Turkey for treatment and rehabilitation, and a group of soldiers and officers who lost their health in the war were provided with high-tech prostheses.

Political and moral support for the struggle for the liberation of our lands, appeals calling our people to national solidarity, inspiring our glorious army to victory, numerous visits to Karabakh together with the head of state after the war, organization of the magnificent “Kharibulbul” Music Festival that resonated in the world are among the first lady’s services which have a special place. The organization of the “Kharibulbul” festival in Shusha on the initiative of Mehriban Aliyev showed the whole world that Azerbaijan is an exemplary country with multicultural values.

Two months before the “Kharibulbul” festival, President Ilham Aliyev, first lady Mehriban Aliyeva and their daughter Leyla Aliyeva visited the destroyed museum-mausoleum complex of Molla Panah Vagif while they were in Shusha. The Heydar Aliyev Foundation has already given a second

life to this complex. With the support of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, the reconstructed bust of the great Azerbaijani poet Molla Panah Vagif was inaugurated. After the liberation of Shusha from the occupation, the Heydar Aliyev Foundation reorganized the Vagif Poetry Days in the poet's hometown for the first time. The Heydar Aliyev Foundation organized the exhibitions "Karabakh is the pearl of Azerbaijani culture" and "In the native land again: pearls of the art of Karabakh" as part of the days of poetry.

In addition, with the efforts of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, the famous Topkhana forest of Karabakh, which was under enemy captivity for more than 30 years, will soon return to its former appearance. A tree planting action was held in the Topkhana forest by volunteers of the "Regional Development" Public Union within the Heydar Aliyev Foundation project. President Ilham Aliyev and First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva planted trees on Jidir Duzu within the framework of the 44,000 tree-planting actions across the country in honor of the 44 days that led our people to the great victory. With this action, the Heydar Aliyev Foundation started measures to restore the ecological balance in the territories freed from occupation.

Ashaghi Govhar Aga, Yukhari Govhar Aga, and Saatli mosques, which Armenians destroyed during the occupation of Shusha city, are being restored according to the initial project. All three mosques are on the list of the country's significant historical and cultural monuments.

We remember the words of the First Vice President in her address to the people in the first days of the Patriotic War, which touched the hearts of all of us: "May the Almighty God grant every Azerbaijani to kiss the holy land of Karabakh!"

This holy prayer and wish were confirmed within 44 days. Our native Karabakh gained its freedom thanks to the indomitable will of Supreme Commander Ilham Aliyev, the heroism of our Victorious army, and the unity and solidarity of our people. Today, extensive construction works are being carried out in our free lands. The Heydar Aliyev Foundation, headed by Mehriban Aliyeva, is also closely involved in these activities:

“Nowadays, we are all experiencing the pride and joy of restoring the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan. Our lands under the occupation of Armenia for nearly 30 years were liberated thanks to the bravery of our heroic soldiers and officers under the leadership of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Ilham Aliyev. I want to inform you that the project on restoring our religious monuments and mosques, which are the national wealth of our people, has started. Within the framework of the project, restoration, conservation, and reconstruction of our sanctuaries in the region will be carried out with the participation of local and foreign experts. Relevant work on restoring religious places of worship, which were destroyed during the years of occupation in Shusha city and Aghdam region, has already been started.”

Mehriban Aliyeva, speaking in video format at ISESCO’s event on the occasion of the “Women and Girls in Science” International Day, said that the same attitude would be shown to the monuments belonging to different religions in our lands freed from occupation: “Currently, the revitalization of the liberated territories and ensuring safe return of the Azerbaijani IDPs to their homelands are the huge task of the state. We will get through it. We will rebuild the destroyed cities and villages. We will build schools there. We will restore the cultural heritage of Muslims and all religions.”

Thus, the first lady Mehriban Aliyeva, one of the active followers of Heydar Aliyev's course of statehood and, most importantly, a great patriot, carried out a historical mission with her compassion, mercy, service to the state and the people in the days of historical importance - when our lands were freed from the perverted enemy, and our Motherland was unified. She won the deep sympathy of our nation by being with his people. At the same time, she gave the good news that restoration works will be started soon regarding our freed Karabakh.

Only sincere feelings of patriotism, unselfish, pure feelings originating from the love of the Motherland can motivate a person to carry out complicated but critical tasks from the point of view of the nation's future and the state. Mrs. Mehriban gained fame as an outstanding statesman who showed high patriotism, shared her pains and sufferings, and showed exceptional sensitivity and attention to our national and moral values with her numerous appeals during the 44-day Patriotic War and the period after the Great victory. As a stateswoman, Mrs. Mehriban expressed her strong attitude to the deaths of hundreds of our innocent citizens in the events of Ganja and Barda during the 44-day Patriotic War and the loss of children and babies' lives due to the brutal terrorist acts of the enemy. With this, she practically demonstrated that she is with every family and every citizen whom the enemy attacked.

After the Great Victory, together with the Commander-in-Chief, he visited the lands freed from the occupation in military uniform and conveyed the victorious mood of Azerbaijan to the whole world. Nigar, Tuti Bika, Burla khatun, Banu Chickek, Seljan khatun, Nushaba, Tomris showed to the world the heroism and patriotism of Azerbaijani women, devotion to Motherland once again in her person. Delivering to our people

the first images taken from our territories freed from the enemy and visiting the destroyed mosques was an example of Aliyeva's compassionate attitude towards our national values. Visiting Aghdam Mosque for the first time after the Great Victory, President Ilham Aliyev donated the "Holy Qur'an" brought from Mecca to Aghdam Mosque. The President of Azerbaijan and the First Lady praying in the mosque celebrate our nation's highest humane and humanitarian feelings and high deeds unique to our nation. With this visit, which caused respect and admiration in the hearts of millions of people, Mrs. Mehriban demonstrated her people's loftiest dreams to God. Furthermore, as well as the high political support in liberating our ancestral lands from the enemy occupation has awakened an infinite sense of pride in our citizens with the good news of victory addressed to the people.

One of the most important events after the Patriotic War was the Supreme Commander's visit to the liberated regions. In addition to Aghdam, after the visits to Fuzuli, Jabrayil, Gubadli, and Zangilan, the visits of the Honorable President Ilham Aliyev to the cultural capital of Azerbaijan, Shusha, with the first lady Mehriban Aliyeva and her daughter Leyla Aliyeva were also essential. Like the visits of our head of state to other regions and cities freed from occupation, the visit to Shusha is another embodiment of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief's endless love for the Motherland and his commitment to the people. At the same time, the President's visit to Shusha with his family should be considered another message addressed to the whole world about who is the actual owner of Karabakh.

Mehriban Aliyeva says: "History determines the place and fate of everyone in life. Therefore, there are no big or small roles. Only your personal, perceived responsibility allows you to write your own life book. In this book, everyone personifies

himself as the creator or destroyer of his personal life and the world. You must be who you are - this is our life. Therefore, you should not take on the roles and images of others. Because you and your place in the world are unique.”

All this shows that Mehriban Aliyeva’s life, dedicated to the happy and prosperous life of her people, the sustainable development of our country, and the protection and strengthening of our statehood and national values, sheds light on our future with its uniqueness and leads us to bright tomorrows.

The central aspect that characterizes the sum of all these activities, benevolent and noble qualities is, of course, that First Vice President Mehriban Aliyeva is the closest comrade in arms of President Ilham Aliyev in the realization of the ideas of National Leader Heydar Aliyev, the creator of the independent state of Azerbaijan. Currently, Azerbaijani women are rightly proud of Mehriban Aliyeva, her reputation and take her as an example.

Anar Alakbarov assessed Mehriban Aliyeva’s extensive activity as a new stage in the women’s movement in Azerbaijan and pointed out that this multifaceted activity based on national interests created a clear picture of the position and role of modern Azerbaijani women in society.” Mehriban Aliyeva’s versatile activity based on national interests forms a clear picture of the status and role of a modern Azerbaijani woman in society. In her personality, qualities such as high humanism and caring, typical for an Azerbaijani woman, have found their bright embodiment. They consider her a symbol of beauty, kindness, and mercy, and many people compare themselves to Mehriban Aliyeva. Today, every Azerbaijani woman considers her tireless work an example of her work, and she tries to find her place in society by following her footsteps.”²⁷⁴

For the sake of renewed Azerbaijan

It is known that the development of every country is based on the human factor with highly trained, professional, national, and moral values. National Leader Heydar Aliyev's saying, "The future of Azerbaijan will be built on the shoulders of educated people," constitutes the priority direction of the state policy implemented in our country's education field. The first lady of Azerbaijan, Mehriban Aliyeva, said in her speech: "In the modern world, the role of education is indispensable for the development of every country and its integration into the world community." That is why the Heydar Aliyev Foundation attaches particular importance to ensuring the implementation of the tasks defined by the Great Leader in this field from the first day of its establishment. In modern times, new ideas and views are required in every field of activity, and the first lady of the country, who considers the availability of human resources with skills and habits based on scientific knowledge as one of the crucial conditions, notes that Azerbaijan has achieved many successes and won victories in recent years. Azerbaijan is a country that can turn "black gold" into "human capital."

"From the first day of its establishment, the Heydar Aliyev Foundation and the First Vice President of our country, Mehriban Aliyeva, paid special attention to the field of education in its large and multifaceted activities. Over the years, many important projects and programs related to education have been launched at the initiative of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation. The scale of the Fund's practical work is wide and comprehensive."²⁷⁵

The main aim of several large-scale programs and projects implemented in education at the initiative of Mehriban Aliyeva, the President of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, is to improve

the education system and ensure its integration into the world education system. Special mention should be made of the program "A New School for Renewing Azerbaijan," which has received great sympathy and trust from our country's educational community and has recently changed the view of the education system in general years. The successfully implemented project played an important role in getting the achievements observed in our country's education field. It is within the framework of this program that more than three thousand schools have been overhauled or rebuilt in our country. The attention and concern of the First Vice President of Azerbaijan, Mehriban Aliyeva, to the construction of new school buildings, the construction of additional buildings for existing schools, their repair, the provision of modern equipment, and in general, the complete renewal of the infrastructure, is also evident in the results achieved by the educational institutions, their teachers and students. The quality of teaching in schools that have been renovated and changed infrastructure has increased significantly. The work carried out is accompanied by significantly improving the educational conditions of more than 1 million students. Mehriban Aliyeva's participation in the opening ceremonies of new schools and kindergartens built and renovated by the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, both in the capital Baku and the regions, is a bright manifestation of the growing attention and care to the field of education.

At the initiative of Mehriban Aliyeva, who is sensitive to the development of education in Azerbaijan, the Foundation has implemented programs such as "Development program of boarding schools" and "Support to education" throughout the country and has done critical work in the realization of the state education policy. As a result of the implementation

of large-scale projects, even in the most remote regions of our republic, equipped with all kinds of equipment, schools that meet modern requirements were built and put into use, and the accessibility of education was ensured throughout the country. Such modern schools open new horizons for our education and create new opportunities for students. These projects have an important place among several successful programs and projects implemented in this direction by the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, which considers the creation of equal educational opportunities for the citizens of Azerbaijan, the acquisition of knowledge by the young generation, and the integration of our country into the world education system among the priority issues in recent years. Initiatives directly aimed at improving the quality of teaching in general education institutions are aimed at providing schools with visual aids and school supplies for students. Starting from 2004, with the support of the Foundation, every year, children of refugee and internally displaced families who enter school for the first time are provided with school bags and school supplies.

Improving and modernizing preschool educational institutions in our country healthy and knowledgeable growth of babies, who are our future, are also the constant focus of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation. In recent years, the Fund has implemented critical projects in this field. Considering the growing demand for preschool educational institutions in Azerbaijan, the Fund started implementing the “Development of preschool educational institutions” program in 2014. Rehabilitation of preschool educational institutions, construction of new buildings, improvement of quality of education, medical service, food, and other issues were provided within the framework of the program. The construction of hundreds

of kindergartens in our republic in recent years shows that Azerbaijan declares the formation of babies and children who are future worthy citizens of our country as one of the priority tasks.

It is known that in the modern world, science, technology, and innovations have become the leading force of socioeconomic development of society. This direction is also reflected in the initiatives of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation and its head Mehriban Aliyeva on the broad application of integrative educational approaches, which are of great importance in developing modern knowledge and skills of students and 21st-century competencies in the educational institutions of our country. One of the most successful innovations of recent years is the introduction of the STEAM approach, which has become a trend in the world under the auspices of Mehriban Aliyeva and the Heydar Aliyev Foundation in our schools. Despite the pandemic, the scope of the “STEAM Azerbaijan” project has been expanded by the Heydar Aliyev Foundation. Undoubtedly, this project was initiated by the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, and its head Mehriban Aliyeva is already making contributions. In addition, Mehriban Aliyeva supports many other projects and initiatives that reveal children’s and young people’s creative potential, knowledge, and skills and educate them as citizens with comprehensive knowledge.

Thus, in 2004, “the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, which was created based on the bright ideas of National Leader Heydar Aliyev, and a goodwill mission to modernize the education system of our country as a manifestation of patriotism, attention, and concern of Mehriban Aliyeva serves the training of high-level, intellectual personnel and the formation of perfect human potential for the future of Azerbaijan. First Vice President

Mehriban Aliyeva has won our people's deep sympathy and love with her effective activity that serves the realization of strategically essential tasks arising from national interests and considered higher than national interests."²⁷⁶

The work done by Mehriban Aliyeva and the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, which is headed by her, in education is not limited only to our country. In 2008, on the personal initiative of Mehriban Aliyeva, President of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, Goodwill Ambassador of ISESCO, a high school building for girls was built in the Rara area Muzaffarabad, Pakistan. The Heydar Aliyev Foundation took a noble initiative at a time when the school's students, which became unusable due to the strong earthquake that occurred in October 2005, had to spend their lessons in tents and under the open sky. A new educational institution, built in a short period within the framework of the project worth 750 thousand US dollars, which meets modern requirements, has restored its activities. The school building built by the Heydar Aliyev Foundation in Pakistan is the first educational institution built by the Foundation in a foreign country within the framework of the "Support to Education" project. The Fund also built a school in the Astrakhan region of Russia, and the event will live in the memory of the students studying at this educational institution for a long time. First Vice President Mehriban Aliyeva's efforts to raise the quality of education in the countries we have mentioned, as well as in Romania, the Netherlands, and Egypt, in short, in all corners of the world where there is a need, are the continuation of goodwill activities in the field of increasing the level of knowledge and culture of the growing generation.

A symbol of compassion and mercy

The healthy and cheerful growth of children in Azerbaijan, their upbringing as children worthy of the Motherland, and their excellent education are among the priority issues that the state always focuses on. The Heydar Aliyev Foundation's role in ensuring all these mentioned activities is invaluable.

In order to protect the rights of children and provide them with a high level of care, the Heydar Aliyev Foundation has established very successful cooperation with international organizations, first of all, with the UN Children's Fund, and several essential measures have been implemented in this direction. The Heydar Aliyev Foundation, which constantly supports the measures implemented by the state in the field of social and cultural development of society, public welfare, continuously implements various projects and events in the fields of increasing the knowledge and skills of children with disabilities deprived of parental care, ensuring their active integration into society, providing financial and moral support to children from low-income and other main categories, promotes children's health, solving their social problems, increasing equal and quality educational opportunities for all, identifying children with special abilities and ensuring their continuous development and other directions. Mehriban Aliyeva always pays attention to the children deprived of parental and special care. After leaving the orphanage with motherly care, she constantly monitors their daily care, training, education, housing, and employment. Within the "Development of orphanages and boarding schools" program implemented by the Heydar Aliyev Foundation initiated by Mrs. Aliyeva, more than 40 children's institutions in the country were fundamentally reconstructed,

equipped with modern equipment, additional buildings were built, and communal conditions were improved. Residential buildings for girls over 18 years of age who were brought up in orphanages were also built within the framework of this program. "My wish is that every child in Azerbaijan be happy. That is why we should raise our children with love, respect, mercy, and attention," said Mrs. Aliyeva, treating each child who is the country's future as her own.

On the initiative of First Vice President of Azerbaijan Mehriban Aliyeva, organizing parties for residents of orphanages, boarding schools, and children with special needs has become an unforgettable and pleasant tradition during New Year and World Azerbaijanis Solidarity Day. Whenever children gather around Mehriban Aliyeva, they consider her their protector. The First Vice President of Azerbaijan hugs the children, shares their joy and happiness, and has sincere conversations with them.

Anar Alakbarov notes that in the multifaceted activities of Mehriban Aliyeva, child care has always occupied a significant place. Her love for children is boundless. Now, all children feel this love and care. It is no coincidence that most projects of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, whether in education or health care, are aimed at children. She is particularly passionate about these projects and treats them wholeheartedly.

"She has a straightforward wish. She wants to see all the children happy. I have repeatedly witnessed the sad feelings in Mrs. Aliyeva's heart after meeting with children in orphanages. When visiting children's homes and boarding schools, she pays attention to every detail, visits the kitchen, is interested in the children's nutrition, and reviews all the conditions. Today, children deprived of parental care and brought up in

orphanages are surrounded by care and attention thanks to her, a family environment has been created for them."²⁷⁷

Thus, based on noble, benevolent, and humanistic human values, the Heydar Aliyev Foundation has determined special attention and care for children as one of its primary activities. The Foundation's valuable projects based on comprehensive support to the state's activities in this direction can be considered an example for other institutions. The main motive of the Foundation's activity in this area is love for people and selfless good deeds. The First Vice President of Azerbaijan repeatedly emphasized this idea in her speeches: "Children are the tomorrow of Azerbaijan; let us not be indifferent to their problems."

Care and attention to children are critical in the 18-year multifaceted activity of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, which has successfully implemented several strategic projects quickly, becoming the highest title of nobility, mercy, and kindness in society.

Commitment to the principles of humanism

Mehriban Aliyeva, who won the great respect and love of our people with her kindness and nobility, gained fame as a tireless defender and initiator of humanistic ideals in our society. On the initiative of Mehriban Aliyeva, the preparation of amnesty acts by the Heydar Aliyev Foundation and their presentation to the Parliament has already become a tradition welcomed by our people. In recent years, four amnesty acts adopted with the initiative of Mehriban Aliyeva, President of

the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, encompassed 40,412 people. The amnesty initiatives of the Foundation have become an essential factor in the liberalization of the criminal law policy in our country in terms of crime prevention, including decreasing the number of convicts. This initiative also contributes to preserving social and political stability in our country. These initiatives put forward by Mehriban Aliyeva are characterized as an integral part of the state policy implemented in the direction of the protection of the rights of the citizens of Azerbaijan and the preservation of the principles of humanism. The amnesties announced with the initiative of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation brought thousands of people to freedom, caused immense joy to mothers and sisters, children, and elderly parents who were eagerly waiting for their return, and brought happiness and joy to several families.

Mehriban Aliyeva states: "Compassion, humaneness, and care should be important in every society. In that society, where both state institutions and civil society build their lives and activities based on these principles, it can be said that society is a developed and successful society. Compassion is not just about reaching out to people in need. Compassion sometimes requires making difficult and responsible decisions. People who have made a mistake once have the right to be forgiven. Today, we must allow them to find their place in society and live a decent life."

Amnesty was announced 11 times in Azerbaijan. The amnesties dedicated to the memory of National Leader Heydar Aliyev in 2007, on the occasion of Novruz holiday in 2009, on the occasion of the 90th anniversary of National Leader Heydar Aliyev in 2013, and on May 28 - Republic Day in 2016 were realized with the initiative of Mrs. Mehriban Aliyeva, President

of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, First Vice President of Azerbaijan.

One of the essential directions of the humanism policy implemented by Great Leader Heydar Aliyev in Azerbaijan in 1993 was humanism, pardoning, and forgiveness of those who committed crimes but confessed and repented of their crimes. As a result of the continuation of this policy, 67 amnesty decrees and orders were adopted by Heydar Aliyev and then by Ilham Aliyev during the period 1995-2021. During this period, 11 amnesty decisions were adopted in Parliament. The last of those amnesty decisions were presented by the President of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, Mehriban Aliyeva, during her term as a member of the Parliament. As a result, the amnesty decision was applied to 117,000 people when Mehriban was a member of the Parliament.

Mrs. Mehriban Aliyeva, who submitted the proposal for the adoption of the amnesty act to the Parliament on the occasion of the Novruz holiday in 2009, voiced precious thoughts during the adoption of the document: "It is a fact that the life that God gives to a person is higher and more valuable than anything else. Every person deserves to live with dignity and freedom. At the same time, every person is the ruler of his life and destiny. By giving a new chance in life to people who have made a mistake and gone astray, by forgiving them and returning them to society, we help them to understand the value of life and freedom again, understand their mistakes and return to the right path. Compassion, generosity, kindness, and the ability to forgive have always been valued as the highest and most humane qualities."

Thus, during its 18 years of activity, the Heydar Aliyev Foundation has always helped people in need of care and assistance, guided by the ideas of philanthropy and humanism.

Mrs. Aliyeva's initiatives, regularly signing amnesty orders, and accepting amnesty acts are clear examples of the value the state gives to its citizens. Pardoned citizens always feel the state's trust and confidence, encouraging them to become worthy citizens. At the same time, they express their gratitude to Ilham Aliyev and First Vice President Mehriban Aliyeva for the amnesty decrees and amnesty acts covering thousands of people and humanitarian steps. The implementation of the most significant amnesty act in our history, presented to the Parliament by the architect of the victory won in the Patriotic War, Ilham Aliyev, and endorsed by the Parliament, once again confirms the mentioned facts. Taking such an admirable step when celebrating the first anniversary of the glorious victory indicates that the policy of humanism established by the Great Leader Heydar Aliyev is continuing in our country.

Alongside people in fateful days

On the most fateful days for our country, Azerbaijan's people witnessed all the work, attention, and care, sensitive attitude to people's lives that Mehriban Aliyeva carried out with wisdom. During the fight against the pandemic that has engulfed the world, the first lady of our country has once again demonstrated her commitment to her mission and actions. Mehriban Aliyeva addressed the people twice and urged everyone to show unity and solidarity in the fight against the "invisible enemy." The initiative with the slogan "Stay at home, stay healthy!" gained tremendous support in our country.

The First Vice President addressed the people: "I call on all our compatriots to demonstrate civic responsibility and strictly follow the recommendations and requirements of the Operational headquarters under the Cabinet of Ministers. Please protect your elders! In most people infected with the virus, the disease results in recovery. Representatives of the older generation, those suffering from chronic diseases, and those with weak immunity belong to a risk group. We, Azerbaijanis, have always treated our elders with special care and respect and protected them sensitively. I am sure we will be more careful in this situation we are facing. Indifference is unacceptable today. I am sure that thanks to the best qualities of our wise people - enthusiasm and courage, mercy and Compassion, trust and love, we will overcome this serious challenge together."

As a result of the purposeful efforts of the country's leadership and First Vice President Mehriban Aliyeva, Azerbaijan was among the countries that overcame the first and perilous stage of the pandemic with the least number of casualties. Thanks to strict quarantine measures, the spread of the coronavirus has been reduced, and an effective resistance strategy against the dangerous pandemic has been developed quickly. In order to support small and medium businesses and social assistance to the population, the government has prepared program packages worth more than 3 billion manats.

First Vice President Mehriban Aliyeva's appeals to the people and her sincere posts on her Instagram page are the best examples of moral support. Mrs. Aliyeva emphasized in her appeals that she is confident that our people will be able to cope with this severe age due to their excellent qualities such as high spirit and bravery, mercy and Compassion, faith and love. The First Vice President called on everyone to clearly understand the

importance of the measures taken by the state and to demonstrate full civic responsibility, saying: "It is by supporting each other with care, tolerance, and understanding that we can survive in the terrible ordeal that we faced and protect everyone." This victory will happen. I believe in this victory."

On the instructions of Mehriban Aliyeva, the Heydar Aliyev Foundation held charity campaigns with the slogan "We are strong together" during the quarantine announced in the country. The distribution of food products to more than 200,000 families as part of these actions demonstrated the Foundation's mission once again. Due to the professionalism of Mehriban Aliyeva, unity of power was ensured during the crisis in our country due to the pandemic. According to her instructions, the Heydar Aliyev Foundation met the social needs of families during the pandemic and provided them with food and medical supplies.

The Heydar Aliyev Foundation transferred 500,000 manats to the Support Fund for the Fight against Coronavirus as a contribution to the measures taken by the state to prevent widespread coronavirus in Azerbaijan. The Heydar Aliyev Foundation has supported several enterprises under its patronage in the fight against the coronavirus. According to Mehriban Aliyeva's order, disinfectants, masks, and other protective equipment have been allocated as part of measures in the fight against the pandemic to infant and children's homes, boarding schools, social service institutions for people who have reached retirement age, Children's Psychoneurological Center, as well as Psychoneurological social service institutions in Baku and the regions.

During the most challenging period of the pandemic, the Foundation provided close support for the organization of

the activities of relevant laboratories in a short period while providing our country with high-quality tests. Several medical equipments and supplies for special regime hospitals - both protective equipment, medical clothing, and various medicines for the treatment of patients - were bought from abroad and brought to Azerbaijan by the Fund. Training courses were organized for medical personnel involved in the fight against the pandemic. Highly qualified doctors from China, Italy, and Russia were invited to support that personnel, and conditions were created for them to work with the Azerbaijani medical staff.

On the initiative of Mehriban Aliyeva, a blood donation campaign was organized for children suffering from thalassemia, hemophilia, and leukemia due to COVID-19. The Heydar Aliyev Foundation employees and dozens of state and private enterprises actively joined this action. According to Mehriban Aliyeva's instructions, many well-known people infected with the virus were given close support and recovered after receiving the necessary treatment. All this is the highest example of mercy and compassion, nobility by Mrs. Aliyeva.

Mehriban Aliyeva became the hope and refuge of every person during the pandemic. In all her appeals addressed to our people, the First Vice President of Azerbaijan calls for compliance with the most common rules for getting rid of the coronavirus. "I appeal to you as a child, a wife, a mother, and a grandmother! I hope you will hear and understand me!" Mehriban Aliyeva's calls like these have been evaluated as calls that go through the heart of every citizen during the pandemic.

The protector of our culture

One of the main directions of Azerbaijan's state policy is the preservation of national and moral values, historical and cultural heritage, and support for protecting and preserving world heritage worldwide. In our country, since the first years of independence, the state's concern for the development of culture has been continuous. As in other fields, the successful cultural policy founded by Great Leader Heydar Aliyev has yielded positive results. The immortal ideas of the Great Leader formed the basis of radical changes and remarkable progress in the cultural life of our country. Thanks to the realization of these ideas, Azerbaijani culture is currently experiencing a period of new reforms. As a result of President Ilham Aliyev's concern for our culture, the adoption of the "Cultural Concept of the Republic of Azerbaijan" by Decree No. 273, dated February 14, 2014, gave great impetus to the development of this field. Following the tasks envisaged in the concept, in recent years, the Heydar Aliyev Foundation has taken initiatives to realize the ideas of the National Leader in the field of culture. The Foundation for the research, protection and promotion of Azerbaijan's rich and tolerant historical heritage and historical and cultural monuments has ensured systematic activity in the country. Quite rightly, Mehriban Aliyeva's activity in the field of culture is highly appreciated both in our country and as a protector of Azerbaijani culture. From the first day of its establishment, the Heydar Aliyev Foundation focused on protecting the material wealth of Azerbaijan and preserving our historical heritage.

For 17 years, Mrs. Mehriban honorably fulfilled the mission of promoting and protecting intangible cultural heritage

as a goodwill ambassador. At the same time, as a goodwill ambassador of ISESCO, she continuously works to convey the History and cultural heritage of Azerbaijan, the truths about our country to the world public. As a result of these efforts, the Historic Centre of Sheki with the Khan's Palace, Walled City of Baku with the Shirvanshah's Palace and Maiden Tower, and Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape were included in the UNESCO World Heritage List. Also, our mugham and ashiq art, "Art of Kamancha," "Dada Gorgud heritage," and Azerbaijani kelaghayi art, have been listed in the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

The declaration of Baku as the "Capital of Islamic Culture" in 2009 was a significant event in integrating Azerbaijani culture into the world. Intercultural dialogue forums, humanitarian forums, and the VII Global Forum of the UN Alliance of Civilizations, traditionally held in Baku, are significant events in integrating Azerbaijani culture into the world. All this is part of the state's cultural policy concept.

One of the other essential directions of Mehriban Aliyeva's activity in the field of culture is the international recognition of outstanding personalities of Azerbaijani culture, science, and art. Thus, in 2005, on the initiative of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, solemn events dedicated to the 120th anniversary of the great Azerbaijani composer Uzeyir Bey Hajibeyli were held in Baku and Paris. At the same time, the 100th anniversary of the distinguished chemist-scientist, academician Yusif Mammadaliyev was celebrated in Paris within the framework of UNESCO, as well as albums and discs dedicated to the 50th anniversary of the joint creative activity of the world-famous musician Mstislav Rostropovich and his wife, opera singer

Galina Vishnevskaya were released. In 2005, a presentation ceremony for the music album "Singers of Karabakh" published by the Heydar Aliyev Foundation was held in Paris at the headquarters of UNESCO. Azerbaijan successfully hosted the 43rd session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee in July 2019. From the first years of state independence, Azerbaijan has declared protecting its cultural heritage, national folklore samples, and material and cultural monuments as one of the main priorities of its concept of statehood and national security.

It should be noted that several international legal documents regulate the preservation and protection of cultural and historical monuments. In this sense, the "National Security Concept" of the Republic of Azerbaijan, approved by the decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated May 23, 2007, reflects the legal protection of material and moral values that form the basis of the national and moral values of the Azerbaijani people.

Samad Vakilov quite rightly notes that Azerbaijan, the protection of the cultural heritage, material and moral values of the Azerbaijani people, and the means of satisfying their cultural needs, with particular emphasis on the protection of science, education, cultural policy, and spirituality and directed to the protection of scientific and technical potential from internal and external threats, benefiting from progressive internal and international development as a strategic goal. When determining the main directions of the national interests of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the protection of the cultural-historical heritage and moral values of the Azerbaijani people, as well as the enrichment of universal values, the development of the language, self-awareness, patriotism, and national pride, intellectual potential were taken as the main goals. Including

the problem of protection and promotion of the uniqueness of the Azerbaijani people, he defined two directions of it:

1. protection of the cultural heritage (folklore and intangible cultural heritage), material and spiritual values of the Azerbaijani people;
2. Promotion of the idea of Azerbaijani nationalism, strengthening of national identity".²⁷⁸

Samad Vakilov shows that studying the legal protection of folklore samples within the framework of national and international legislation, determination of priorities, and strategic goals for legal protection is the most critical and urgent issue in protecting intangible cultural heritage. The UNESCO International Convention on "Protection of Intangible Heritage," adopted in 2003, has defined new tasks for the world and Azerbaijani folklore. The Convention supports the investigation, collection, creation of archive and documentation centers, the establishment of museums, the teaching of textbooks in educational institutions, the promotion of positive cultural values in mass media, and considers the evaluation of the elimination of lack of communication (gaps) between generations as the primary goal. The International Convention of UNESCO on the "Protection of Intangible Heritage" emphasizes the need for a connection between intangible cultural heritage and tangible heritage and instills new ideas into the scientific circulation related to the preservation, promotion, and transmission of world cultural heritage to future generations. The organic connection of folklore examples and concepts of intangible cultural heritage, as well as the harmonization of national and international legislation in this area, is the most critical issue for international cultural law. Therefore, it is necessary to study all aspects of this problem and evaluate the legal protection

of folklore samples to protect, promote, and deliver intangible cultural heritage to future generations.

It is no coincidence that in Article 1 of the UNESCO Convention on "Protection of Intangible Heritage," the purpose of the law is defined as follows:

- preservation of intangible cultural heritage;
- ensuring respect for the intangible cultural heritage of respective communities, groups, and individuals;
- increasing awareness of the importance of intangible cultural heritage at the local, national, and international levels and ensuring its mutual acceptance;
- International cooperation and assistance.

"Protecting cultural heritage in modern times is of international importance, going beyond a state's borders. Of course, the emergence of the problem into the international sphere makes it necessary to have an international legal regulation accordingly. Several factors make international legal regulation actual. The first factor is the identification and registration of cultural heritage objects. Although it is up to the sovereign powers of states to consider which assets are cultural heritage objects, the criteria for this and the conditions for including relevant objects in the world heritage lists are determined by international legal norms."²⁷⁹

After regaining its independence, the Republic of Azerbaijan became a full member of UNESCO as an independent subject of international law. On November 18, 1996, with the signing of a memorandum on cooperation between Azerbaijan and UNESCO, Azerbaijan-UNESCO relations entered a phase of dynamic development. This period is closely related to the activities of the First Vice President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Mehriban Aliyeva. Since 1995, Mehriban Aliyeva has been successfully

active in the direction of introducing Azerbaijani culture to the world through the Azerbaijan Culture Friends Foundation. She was appointed UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador by UNESCO on September 11, 2004, for her services in protecting, studying, and promoting Azerbaijan's rich culture. At that ceremony, M. Aliyeva characterized the cultural heritage of the Azerbaijani people as follows: "Azerbaijan is often called a bridge between the West and the East. This relates to our country's geographical and political position since the Historical Silk Road. Throughout its centuries-old history, Azerbaijan is known not only as a transport corridor but also as a country capable of showing its position in the dialogue of cultures. I am proud that a unique cultural space has been created in our country. We have been able to accept examples of world culture while preserving the unique pearls of our culture, traditions, and historical heritage. Today, we witness the similarity between the cultural elements of different nations and the integral part of our national culture. This is not accidental. So, behind these processes are several generations of Azerbaijanis who stand out for their tolerance, kindness, ability to learn and teach, and who create bridges between cultures."

Samad Vakilov notes that "due to Mehriban Aliyeva's tireless and systematic activity, many cultural examples of the Azerbaijani people have been included in the list of UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage. The conclusion of various contracts and agreements between UNESCO and Heydar Aliyev Foundation as a specialized non-governmental organization, as an independent subject is a clear example of the dynamic development of cooperation."²⁸⁰

Thus, "the state of Azerbaijan, referring to the historical and cultural traditions of our people, our language, religion, and

national-spiritual values, implements its internal and external policy per modern requirements in the new historical conditions. Preservation and development of our moral values are one of the main tasks of the cultural policy of the independent republic. The cultural policy implemented after our independence creates an excellent foundation for preserving our national and moral values and their transmission to future generations. This remarkable achievement of our people ensures the use of our moral values, which are our national wealth, development, and integration as a component of human values.”²⁸¹

The activities of the First Vice President of Azerbaijan, Mehriban Aliyeva, in culture are multifaceted and colorful. Mehriban Aliyeva started the search for our young people with beautiful voices and mugham talent in all regions of our country and patronized them. Mugham competitions and international festivals initiated by the President of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation not only brought these talents together and challenged them but also built a bridge between generations for the survival of mugham traditions in Azerbaijan. Each of our young people who have proven themselves in these competitions is an artist who is highly valued in society, listened to with love, and whose talent is appreciated adequately by our state. With the support of Mehriban Aliyeva, our young talents, who performed in international arenas, now receive requests from the most magnificent concert halls in the world. They properly represent Azerbaijani culture abroad.

By establishing the International Mugham Center in the center of Baku in 2008, Mrs.Mehriban Aliyeva was the author of one of the most critical events in the history of the world’s modern culture. Because although mugham is sung in many countries, and the signs of mugham are reflected in the culture

of many peoples, the homeland of this art in the world is now precisely in Azerbaijan. The founder of this mugham center is the First Vice President of Azerbaijan Mehriban Aliyeva.

“There is no analog of the work done by the Heydar Aliyev Foundation today. The most valuable treasure for a real person is the ability to work and do a favor for others. Mrs.Mehriban Aliyeva devotes all her time and energy to the welfare of people and the promotion of higher human values. It is the sacred duty of each of us to preserve our national wealth, which enriches our spiritual world, ensures our unity, and elevates our history and cultural heritage. Our spiritual values, which embody our mental qualities such as love for the Motherland, our traditions, and patriotism, play the role of a moral criterion in our daily life. Keeping them alive and passing them on to future generations means protecting the nation’s past and its existence. From this point of view, Mrs. Mehriban Aliyeva is successfully continuing the benevolent mission considered for the nation’s future, making new and valuable contributions to the process of national renaissance.”²⁸²

Sages point out that kindness and mercy will save the world. “The essence of the universal love for Mrs.Mehriban Aliyeva is her care and compassion for the people of this country. Her work on behalf of Azerbaijan in these years and her selfless efforts to improve the lives of citizens have made her a beloved member of Azerbaijani families. Mehriban Aliyeva has been creating this good example for years with her sincere behavior.”²⁸³

Anar Alakbarov evaluates the unique role played by Mehriban Aliyeva in the History of modern Azerbaijan: “Usually, the first lady of each country pays attention to science, culture, and education in her country. Mehriban Aliyeva does not ignore any field; she spends all his knowledge and skills on

implementing various humanitarian initiatives. Today, we can confidently say that the first lady institute formed in Azerbaijan in recent years can be an example for many world countries.”²⁸⁴

Mrs.Mehriban Aliyeva is creating a social-philosophical foundation in this field in Azerbaijan with her charitable activities and is showing a noble path to future generations. The successor of Heydar Aliyev’s political legacy, Mehriban Aliyeva, who became the favorite of her people with her good deeds, honorably fulfills the mission of nobility, which includes the most beautiful features of an Azerbaijani woman. The large-scale projects realized by Mehriban Aliyeva, guided by the ideals of humanism and philanthropy, which drew strength from the ideas of statehood of President Ilham Aliyev, raised her to the level of the people’s favorite and our national pride. She has gained an excellent reputation and, most importantly, people’s endless love and trust.

Mrs.Mehriban Aliyeva is a role model for Azerbaijan as a woman, a mother, and a stateswoman who is the bearer of new political thinking. The First Vice President and First Lady of Azerbaijan are considered an active woman and political figure in the modern world. Of course, this makes all the people of Azerbaijan happy; the society is proud of a worthy stateswoman.

Summary

Human history proves that geniuses and political leaders have a unique role in the destiny of every people and nation. Undoubtedly, every nation is proud of its historical figures and respects the heritage created by them. Our people are always proud of Heydar Aliyev, the architect and founder of the modern state of Azerbaijan, who has done tremendous and irreplaceable work for the sake of the independence and development of our country, who paved the way for the realization of the strategic development concept of our country with his wise ideas, competent management ability and determination and will always remember him with pride.

As a genius leader, Heydar Aliyev gathered people around his ideas and visions, achieved serious success in public administration thanks to his rich experience, defended the interests of the society with his presence and political determination, and became the National Leader of his people.

In this monograph dedicated to the extensive study of Heydar Aliyev's political and statehood legacy, the Great Leader's philosophy of statehood is fully explored for the first time in the context of the historical experience of the universal philosophical treasure. At the same time, all periods of the leadership of the National Leader, as well as the formation of the Azerbaijani people, its supreme philosophy, the ideology of Azerbaijanism, and political conflicts that were experienced throughout history have been seriously investigated and widely analyzed in the logical context.

The comprehensive approach to politics in Heydar Aliyev's political philosophy, the concept of national statehood and national ideology, the unity of politics and economy, cultural

heritage and national-spiritual, democratic values, in short, the study of the contributions of this genius to the theory and practice of the revival of Azerbaijan is essential and has important political-philosophical and spiritual significance.

The book gives information about the national development model of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the unparalleled services of Heydar Aliyev in the establishment of democracy, the creation and strengthening of the modern Azerbaijani state, and the role of the Great Leader's concept of national statehood in the formation of Azerbaijan's sovereignty, the mechanisms of modern, independent Azerbaijani statehood and power are analyzed. The concept of national development, whose founder was National Leader Heydar Aliyev, laid the foundation for Azerbaijan to independence.

In addition, the monograph contains a broad perspective on the concept of statehood and management, which includes all aspects of the development of our country in the long term, prepared by Heydar Aliyev. One of the main propositions continuously developed in the monograph is that the 30-year concept of statehood and governance led by Heydar Aliyev formed the basis of today's successes of our country and the brightest pages of our independence history. In the monograph, the different stages of the rescue mission undertaken by the outstanding statesman in the modern history of Azerbaijan against the pressures of internal and external forces in the country's historic and fateful days, following the voice of his conscience, have gained comprehensive vitality with the information and facts brought from numerous works of research scientists.

In the study, the theory and experience of Heydar Aliyev's independent statehood were scientifically analyzed, his

services in politics and statehood were highlighted, and the Azerbaijanism authored by the Great Leader was evaluated in the context of national and moral values. The comprehensive study of the Great Leader's political heritage in the monograph shows that thanks to the successful policy implemented by Heydar Aliyev, necessary steps have been taken in terms of strengthening national self-awareness and patriotism in our country. The development of Azerbaijani consciousness, the study of our history, the training of local personnel, as well as raising of the national spirit played a critical role for our nation and our state in the following period. The basis of the National Leader's activity was his close attachment to our national moral and religious values. His excellent knowledge of Azerbaijan and world history played a significant role in forming views of independent statehood. All the efforts of the Great Leader were aimed at the revival of national consciousness, the protection of national and moral values, the upbringing of the young generation in the spirit of patriotism, and the implementation of other central principles of the Azerbaijani ideology.

As mentioned in the monograph, the Great Leader always considered the idea of Azerbaijanism as a fundamental concept for achieving absolute independence, preserving and strengthening a single, indivisible Azerbaijan. According to Heydar Aliyev's views, being Azerbaijani means enriching national belonging and national-spiritual values while benefiting from their synthesis and integration with universal values. From this point of view, the idea of Azerbaijanism, which can protect and preserve the national moral values of our people, and combines the interests of the state and citizens, is a successful foundation for civil unity in the country. The principal, vital essence of this ideology of the National Leader

is to serve the strengthening and development of the unitary, legal, and democratic state of Azerbaijan.

The national idea defined by Heydar Aliyev - Azerbaijanism is the basis of Azerbaijani statehood. Around this national idea, the people of Azerbaijan are stepping forward confidently. The national idea is permanent for the people of Azerbaijan and is very important in determining the domestic and foreign policy of Azerbaijan and ensuring its economic development. Heydar Aliyev accepted independent statehood and Azerbaijanism as a system of political and moral views that complement each other.

In the monograph, the importance of Heydar Aliyev's formation of national culture and the importance of following the principles of historical inheritance were examined in detail in the context of the synthesis of Eastern and Western cultures. Heydar Aliyev, who was deeply familiar with world culture and national culture, attached great importance to the historical inheritance in culture, the idea of national and universal unity. The main factor underlying this approach is that the national and universal values form a unity in the national culture of Azerbaijan, and this culture consists of the synthesis of Eastern and Western cultural resources. The wise statesman appreciated this very well. As a result, Heydar Aliyev was able to turn Azerbaijani culture into one of the attributes of statehood.

Thus, the culture of Azerbaijan, which has a very ancient history, has been experiencing its high development stage since the second half of the 20th century - from the time of Heydar Aliyev's leadership, based on national-spiritual traditions and values. During Heydar Aliyev's era, Azerbaijan's multifaceted culture underwent a renaissance period. Heydar Aliyev highly appreciates the historical roots of culture and noted that the roots of the ancient culture and scientific thinking of the Azerbaijani

people go back to the depths of its history.

Our great Leader Heydar Aliyev, who deeply studied all the social-political, cultural-spiritual experience and historical inheritance and applied it to the reality of Azerbaijan according to the conditions, considered education to be one of the most substantial factors in national progress. In the monograph, ensuring the succession of power, which is one of the main pillars of the development strategy prepared by the National Leader for the future of Azerbaijan, and the fateful, historically significant decisions implemented on this basis were described, the historical necessity of the formation of the institution of political succession has found its logical explanation. In the research, the successful continuation of the policy of statehood, which was founded by the Great Leader, the President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, implementing the concept of stability and economic progress with honor, dignity, and new approaches, strengthening statehood, independence, and increasing the prestige of our country on the international scale, which began during the years of Heydar Aliyev's rule have been mainly focused.

In the monograph, the stability and development paces laid by Heydar Aliyev are further strengthened during the presidency of President Ilham Aliyev, the worthy successor of the Great Leader, and the successes achieved are extensively discussed. It is especially noted that despite the financial and other cataclysms that have engulfed the world, Azerbaijan has passed the stage of economic development and progress during the period of stability and development. The study emphasizes that the results of the successful economic strategy implemented in the period of stability and progress in our country are also reflected in the reports of the world's prestigious institutions.

As a result of Ilham Aliyev's reasonable foreign policy in the last 18 years, Azerbaijan's reputation in the world has increased, and the leading countries of the world have highly appreciated the successful activity model of the head of state. In 2020, our country ranked first among prestigious international organizations' rankings due to its economic indicators. In the "Doing Business" report of the World Bank, Azerbaijan ranked 28th among 190 countries. Azerbaijan was included in the list of the ten most reforming countries by the World Bank. In the Davos World Economic Forum reports, our country is among the most advanced in several indicators. In addition, according to the Economic Freedom Index announced by the Heritage Foundation, based on the results of 2020, Azerbaijan has risen to the 38th rank. All this shows that the state policy aimed at economic and social progress in the Republic of Azerbaijan, which is implementing the course of modernization, is bearing its successful fruit.

The protection of the territorial integrity of our country, the liberation of Karabakh and Shusha, the cradle of our culture and national spirit, which the National Leader deeply believed in its liberation from the enemy, the Victory achieved in the 44-day Patriotic War and the new opportunities and realities created by it, reconstruction and construction works carried out in our historical lands are widely discussed in the monograph.

Furthermore, the multifaceted activity of Mehriban Aliyeva, First Vice-President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Head of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, Goodwill Ambassador of ISESCO, First Lady of our country, in promotion of patriotism in our society, and the in-depth study and dissemination of the ideology of Azerbaijanism authored by the Great Leader is clearly reflected in the monograph. The first lady Mehriban

Aliyeva, who gained an excellent reputation as a protector of humanism, philanthropy, and national values with her phenomenal talent and multifaceted activities, and who is the embodiment of kindness and goodwill intentions, implemented large-scale projects in the fields of education, health care, and culture, both inside and outside the country, as well as restoration of cultural and religious monuments in our lands freed from occupation, implementation of “Kharibulbul” music festival and other significant events after 30 years were highly approved by our people.

In the multifaceted activities of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, a special place has been placed in carrying out purposeful and consistent work in conveying the truths of Azerbaijan to the world community, protecting our national interests in the international arena, and exposing the fact of aggression faced by our country. As a result of the purposeful activity carried out by the Heydar Aliyev Foundation in recognition of the Khojaly genocide in the world, the Khojaly tragedy, which is considered one of the most severe crimes against humanity, has already received its political and legal value all over the world and has been recognized by many countries of the world.

In the activities of Mehriban Aliyeva, solving the problems of vulnerable sections of the population, including internally displaced persons, families of martyrs, and veterans, has a special place. The Heydar Aliyev Foundation has always given special attention to the families of the soldiers who died during the Patriotic War and our veterans. The fund is closely interested in the concerns of people from this category and regularly implements measures to solve the issues that concern them. With the instructions of First Vice-President Mehriban Aliyeva,

the Heydar Aliyev Foundation provided high-tech prostheses to a group of soldiers and officers who were seriously injured during the April battles and the 44-day Patriotic War and were sent to Turkey for treatment and rehabilitation.

Thanks to the efforts of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, the famous Topkhana forest of Karabakh, which remained in the captivity of the enemy for more than 30 years, is returning to its former appearance. Ashaghi Govhar Agha Mosque, Yukhari Govhar Agha, and Saatli mosques, which Armenians destroyed during the occupation of Shusha city, are being restored according to the initial project. All three mosques are on the list of the country's significant historical and cultural monuments.

It should be noted that the distinctive personality of the National Leader, the strengthening of Azerbaijan's statehood, the flexible and pragmatic course of politics, which he took on the path to recognition of Azerbaijan as a worthy member of the international community, and the decisive steps to form new relations covering all spectrums of interstate relations have attracted the attention of the world politicians, philosophers, sociologists for a long time.

Researchers rightly point out that Heydar Aliyev's legacy is vital for modern Azerbaijani society. The opinions, ideas, and comments presented in the monograph regarding the Great Leader are very noteworthy. They contain innovative approaches for the construction of future development strategies and play the role of a valuable source in the evaluation of the National Leader's statehood experience, the ideology of Azerbaijanism authored by him in the context of national and moral values.

The development stages and scientific-theoretical problems of Aliyev studies were investigated widely and comprehensively in the monograph. As it is known from the

research, Aliyev studies have already formed an independent scientific direction in Azerbaijan. It is a politically oriented scientific school that investigates the development processes in various fields of social life in our country and the world based on the rich statesmanship and political concept of the outstanding statesman Heydar Aliyev and presents it in a generalized way.

Thus, the political-philosophical legacy of Heydar Aliyev is of great importance in terms of studying the modern social-political, cultural-spiritual life of Azerbaijan. The results obtained during the analysis can allow a deeper understanding of statehood, socio-economic, cultural-spiritual, democracy, legal state, and civil society in Azerbaijan. The book has excellent importance in deeply revealing the political-philosophical aspects of Aliyev studies and the related issues of political philosophy.

The monograph is a rich source for researchers of Heydar Aliyev's political heritage, the concept of statehood, doctoral students, and students. Expressing a new scientific view of the legacy of the Great Leader, the monograph written based on numerous rich sources is a valuable scientific-theoretical resource for scientists and experts. The book can be evaluated as a valuable contribution to the study and promotion of the ideology of Azerbaijanism, founded by Heydar Aliyev, and to Aliyev studies, which was formed as an independent scientific direction of our country.

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