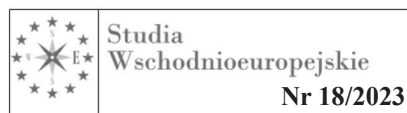


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Azerbaijan-Poland Relations Historical and Political Point of View And South Caucasus

South Caucasus is vital region of Eurasia with important geopolitical importance connects¹. East and West parts. Various scientists considered Caspian-Black Sea basin and South Caucasus are the most important places in the Continental Eurasian region. As we mentioned, the geopolitical importance of the South Caucasus is significant, both due to its potential and its geostrategic position². This region plays an influential role both as a source of oil and at the same time in exporting Caspian energy resources to Europe. Other factors in ensuring security and maintaining stability in the South Caucasus region is that not only regional states, but also superpowers take the initiative to create security mechanisms in the direction of ensuring their own economic, military and political interests. Global projects related to the hydrocarbon resources of the South Caucasus region cannot be imagined without Azerbaijan. The uniqueness of Azerbaijan is related not only to the fact that it is a producer, but also acts as a transit country and transit corridor that exports its products to the Central Asian countries and Europe.

As a basin countries Poland is considered integrated economic, political and military framework. Strengthening Azerbaijan's influence in the South Caucasus, successful transport-corridor policy transnational energy and with the European Union to carry out the multilateral, and bilateral dynamic with individual members of the Union. The signing of the "Memorandum of Understanding on strategic partnership between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the European Union on energy issues" in Brussels in November 2006 was an important contribution to the energy security of both Azerbaijan and the European Union. Next energy summit that hold in Kharkiv once again confirmed, the security issues of this field have an increasingly gain global character for Europe and are conditioned by impor-

¹ Ağalar Abbasbəyli, Etibar Nəcəfov Beynəlxalq Münasibətlər Nəzəriyyəsi, Mürtəcim nəşriyyatı, Bakı 2007, s.19

² Əli Həsənov Geosiyasət, Aypara nəşriyyatı, Bakı 2010 s.12

tant geopolitical realities. At this summit attended by the presidents of Poland, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Lithuania and Ukraine, as well as state representatives of Kazakhstan, it was emphasized that it is important to create a new subregional integration model in the field of energy. The main goal of the consortium is to ensure the implementation of transport systems from the Caspian Sea to Europe and international markets, passing through the territory of Azerbaijan, Georgia, Ukraine and Poland.

In addition being the main participant of transnational international projects, Azerbaijan already acts as a guarantor of security field in the South Caucasus region³. International results of the Second Karabakh war not only increased the regional and international prestige of Azerbaijan, but also proved that Azerbaijan contributes to peace and security in the South Caucasus region. Thanks to its pragmatic foreign policy, Azerbaijan has contributed to ensuring the security of the region while becoming the leading state of the region. By cooperating with NATO, Azerbaijan acts as an actor in providing the security of the region. Since the first day of its independence, Azerbaijan has become a leading state in the region due to the correct use of its favorable geostrategic position. Understanding this issue more clearly by comparing the old and new geopolitical realities of the South Caucasus area. Karabakh conflict previously are maximum used to keep the control in the South Caucasus, but today Azerbaijan has changed all the realities in its favor. The collapse of the USSR and the world socialist system, global events such as the end of the total ideological conflict on earth, the "cold war" carried out on this ground, new states gaining independence and becoming subjects of international relations not only changed the world geopolitical situation in the end of the 20th century, but also fundamental transformations in the system of international affairs which created serious changes in its structure.

New independent states of the Eurasia - Caspian-Black, South Caucasus one of the factors that have the major impact on security systems and bring different characteristics in the field of national development and security system. The position of the each independent states, reputation of the countries in the world community are gained its international, regional development.

Essential part of foreign policy of the independent Azerbaijan state as one of its directions - the essence, conceptual bases, goals, principles and main features of regional geopolitics were adopted in the Constitution, in 1995 by the Republic of Azerbaijan⁴. X Article of

³ İsmayıl Musa Azərbaycanın Xarici Siyasəti III hissə, Bakı Universiteti nəşriyyatı, Bakı 2011, s.90

⁴ Əli Həsənov Müasir Beynəlxalq Münasibətlər və Azərbaycanın Xarici Siyasəti, Azərbaycan nəşriyyatı, Bakı 2005 s.20

the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan states that relations of our country with other states are governed by international law norms and the government based on the principles that consider their interests.

About the essence, duties and direction of the internal, external policy of Azerbaijan in the South Caucasus in order to realize its geopolitical, geoeconomic and military-geostrategic interests⁵.

The main tasks of the Azerbaijani state in regional geopolitics can be classified as follows:

- to ensure the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country, to strengthen its national security closely with regional and international security systems
- to create equal, mutually beneficial co-operation and partnership with all states
- Preventing the militarization of the South Caucasus, creation friendly neighborly relations. All these tasks and their implementation concrete efforts made by the Azerbaijan in the field of international, regional and interstate relations in the past twenty years which was reflected in most practical steps, bilateral and multilateral agreements. As a democratic and legal state Azerbaijan denies all kind of ethnic, religious restrictions.

President Ilham Aliyev has always mentioned that Azerbaijan has already a major regional factor: a factor of stability, security and development. In the truest sense of the word, Azerbaijan reflects these listed things, we can show the Second Karabakh war as an example. II Karabakh War was Azerbaijan's struggle for the restoration of its territorial integrity. This war, which is a matter of honor for our country, was resolved due to the heroism of our soldiers and officers, inflicting crushing blows on the enemy, and expelling the enemy from our lands at the cost of their lives. At the same time, it is necessary to emphasize the role of powerful army of the Republic of Azerbaijan, socio-economic reforms, and information warfare in the victory of Karabakh war. Thus, the Second Karabakh War changed all the realities in the South Caucasus region.

Looking back history first Azerbaijan - Poland diplomatic relations were established in 1472. After victory on Jahanshah, ruler Uzun Hasan had established Aggoyunlu state which capital was Tabriz. During that period, the Aghgoyunlu state existed in the territory of Azerbaijan. Aggoyunlus played significant role in the history of Azerbaijan. Head of Aghgoyunlu state Uzun Hasan had visited Polish king Kazimierz IV for diplomatic goals in the 15-th century. Historical relations between the South Caucasus and Poland dating back to

⁵ Suha Bolukbasi, *Azerbaijan: A Political History*, I.B. Tauris, 2014, p.292 WARZYSZENIE

the times before the domination of the Russian Empire in the region. Due to its geographical position, in addition to its rich natural resources, Mongols, Persians and Russians ruled the South Caucasus region at different times. In the 15th century, the region came under the rule of the Akgoyunlu state, which tried to establish relations with some European countries, including the Jagiellonian state, in order to create a strong coalition against the Ottoman Empire. Relations between Poland and the region began to flourish through mobility, especially trade exchanges.

Cultural relations are primarily based on economic relations between Poland and Azerbaijan. Must noted that economic relations date back XV century.

Beginning XIX century, Poland people began their migration journey towards the Caucasus area⁶. The members of the Polish community included not only soldiers⁷, but also some artists such as Władysław Strzelnicki Tadeusz Łada-Zabłocki, Mateusz Gralewski Michał Butowd-Andrzejkovicz. While Łada-Zabłocki wrote a series of poems dedicated to the beauty of the region, Strzelnicki describes Azerbaijani cities in his work that called "Mahmudek". Cultural relations Azerbaijan between Poland have centuries-old history. Mirza Jafar Topchubashov translated the "Crimean Sonnets" of Polish poet Adam Mickiewicz into Persian in 1827. XIX century famous members of Azerbaijan history Ismayil Bey Gutgashinli and Abbasgulu Bakhivanov had visited Poland.

Special group were created by prominent Azerbaijani politician, foreign minister Topchubashov and Pole Ledinski in the Duma for autonomy of Poland, Azerbaijan. After the end of I World War Suleyman bey Sulkiewicz moved to Azerbaijan. Must emphasize that first national army chief of staff of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic also known as ADR-was first democratic and secular republic in the Muslim world was Polish general Sulkevich⁸.

Must highlighted fact about visit of Rasulzade to Poland in 1938. He had met Polish statesman Jozef Pilsudski's niece Wanda.

Azerbaijan's independence was recognized by Poland in 1991, on 27 December. National leader Heydar Aliyev visited Poland in 1997, after that Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski visited to Azerbaijan in 1999.

Poland was established as a state in 966 and coincides with the borders of modern Polish Republic. Polish state become a kingdom in the XI century, and regained its independ-

⁶ Stanislaw Starski. *Class Struggle in Classless Poland*. Boston: South End Press, 1982, 276 p

⁷ Simatupang Batara. *The Polish Economic Crisis: Background, Causes, and Aftermath*. London: Routledge, 1994, 272 p.

⁸ İsmayıl Musa Azərbaycanın Xarici Siyasəti II hissə, Bakı Universiteti nəşriyyatı, Bakı 2008, s.47

ence in 1918. Poland again had gained liberty in the end of XX century. As a basin country not only geostrategic position of Poland, but also membership in organizations increases its prestige. Thus liberal, democratic Poland is member of NATO, United Nations, World Trade Organization, European Union, Economic Cooperation Organization. Poland government as Azerbaijan made important progress for liberalizing society. Following trend, also stabilization and economic reforms basis for improvement in different areas. Azerbaijan and Poland almost perform in this line. Two countries have similarities with being occupied by USSR, same regime ideology impact their political and social atmosphere. At the same time economic picture was in the same case for both Azerbaijan and Poland.

Poland is one of the first countries that recognized the independence of our republic. Political relations between Azerbaijan and Poland commenced at the end of the 20th century⁹. Poland, as an EU associated country establish co-operation, with Azerbaijan which has more potential to integrate Europe region. Also Poland side show its interest to energy sector. Must highlighted that Poland government had already have ties in commercial sphere with Azerbaijan.

Poland government also supports Azerbaijan's foreign policy for joinining organizations such as the NATO, European Union. Poland showed anti-armenian policy via adopting decision for its citizens to ask permission from Azerbaijan before traveling the Karabakh region¹⁰. Head of government Lech Kaczynski visit to Azerbaijan in 2007 and President of AR Ilham Aliyev visit to Poland 2008 resulted signing joint statement¹¹.

Both these countries are full members of the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)¹².

⁹ The Republic of Poland <https://mfa.gov.az/en/category/europe/poland>

¹⁰ Poland supports Azerbaijan's territorial integrity <https://web.archive.org/web/20110927071104/http://www.yap.org.az/view.php?lang=az&menu=1&id=1904>

¹¹ The 30th anniversary of Azerbaijan-Poland diplomatic relations was marked in Warsaw <https://aircenter.az/en/post/the-30th-anniversary-of-azerbaijan-poland-diplomatic-relations-was-marked-in-warsaw-886>

¹² Azerbaijan-Poland relations <https://lib.aliyevheritage.org/en/7202360.html>

Streszczenie

Stosunki Azerbejdżanu i Polski sięgają XV wieku, a zrozumienie relacji między dwoma krajami wymaga analizy historyczno-politycznego punktu widzenia. Zainteresowania były na szczycie, gdy każdy kraj jest zainteresowany współpracą. Na przestrzeni dziejów Polska zawsze była szczególną częścią polityki Azerbejdżanu. Państwowość i obyczaje Azerbejdżanu i Polski nawiązują do czasów starożytnych, średniowiecznych, nowożytnych. Jak wiemy oba kraje znalazły się pod ciężarem Związku Radzieckiego po uzyskaniu niepodległości podpisywania projektów, umów, będących wynikiem ich owocnego partnerstwa. Stosunki dyplomatyczne zostały nawiązane w 1992 roku. Należy podkreślić, że stosunki gospodarcze rozwijają się w górę. Dane statystyczne pokazują, że przemysł azerbejdżański i polski charakteryzowały się różnymi gałęziami. Pojemność zasobów naturalnych daje powód do wzmocnienia jej miejsca w stosunkach gospodarczych. Inną wspólną cechą Polski i Azerbejdżanu jest ich członkostwo w organizacjach międzynarodowych. Wzajemne korzyści, wspólne wysiłki, udana realizacja projektów energetycznych są reprezentowane przez Polskę i Azerbejdżan. Artykuł szczegółowo analizuje relacje między dwoma krajami.

Słowa kluczowe:

Azerbejdżan, Polska, Kaukaz Południowy, Historia, Polityka, Dyplomacja, Relacje, Partnerstwo

Key words:

Azerbaijan, Poland, South Caucasus, History, Policy, Diplomacy, Relations, Partnership

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