

AZERBAIJAN

General information

The Republic of Azerbaijan has been successfully continuing its state activity since October 18, 1991, after regaining its state independence.

Located in the west of the Caspian Sea basin, Azerbaijan is bordered by Russia (Dagestan) to the north, Georgia to the northwest, Armenia to the west, Turkey to the southwest and Iran to the south. The Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic is an autonomous state within the Republic of Azerbaijan. Part of the territory of Azerbaijan (Nagorno-Karabakh region and 7 adjacent administrative districts) is occupied by the Republic of Armenia, which makes up 20% of the country's territory.

The territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan is officially 86,600 square meters, and its population exceeds 10,000,000 people.

Azerbaijan is a democratic, legal, secular and unitary republic.

Azerbaijan is a member of the United Nations, the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, GUAM, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Black Sea Economic Cooperation and others.

The Azerbaijani language is the means of daily communication and the official state language of the population of the Republic of Azerbaijan. According to the genealogical classification, the Azerbaijani language is one of the Turkic languages, belongs to the Oghuz group of this language family and together with its closest relatives Turkic, Turkmen and Gagauz languages form the south-western group of Turkic languages in accordance with the territorial principle.

History

The oldest archeological and paleontological materials on the existence of the first primitive people in Azerbaijan were found 1.7-1.8 million years ago. Azikh Cave, located on the south-eastern slope of the Lesser Caucasus Mountains in southwestern Azerbaijan, is known as a Stone Age settlement.

Azerbaijan has a history of about 5,000 years of statehood. The first state institutions or ethnic-political associations in the territory of Azerbaijan were formed in the Urmia basin from the end of the 4th millennium BC to the beginning of the 3rd millennium BC. The oldest Azerbaijani states formed here have played an important role in the military-political history of the whole region.

In the first millennium BC - the beginning of the first millennium AD, there were states such as Manna, Atropatena and Albania in the lands of Azerbaijan. These states have played an important role in the progress of the culture of state administration of Azerbaijan and economic-cultural history of the country.

The territories of Azerbaijan have been occupied by the Sasanian Empire in the third century, and in the seventh century by the Arab Caliphate. The occupation led to the influx of people of Iranian and Arab origin from Iran and Arabia. In the first centuries of our era, the Turkic ethnoses, which constituted the majority of the country's population and were more militarily and politically organized and stronger, played an important role in the formation of a single nation. Among the Turkic ethnic groups, the Oghuz Turks dominated. Since that time, the Turkish language has become a major means of communication between a small number of peoples and ethnic groups living in the territory of Azerbaijan, and has played a coordinating role, participating in the formation of the nation. This factor played a very important role in the formation of a single nation at that time. The Azerbaijani people were fully formed in the 11th century.

In the middle of the 9th century, the Sajids, Shirvanshahs, and in the 10th century, the Salaris, Ravvadis, and Shaddadids were established in Azerbaijan. From the 11th century, the territory of Azerbaijan was subjected to the marches of the Seljuks, and all the lands of Azerbaijan were united under a single Seljuk state. The Atabey State of Azerbaijan, which was established and functioned during this period, played a great role in the statehood of Azerbaijan, uniting very large territories. From the 13th century, the Mongols began to march on the territory of Azerbaijan. As a result, the Hulagu state of Mongol origin began to rule in these areas. After the Hulagu dynasty, the reign of the Jalairi dynasty began in Azerbaijan.

The 16th century of Azerbaijan's history is connected with the establishment of the Safavid state. Thus, in 1501, the great Azerbaijani poet and statesman Shah Ismail Khatai united the territories of Azerbaijan and laid the foundation of the great Safavid state with its capital in Tabriz. During the rule of the Safavid state, the Azerbaijani language was declared the official language of the state, and all clerical work in the palace was conducted in this language. The Safavid state of Azerbaijan existed from 1501 to 1736 and covered the territories of present-day Azerbaijan, Iran, Armenia, Iraq, Afghanistan, western Pakistan, Turkmenistan, eastern Turkey, northeastern India and Uzbekistan.

As a result of successful internal and foreign policy of Shah Ismail, Shah Tahmasib, Shah Abbas and other Safavid rulers, the Safavid state soon became one of the most powerful empires in the Near and Middle East. After the collapse of the Safavid state Nadir shah (1736-1747) who was the prominent commander of the state broadened the borders of the Safavid state. The great ruler of the state occupied the Northern India including Delhi in 1739. But his plans to create a prominent centralized state failed. After the death of Nadir shah his empire with broad territories collapsed. Thus, in the second half of the 18th century Azerbaijan was divided into small states – khanates and sultanates. There began a period of military-political decline in the country. Although individual khans tried to revive the ancient traditions of statehood in Azerbaijan, they tried to reunite the whole country within a single state, but they failed. Political fragmentation deepened. Thus, the aggressors

trying to occupy Azerbaijan had a very good opportunity. Azerbaijan became a place of bloody wars for two great empires. According to the treaties of Gulistan (1813) and Turkmenchay (1828), the lands of Azerbaijan was divided between two empires: the north part of Azerbaijan joined Russia, but the south part joined the kingdom of Iran that was run by Gajars. Nevertheless, due to the activities of patriotic people and prominent intellectuals, the spiritual development of the Azerbaijani people was ensured, its historical memory and national culture were preserved. The Azerbaijani enlightenment movement was one of the most important periods in our history. This period had great role in cultural and political revival of the Azerbaijani nation. On May 28, 1918 Azerbaijan Democratic Republic was declared as the first democratic republic in the Islamic East. The newly established Azerbaijan Democratic Republic has honorably fulfilled its difficult historical task by working to the best of its ability. Serious measures have been taken in Azerbaijan to build an independent, democratic state, the first parliament and government, state apparatus, governing institutions have been formed, the country's borders have been defined, high-capacity military units have been established, important work has been done to ensure territorial integrity and national security. The flag, anthem and coat of arms were adopted, the mother tongue was declared the state language, special attention was paid to the development of education and culture, and purposeful steps were taken to address other important issues of exceptional importance for the comprehensive development of the people and national statehood. First Republic: Azerbaijan Democratic Republic (1918-1920) from the first days of its existence, the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, based on the principles of people's power and equality of people, eliminated racial, national, religious and class inequality by giving equal rights to all citizens. For the first time in the East and long before some European countries, women were given the right to vote in Azerbaijan. The Parliament of Azerbaijan was the first legislative body in the entire Islamic East, formed on the basis of the most progressive, democratic principles of that time. The laws adopted by the republican parliament during its half year activity allowed strengthening the independence of the nation-state, political and economic development, and rapid progress in the fields of culture and education. Azerbaijan Democratic Republic has always pursued a peaceful policy and tried to establish mutual cooperation with all countries and build relations based on the principles of respect for each other's rights. Due to the activities of the Democratic Republic, the transformation of Azerbaijan into a subject of international law prevented it from being erased from the political map of the world as a state after the Bolshevik occupation in April 1920. On April 18, 1920 the Bolshevik Russia occupied Azerbaijan. During the Soviet era, the Azerbaijani statehood faced difficult tests. In 1920-1922, Azerbaijan's de facto independence, already recognized by the international community, was formally partially preserved. In March 1922, the three republics of the South Caucasus (Azerbaijan, Georgia, Armenia) were united within a single state - the Federation of Transcaucasian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic (TSFSR), thus completely

eliminating formal independence. During the Soviet Union Zangazur, Goycha, part of Nakhchivan and other regions were taken from Azerbaijan and joined Armenia. As a result, during Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, the country's territory, which was 114,000 square kilometers, was reduced to 86,600 square kilometers. In addition, on July 7, 1923 the Nagorno Karabakh Autonomous Region was created at the initiative of Bolshevik leaders. This decision was the sixty first step in the separation of Nagorno Karabakh from the territory of Azerbaijan. Resistance to the Soviet government in Azerbaijan was met with brutality, exile and repression. During the repressions of 1937, most of the prominent intellectuals of Azerbaijan, who did not reconcile with the Soviet government, were arrested under various pretexts, exiled to Siberia and the steppes of Kazakhstan, and many were shot. The people of Azerbaijan showed great self-sacrifice during World War II, Azerbaijani divisions passed the glorious battle route from the Caucasus to Berlin. Baku oil played an important role in achieving victory over fascism. The coming to power of Heydar Aliyev on July 14, 1969 was a historic event in terms of finding clear answers to many fateful questions facing Azerbaijan and their consistent solution. Second Republic: Azerbaijan during the Soviet years (1920-1991) Third Republic: The Republic of Azerbaijan in the early 1970s-1980s large-scale measures to develop the economy of the republic, including the establishment of numerous industrial enterprises, production facilities based on the most modern technologies radically changed the economic infrastructure, paved the way for its transformation from an agrarian republic to more industrial republic. Thus, despite all the deprivations, the huge potential gained during the years of Soviet rule, especially in 1969-1982, became very important for our state, which regained its independence at the end of the twentieth century. When Azerbaijan gained its independence on October 18, 1991, it declared itself the political and legal successor of the Democratic Republic and showed its commitment to the ancient traditions of statehood. Shortly afterwards, the state symbols of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic were restored. The Republic of Azerbaijan, which declared its independence by the will of the people, began to operate in very difficult conditions.

On June 15, 1993, Heydar Aliyev was elected chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Azerbaijan. That day entered our history as the Day of National Salvation. On June 23, the National Assembly delegated presidential powers to Chairman of the Supreme Soviet Heydar Aliyev. The people united more closely around their leader Heydar Aliyev. On October 3, 1993, Heydar Aliyev was elected President of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Building an independent state, ensuring its security, territorial integrity, economic recovery, democratic development, building Azerbaijan's international relations and integration into the world community formed the main outlines of Heydar Aliyev's national development strategy. Thanks to Heydar Aliyev's rescue mission, the state independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan was preserved and the years 1993-2003, when the national leader was in power, entered the history of Azerbaijan as a period of profound reforms. Since

2003, the political line of national leader Heydar Aliyev has been successfully continued by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev. It was at this stage that a special part of the revenues from the export of energy resources was directed to the diversification of the economy, the development of the non-oil sector, the renewal and modernization of all spheres of public life. Numerous state programs adopted and implemented consistently, special projects implemented have ensured the formation of strong economic potential, mobilization and efficient use of human capital, the creation of modern infrastructure in all areas of the country, improving the welfare of the population. Today, Azerbaijan is recognized and accepted in the world as an influential state pursuing an independent policy, a reliable partner. The purposeful policy of President Ilham Aliyev based on national interests is unequivocally supported by the people of Azerbaijan. The results of all elections held since 2003 are a clear example of this support.