

UDC 32.328

RUSSIAN PLATFORM OF INTERCULTURAL INTERACTION IN THE POLICY OF AZERBAIJAN AND ITS LEGISLATIVE BASE

Lillia Mirzazade

*North Caucasus Department Institute of Caucasus Studies
National Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan*

The Russian platform of intercultural interaction in the policy of Azerbaijan was laid by the National Leader Heydar Aliyev. Thanks to Heydar Aliyev, she received a legislative basis and legitimacy. The legislative base, the desire to cooperate and develop cultural integration both on the part of the elite and civil society in general, have raised the level of relations between Azerbaijan and Russia to civilized dialogue and strategic cooperation, depoliticization and de-ideologization of bilateral relations.

Key words: cultural interaction, bilateral relations, humanitarian principles, the international cooperation, the legislative framework, the potential of cooperation, political course

International cultural ties between Azerbaijan and Russia have historical roots that go back centuries. Since then, regardless of the nature of their interaction, they have, in practice, not been interrupted, even when all other relationships were broken, for example, in the post-Soviet period.

Modern intercultural interaction between Azerbaijan and Russia was introduced into the political strategy of Azerbaijan by its national leader Heydar Aliyev.

July 3, 1997, Azerbaijan and Russia signed the Protocol on visa-free travel of citizens.

In 1998 Heydar Aliyev signed the Law on Culture. It included the humanitarian principles of the Council of Europe and the priorities of democratic culture¹. Subsequently, on December 21, 2012, under the influence of the reforms being carried out in the Republic, the "Law on Culture came out in a new edition. It contained the principles of humanism, democracy, equality, cultural integration, quality, continuity, secularism, protection of talented people, on the basis of a balanced approach focused on effective results" [4].

However, the national leader Heydar Aliyev, understanding the leading role of culture in the development of the country, singled out its great importance in international cooperation, in which the Russian platform was designated to them as an integral part of the nationwide policy [1].

Many prominent representatives of the Azerbaijani elite, despite the growing popularity of Western education and the English-language media space, received a Russian education. President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev graduated from the Moscow State Institute of International Relations. First Vice-President of Azerbaijan Mehriban Aliyeva is a graduate of the First Moscow State Medical University. I.M. Sechenov. In one of her interviews, she said: "For me personally, both in Soviet times and now, the magazine "Foreign Literature" is an opportunity to get acquainted with various works of world literature" [1].

The above facts indicate that the cultural ties between Azerbaijan and Russia are based on the desire of the intelligentsia of the two countries to preserve and enrich the common cultural heritage, to draw closer and cooperate.

Russia, in its cultural integration, was active in 2005 under the auspices of the Year of Azerbaijan.

¹ On February 16, 2013, in accordance with Article 57 of the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan of December 21, 2012 No. 506-IVQ, the Document became invalid.

2006 Azerbaijan dedicated the Year of Russia.

In the specified period, in particular, in 2006, the interstate Program for Cooperation in the Humanitarian Sphere for 2007–2009 was adopted.

Within the framework of the Program, in 2008 a branch of the Moscow State University named after M.V. Lomonosov was opened in Baku. Lomonosov Moscow State University. The university was headed and continues to be successfully led by Professor Nargiz Pashayeva. The teaching staff are the best, Russian educators of the Lomonosov Moscow State University [3].

In 2010, Russia provided assistance to Azerbaijani students who showed themselves in school by allocating 285 state scholarships to them.

The Russian language and the Russian media space in the cultural integration of peoples are information support for knowledge of a global scale for Azerbaijan.

390 Azerbaijani citizens were educated in the universities of Russia on the state line.

More than 15 thousand students are educated in Azerbaijani universities in Russian. There are 50 Russian-language print media and 10 news agencies in Azerbaijan.

In 2016, in Azerbaijan, “more than 4,000 students were enrolled in Russian schools, about 17,000 students in higher education institutions in Russian departments” [3].

Inter-university relations are established by the Baku State University, the Baku Slavic University, the Azerbaijan University of Languages, some commercial universities, for example, the Khazar University, etc.

In Moscow, the Azerbaijani language and the history of the country of Azerbaijan are taught at the State University of International Relations (History Faculty), at the University of Asian and African Countries, at the Russian State Humanitarian University.

At present, two specialized ministries have received instructions from the political leadership of the partner countries to continue the practice of expanding the training of the Azerbaijani language in Russia, as well as Russian in Azerbaijan.

In January 2011, the Russian Information and Cultural Center was opened in Baku, which together with the Russian Embassy conducts humanitarian actions in Azerbaijan aimed at integrating cultural interactions between the two countries, for example, creative evenings, Olympiads on the Russian language and literature [6].

The capital of Azerbaijan – Baku – became famous as a multicultural Center and a platform for conducting intercultural dialogues.

In 2010, the first humanitarian Azerbaijani-Russian forum was held in Baku, focused on the preservation of folk cultural values. It was a fundamental new breakthrough in the relations between Azerbaijan and Russia, an important element of the overall process of preserving the traditions and cultural and spiritual communications of the two peoples. Within the framework of the Forum, a range of projects was discussed, which are implemented in the context of an active strategic partnership [2].

The second Azerbaijani-Russian humanitarian forum was held in 2011. Leading representatives of science and art of Azerbaijan and Russia, as well as representatives from other countries of Europe, the West and the CIS took part in it [2].

The holding of humanitarian forums in Baku has become a tradition that has not only cultural significance, contributing to the cooperation of countries, but also the promotion of a healthy policy aimed at friendship and good-neighborliness.

At present, Azerbaijan is implementing the State Program for 2014–2020. A number of major projects are implemented by the Heydar Aliyev Foundation in cooperation with Russian partners, for example, to preserve and promote the musical heritage of the peoples of Azerbaijan and Russia. In this line, we can mention the music festival named after Mstislav Rostropovich and other festivals dedicated to the jubilees of the brilliant composers of the two countries. The musical culture of Azerbaijan in recent years has been replenished with the traditional international classical music festival held in the ancient capital of Caucasian Albania – Gabala [3].

The enormous potential of cooperation between Azerbaijan and Russia lies in the sphere of tourism. In 2009, in the ranking of The Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Report, compiled annually by experts from the World Economic Forum, Azerbaijan took 77th place along with Ukraine among 133 countries of the world. Over the past four years, about 220 hotels and campsites of various levels have been opened in Azerbaijan.

A great deal of work to create informal networks between the communities of the two countries is being carried out by the Azerbaijan Youth Organization in Russia (AMOR) and the Russian representation of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation headed by Leila Aliyeva. Both structures carry out publishing activities aimed at strengthening relations between the youth of Azerbaijan and Russia. To promote the culture of Azerbaijan and Russia, mutual youth trips are organized.

Expansion of humanitarian cooperation between Azerbaijan and Russia, wide involvement of civil society representatives in this cooperation for establishing direct contacts fully corresponds to the national interests of both countries, their de-politicization and deideologization. Presidents of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev and President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin have repeatedly stressed that in determining the political course of the country, socio-cultural cooperation is essential, because they have a positive impact on the development of bilateral relations in all spheres of life.

References

1. Heydar Aliyev: Russian-Azerbaijani relations are developing successfully. Rossiyskaya Gazeta. № 5603 (227), 2011, October 11.
2. Qasimov M., Abdullayev M. Beynəlxalq münasibətlər tarixi/ XX əsr. II hissə. 1946–1999-cu illər/ Bakı: Universitetinə nəşriyyatı, B., 1999, s. 14.
3. Zabelin M. More than 17 thousand students study in Russian universities in Russian / Radio / Sputnik.az. The science. Live broadcast / November 10, 2017.
4. Naryshkin S. Russia and Azerbaijan expand cooperation URL: <http://www.vesti.ru/doc.html?id=422409/> January 22, 2011.
5. Russia-Azerbaijan: factors of the movement towards a single information space. URL: https://azertag.az/ru/xeber/Rossiya_Azerbaidzhan_factory_dvizheniya_k_edinomu_informacionnomu_prostranstvu-892549/10/14/2015.

РОСІЙСЬКА ПЛАТФОРМА МІЖКУЛЬТУРНОЇ ВЗАЄМОДІЇ В ПОЛІТИЦІ АЗЕРБАЙДЖАНУ І ЙОГО ЗАКОНОДАВЧА БАЗА

Лілія Мірзазаде

*відділ «Північний Кавказ»,
Інститут кавказознавства
Національної академії наук Азербайджану*

Російська платформа міжкультурної взаємодії в політиці Азербайджану була закладена загальнонаціональним лідером Гейдаром Алієвим. Завдяки Гейдару Алієву вона отримала законодавчу основу й легітимність. Законодавча база, прагнення співпрацювати й розвивати культурну інтеграцію як із боку еліти, так і з боку громадянського суспільства в цілому підняли рівень відносин між Азербайджаном і Росією до рівня цивілізованого діалогу й стратегічного співробітництва, деполітизації й деідеологізації двосторонніх відносин.

Ключові слова: культурна взаємодія, двосторонні відносини, гуманітарні принципи, міжнародне співробітництво, законодавча база, потенціал співпраці, політичний курс.