

UDC 32

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[email-imisanlv@gmail.com](mailto:email-imisanlv@gmail.com)**HISTORY OF AZERBAIJAN-UKRAINIAN RELATIONS**

*Ukrainian-Azerbaijan relations are a very interesting example for the post-Soviet space. The two states were able to establish stable relations, which are maintained and developed to this day. And it's nice to see that the Ukrainian authorities are no less interested in this than we are. This is a clear example of equal partnership. The modern relations between two countries include issues of humanitarian aid, supporting Ukraine in bilateral and multilateral relations, and joining aid movements to this country by other countries. Also, today, even in the most difficult moments, when regional historical processes can change quickly, Azerbaijan does not spare its support to the people of Ukraine.*

**Keywords:** strategic alliance relations, intensity of Azerbaijan-Ukrainian diplomatic relations, intercultural and intercivilizational dialogue platform.

**Introduction**

A long time has passed since the establishment of modern historical relations between Azerbaijan and Ukraine. Relations between Azerbaijan and Ukraine have always been traditionally dynamic. There are many facts that prove that these relations are getting stronger every year. First of all, there are socio-economic and cultural ties that existed in the Soviet era that bind both countries.

At the same time, we should mention that our countries started writing the history of relations a century ago. It is no coincidence that on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the restoration of Azerbaijan-Ukrainian diplomatic relations, an auditorium and a bas-relief named after Yusif Vazir Chamanzaminli, the first ambassador of Azerbaijan to this country in 1918, politician, well-known writer and dramatist, was opened at Taras Shevchenko Kyiv National University. During the past period, many changes have taken place in both Ukraine and Azerbaijan, but friendship, mutual respect, especially respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of both states have remained unchanged[2.23]. All this indicates that the cultural and social indicators of relations between the two countries are increasing year by year. This also indicates that the relations between the two countries have a certain historical significance. Both countries were allied republics within the USSR. In the same period, economic and cultural relations were formed between them. After the collapse of the USSR and the emergence of independent states in the post-Soviet space, these relations began to develop further[9.2].

Although our diplomatic relations have thirty years of history, our peoples have centuries-old traditions of friendship and cooperation. Today, the high-level political dialogue between the two countries, numerous mutual visits, signed documents, implemented joint projects, as well as the successful activity of the Intergovernmental Commission play an important role in determining new directions of cooperation between Azerbaijan and Ukraine. As a result of the joint efforts of every citizen, we will achieve further strengthening and expansion of Azerbaijan-Ukraine relations.

**Azerbaijan-Ukrainian relations in modern historical conditions**

Azerbaijan-Ukrainian relations have been distinguished by their own characteristics in each historical period. Ukraine, being the second largest country in Europe after France, has a wide

potential and resources. It is one of the leading countries due to its material wealth, military industrial potential and access to Europe. The deepening of economic and political relations with this country is a priority issue for the state of Azerbaijan.

It is true that today Ukraine is going through difficult times. The fact that the separatist, so-called regimes threaten the territorial integrity of the country and the continuation of local wars with them is one of the main reasons that hinder the development of the country. The most important fact is that Ukraine gave political and moral support to our country in the Second Karabakh War [1]. Today, in the conditions of ongoing war, Azerbaijan continues to provide aid to the people of Ukraine at a high speed.

There are close cultural and social relations between the people of Azerbaijan and the people of Ukraine. These relationships have existed historically and continue today. The people of Azerbaijan have closer ties with the Crimean Tatars, a Turkic-speaking people living in the Crimean peninsula of the Republic of Ukraine. Ismayil Gaspirali, Mustafa Krymoglu and others from the Crimean Turks. It is remembered with respect in Azerbaijan. During Tsarist Russia, all Turkic-speaking peoples on the territory of the empire, including Azerbaijanis, were called Tatars in official documents. A monument to the Cossacks was erected in Lankaran.

Ukrainian ataman A. Golovaty came to Azerbaijan in 1795 to protect the southern borders of Azerbaijan and died here. The people of Azerbaijan have been protecting his grave for 200 years. In the 1930s, the Ukrainians, like the Azerbaijani people, were subjected to the repressions of Stalin's regime. About 850,000 Azerbaijanis live in Ukraine. A strong Azerbaijani diaspora operates in this country. They actively participate in social and political processes. Azerbaijanis were also represented in leadership positions[1sh44]. This is not only the success of the Azerbaijani diaspora activity, but also the result of the trust and warm relations of this country to our citizens.

At the same time, one of the main strategic allies of Azerbaijan in the CIS is Ukraine. Despite the fact that there are no sea or land borders between Azerbaijan and Ukraine, the strategic alliance between the two countries is constantly strengthening and expanding. In modern times, the geopolitical aspects of this are much greater. Diplomatic relations between Ukraine and Azerbaijan were established on January 31, 1992. Although both states recognized each other's independence in a short period of time, the opening of diplomatic missions occurred somewhat later [2]. The Embassy of Ukraine in Azerbaijan started operating on May 5, 1996. Azerbaijan's embassy in Ukraine was opened on March 17, 1997. Relations between the countries have developed rapidly. During the events of March 1995, when a group of people tried to stage an armed coup d'état in Azerbaijan, on March 17, former President of Ukraine Leonid Kuchma called President Heydar Aliyev and expressed his support for him[5]. Among the countries of the post-Soviet space, Ukraine did not spare the moral and political support for the independence of Azerbaijan. On March 16, 2000, the head of state of Ukraine Leonid Kuchma paid an official visit to Azerbaijan. According to the results of the visit, a number of bilateral documents were signed between Azerbaijan and Ukraine. These documents opened wide opportunities for joint socio-cultural relations in the new historical stage. During the visit, the great leader Heydar Aliyev presented the Order of Independence to Leonid Kuchma. After Leonid Kuchma's visit, mutual visits of state officials continued in 2000-2001 to further expand Azerbaijan-Ukraine relations. [4]. Still, on July 19, 2002, Great Leader Heydar Aliyev visited Yalta, Ukraine, on a business visit. On January 28-29, 2003, the great leader Heydar Aliyev visited Kyiv to participate in the informal summit meeting of the heads of states of the Commonwealth of Independent States and held talks with the President of Ukraine, Leonid Kuchma. Azerbaijan-Ukraine relations and perspectives of Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict resolution were discussed at the meeting. These meetings played an important role in establishing the foundations of the modern strategy of both countries and stood above the cultural relations of the peoples. The intensive dynamics of Azerbaijan-Ukraine relations continued even after Ilham Aliyev was elected president. It is no coincidence that one of the first meetings Ilham Aliyev held after being elected president was with the Prime Minister of Ukraine, Viktor Yanukovich.

President Ilham Aliyev made his first official visit to Ukraine as the head of the country on June 3, 2004. During the visit, he met with the President of Ukraine Leonid Kuchma, Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych, Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine Vladimir Litvin. In the meeting of President Ilham Aliyev with Leonid Kuchma, issues of trade and economic cooperation, including cooperation in the field of oil and transportation of energy carriers to Europe, were discussed in detail, international problems, issues of cooperation within the framework of GUOAM, mutual relations with the European Union and NATO, political, opinions were exchanged about the socio-economic situation[10].

The heads of state also touched on the issue of resolving the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. President Leonid Kuchma said that Ukraine supports the peaceful solution of the problem, supports the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and will continue to support it. On October 27-28 of the same year, Ilham Aliyev made another business trip to Ukraine and discussed the development prospects between the countries. Two more business visits of President Ilham Aliyev took place on April 22, 2005 and June 16, 2005 [7]. President Ilham Aliyev, who attaches special importance to relations with Ukraine, paid an official visit to Ukraine on May 22, 2006.

Within the framework of the visit, Ilham Aliyev, who met with a number of Ukrainian officials, also participated in the summit meeting of the heads of state of the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development (GUAM). On September 7, 2006, the President of Ukraine Viktor Yushchenko came to Azerbaijan on an official visit. During the visit, trade and economic cooperation, including cooperation in the field of oil and transportation of energy carriers, was the subject of discussion. On June 16, 2007, Viktor Yushchenko visited Azerbaijan once again. A one-on-one meeting of the heads of state was held as part of the visit. During the meeting, the parties expressed their satisfaction with the dynamic development of Azerbaijan-Ukraine relations and the level of cooperation between the two countries within the framework of international organizations [8]. The presidents of Azerbaijan and Ukraine emphasized that the role of the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development, which serves the interests of the peoples of our countries, in international politics is increasing.

On May 27, 2010, Ilham Aliyev made an official visit to Ukraine. On June 30 of the same year, the President of Ukraine Viktor Yushchenko came to Azerbaijan on a business visit. Within the framework of the visit, the presidents of both countries got acquainted with the territory allocated for the new embassy of Ukraine in Baku. As it can be seen, the political aspects of the history of the adjustment of the relations of both countries are greater. These processes are continued at the modern stage.

The current level of relations between our countries is based on the will of our peoples and heads of state. In this regard, the visit of the President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev to Ukraine on January 14, 2022, on the eve of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, can be evaluated as an indicator of the importance given to bilateral relations. This visit confirmed the strategic level of partnership between our friendly countries, gave it an additional impetus and raised our relations to a qualitatively new level. It is no coincidence that Volodymyr Zelensky called this visit historic. It should be noted that one of the first foreign visits of Zelensky, who was elected as the president of Ukraine in May 2019, was to Azerbaijan. [1] In the Joint Declaration signed at the end of the visit, the mutual support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and Ukraine within the internationally recognized borders, the expansion of cooperation in the military-technical field, and the attraction of mutual investments in various sectors of the economy of Azerbaijan and Ukraine were reflected. As part of the visit, bilateral documents were also signed in the fields of agriculture, transport, energy and trade [7].

These documents include the Agreement "On cooperation in the field of food security", "On urgent cooperation in bilateral trade", "On cooperation in the field of agriculture", "On cooperation in the field of energy" and "On cooperation in the field of land relations, state land management and state land cadastre". Memoranda of understanding should be specially mentioned. Of course, these documents will create a real basis for further deepening of relations in those areas. If earlier

the center of gravity in the relations between the two countries was based on the fuel and energy sector, today agreements in the field of food security and agriculture have come to the fore. Today, our country does not spare humanitarian aid in the ongoing war of the Ukrainian people. This is also the result of a great historical relationship that started with cultural ties

One of the promising areas for both countries is the cooperation of the countries in the energy sector, in which the Azerbaijani oil and gas company SOCAR plays an important role. The activities of its subsidiary "SOCAR Energy Ukraine" are aimed at improving the network of gas stations in Ukraine, as well as organizing the wholesale trade of gasoline and oil products. "SOCAR Energy Ukraine" imports aviation fuel to Ukraine from neighboring countries, mainly Belarus and Lithuania. "Reputation Activists" rating organization, which unites more than 650 companies in Ukraine, included SOCAR in the top three in the fuel industry of Ukraine in the category "Retail of petroleum products" in 2020. This is an important historical stage in the strategy and ideology of modern relations.

The range of cooperation between Azerbaijan and Ukraine is large and expanding every year: from economic cooperation to education. Trade and economic cooperation is an important component of bilateral relations. Last year, the trade turnover between the two countries reached about one billion US dollars. For comparison, note that in 2001, the trade turnover between the two countries was 53.7 million dollars. Azerbaijan has also invested about 1.2 billion dollars in the economy of Ukraine and actively participates in the implementation of important projects in Ukraine [6]. As an example, the overhaul of the 38-kilometer section of the M-01 Kyiv-Chernigov-Novi Yarilovichi highway can be cited. In recent years, about 200 companies with Ukrainian capital, including about 200 joint ventures operating in various fields, have been established in Azerbaijan.

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#### AZƏRBAYCAN-UKRAYNA MÜNASİBƏTLƏRİNİN TARİXİ XÜLASƏ

Ukrayna-Azərbaycan münasibətləri postsovet məkanı üçün çox maraqlı nümunədir. İki dövlət bu günə qədər qorunub saxlanılan və inkişaf etdirilən sabit münasibətlər qura bildi. Ukrayna hakimiyyətinin də bunda bizdən az maraqlı olmadığını görmək xoşdur. Bu, bərabər hüquqlu tərəfdaşlığın bariz nümunəsidir. İki ölkə arasında müasir münasibətlər humanitar yardım, ikitərəfli

və çoxtərəfli münasibətlərdə Ukraynanın dəstəklənməsi, digər ölkələrin bu ölkəyə yardım hərəkətinə qoşulması məsələlərini əhatə edir. Həmçinin bu gün, regional tarixi proseslərin sürətlə dəyişə biləcəyi ən çətin anlarda belə, Azərbaycan Ukrayna xalqına dəstəyini əsirgəmir.

**Açar sözlər:** strateji müttəfiqlik münasibətləri, Azərbaycan-Ukrayna diplomatik əlaqələrinin intensivliyi, mədəniyyətlərarası və sivilizasiyalararası dialoq platforması.

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## ИСТОРИЯ АЗЕРБАЙДЖАНО-УКРАИНСКИХ ОТНОШЕНИЙ

### *РЕЗЮМЕ*

Украинско-азербайджанские отношения представляют собой весьма интересный пример для постсоветского пространства. Двум государствам удалось наладить стабильные отношения, которые поддерживаются и развиваются по сей день. Приятно наблюдать, что украинские власти заинтересованы в этом не меньше азербайджанских. Это яркий пример равноправного партнерства. Современные отношения между двумя странами включают вопросы гуманитарной помощи народу Украины и продолжают деятельность для укрепления двустороннего взаимовыгодного сотрудничества. И даже сегодня, когда региональные исторические процессы быстро меняются — Азербайджан поддерживает и будет поддерживать Украину вне зависимости от всяких политических кризисов.

**Ключевые слова:** стратегические союзнические отношения, интенсивность азербайджано-украинских дипломатических отношений, межкультурная и междивизиационная диалоговая платформа.