

ІСТОРІЯ

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PROTECTING AND MAINTAINING OF RELIGIOUS VALUES SYSTEM IN AZERBAIJAN AND THE WORK DONE IN THIS DIRECTION

This article deals with the measures taken to protect national values in the Republic of Azerbaijan, as well as tolerance and multiculturalism. The fact that the Azerbaijani leadership has taken more effectively steps towards the institutionalization of our state's strategic principles in the field of multiculturalism has been reflected in the Decree of President Ilham Aliyev on February 28, 2014 establishing the Service of the State Counselor in accordance with interethnic, multiculturalism and religion. As part of a successful political course, Mr. Ilham Aliyev signed a Declaration on January 11, 2016 to announce the "Year of Multiculturalism" in order to preserve, further develop and expand the traditions of multiculturalism in Azerbaijan. Then, on March 11, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan issued a decree on the approval of the Action Plan in connection with the announcement of the "Year of Multiculturalism" and similar issues. One of the important issues is to bring up the younger generation in this spirit so that they can respect the different views, cultures and religions in society. From a young age, young people should learn to respect their peers, their national identity, their religious views, and their outlook. Thus, people should not only be aware of the important aspects of multiculturalism, but also be able to represent them in their actions. In this sense, modern education has little in common. The promotion of multiculturalism among young people is also progressive. In this regard, the work carried out by the Knowledge Foundation acting under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan in this area can be appreciated as well.

The adaptation features of ethnic and religious groups are different. Their living freely, without being assimilated, has become a precondition for the day as a head of stability and confidence. In this sense, modern multiculturalism is a matter that determines the state's social and cultural strategy. The article can be used for writing scientific research papers, preparation of textbooks, manuals and other generalized works on the history of Azerbaijan, lectures, seminars and thesis writing in the relevant faculties of higher and writing graduation papers.

Key words: religious values, Islamic culture, multiculturalism, "Baku process", tolerance.

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ЗАХИСТ І ПІДТРИМКА СИСТЕМИ РЕЛІГІЙНИХ ЦІННОСТЕЙ В АЗЕРБАЙДЖАНІ ТА РОБОТА, ЩО ВЕДЕТЬСЯ В ЦЬОМУ НАПРЯМІ

У статті йдеться про заходи, що вживаються для захисту національних цінностей в Азербайджанській Республіці, а також толерантність і мультикультуралізм. Те, що керівництво Азербайджану здійснило ефективніші кроки на шляху інституціоналізації стратегічних принципів нашої держави в галузі мультикультуралізму, відбито в Указі Президента Ільхама Алієва від 28 лютого 2014 року про створення Служби державного радника відповідно до міжнаціональних мультикультуралізму й релігії. У рамках успішного політичного курсу 11 січня 2016 року пан Ільхам Алієв підписав Декларацію про оголошення «року мультикультуралізму» з метою збереження, подальшого розвитку й розширення традиції мультикультуралізму в Азербайджані. Надалі, 11 березня 2016 року, Президент Азербайджанської Республіки видав указ про затвердження Плану дій у зв'язку з оголошенням «Року мультикультуралізму» й подібних заходів. Одне з важливих питань – виховувати молоде покоління в такому дусі, щоб вони могли поважати різні погляди, культури й релігії в суспільстві. З юних років молодь повинна навчитися поважати своїх ровесників, національну ідентичність, релігійні погляди й світогляд. Таким чином, люди повинні не тільки усвідомлювати важливі аспекти мультикультуралізму, але й бути здатними представляти їх у своїх діях. У цьому сенсі сучасна освіта має мало досягнень. Прогрес мультикультуралізму серед молоді розвинутий. У зв'язку із цим можна оцінити роботу, яку проводить Фонд знань при Президентові

Азербайджанської Республіки в цій галузі. Особливості адаптації етнічних і релігійних груп різні. Їхнє вільне життя без асиміляції стало необхідною умовою напередодні стабільності й впевненості. У цьому сенсі сучасний мультикультуралізм – це питання, яке визначає соціальну й культурну стратегію держави. Стаття може бути використана для написання науково-дослідних робіт, підготовки підручників, посібників та інших узагальнених праць з історії Азербайджану, лекцій, семінарів і написання дипломних робіт на відповідних факультетах вищих навчальних закладів і випускних робіт.

Ключові слова: релігійні цінності, ісламська культура, мультикультуралізм, «бакінський процес», толерантність.

The purpose of the topic. It consists of studying of historical aspects of religious policy, which is an important part of the national spiritual development strategy, studying the activities of the country's leadership as a whole in the protection and development of our national moral values, stages of development of state-religion relations in Azerbaijan, main directions of religious policy, the status of religious freedom and analyzing key aspects of religion policy in the country at the present stage, interfaith relations in the country, to study gained experience of tolerance and multiculturalism.

The object of the research is the religious policy pursued by the great leader Heydar Aliyev in Azerbaijan during his political leadership and the work done by Ilham Aliyev, the successor of this policy. The subject of the research is the issues of state-religion relations, national moral values, tolerance and interreligious dialogue.

Discussion. The expansion of migration further closes the intercultural connection and broadens the colorful landscape of the world with more colorful images. On the one hand, the revival of national moral values, at the same time, attempts to return to religious values raise awareness about the social status of religion in a democratic society, its role and place in society. It is clearly that religious values are at the forefront of humanity and justice. The first thing that drew people to the religion was its concept of calling for justice. Religion has become a symbol of humanism and humanity. But over time, the social stratification that solidified in society has been turned into an ideological tool to keep the oppressed. This process is not just about Islam, but it has shown that religious ideology has existed in Christianity, Judaism and other religions. Suffice it to remember the crusades, the Inquisition, of the Catholic Church. It is no coincidence that such actions did not allow Europe to penetrate other religions (Rüstəmov, 2007: 24).

For many years, the international community has accepted the Western development model as the only model of development for the future. It is no coincidence that as noted sociologist, founder of the theory of "culture shock" S. Huntington notes that Christianity is also one of the elements complementing

the historical and cultural heritage of Western civilization (Huntington, 2003: 109). He says that without Christianity, we cannot call this civilization the West. However, modern Western culture, based on its relationship with other cultures, is a key element of cultural development, and its thinking as a driving force of change. Until now, Western civilization has been considered as an example for countries around the world with its developmental tendencies and way of life.

The modernization of the world on the Western model has distanced Islam from political and social life over the past two hundred years. Religion and religious values have come to the forefront in people's lives. However, recent trends in the development of the world, the wide availability of information technology, the versatility and dynamic of human activity have radically changed the social and cultural atmosphere surrounding it. The homogeneity of the West, under the influence of heterogeneous tendencies of cultural diversity, has been shaped by new institutionalization, multilateral democracy, new economic and political organization (multiple centers). Religion has begun to penetrate in a sense, social life (Orucov, 2012a).

The realization of the ideas of multiculturalism in the East is also the answer to the challenges of modernity by the application of modern moral norms in public practice and by addressing Islamic traditions. Today, a new revivalist movement of Islam, which has been able to meet the requirements of modernity, has strengthened. This movement can help promote the ideas of tolerance among Muslims, promote a culture of peace, the realization of human rights, and the acceptance of cultural, religious and ethnic diversity. We can state proudly that state policy, such as multiculturalism carried out by the Republic of Azerbaijan, supports the realization of such ideas. (Soltanova, 2010).

Proponents of multiculturalism argue that equal development of multiple cultures can ensure stable development of the state. In this regard, the well-known Azerbaijani scientist Z. Guluzadeh notes that the concept of multiculturalism as a part of political ideology defines the legal and political needs of groups with different cultures, economic and political status,

and the existence of a stable structure, tolerance and harmony (Qurbanov, 2005).

Addressing those who consider the formation of a multicultural society in modern Europe unrealistic, Professor Nargiz Pashayeva, rector of the Baku branch of Moscow State University, says that the collapse of multiculturalism in Europe is actually another expression of multiculturalism. It can go bankrupt in social and political issues, as the “leading nation” is embracing its superiority with globalization. It can also exacerbate ethnic minorities and create a certain set of deficiencies. At the same time, social conflicts cannot be prevented. However, by explaining the concept of multiculturalism, it is possible to allow each individual to feel different, independent, by avoiding expressions that reflect humanity, human values, and prevent conflicts between common interests and individual interests, between the interests of the state and the world (Paşazadə, 1991).

Every country that supports multiculturalism is trying to be an example of new multiculturalism models. In recent years, Azerbaijan has attracted more attention from its peaceful life experience. In this sense, we can speak of own multiculturalism model of the Republic of Azerbaijan, proudly founded by Heydar Aliyev and successfully continued by Ilham Aliyev.

Although there are many Azerbaijanis today, our country is a multiethnic state. Azerbaijan is a historic homeland of nations such as Udins, Kyrgyz people, Khinalugs, Tat people, Talysh people, Lezgins, Avars, and Mountain Jews. There are many other national and cultural groups that came and lived during the Soviet era and beyond. Each group acts as a bearer of the unique values of its nation. Today only in Baku, there are more than 20 ethnic groups’ cultural societies.

National leader Heydar Aliyev laid the real base of ideas of multiculturalism. The laws of Azerbaijan, developed with his direct participation, do not allow one to prevail over the other, ensuring equal rights to each culture. Articles 25, 40, 44, 45, 46, 48 and a number of other articles of the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan shall preserve the culture, national identity, use of the mother tongue, protection of honor and dignity of all citizens provides equal access. He also said that our republic is in solidarity with all the principles adopted by the international community in this direction.

Multiculturalism also contributes to the enrichment of cultures. Located in the intersection of Eastern and Western cultures and enriched by the high spiritual values of these cultures, the Azerbaijani people have historically demonstrated an experience

that can be exemplary with their national heritage and traditions of tolerance. As a multinational and multiconfessional country, our republic is not shy talking about its experience in this field all over the world. Ilham Aliyev stated about multiculturalism: “Multiculturalism is the state policy and lifestyle of Azerbaijan. Today, Azerbaijan recently is one of the well-known centers of multiculturalism in the world. We concentrate on these issues because there are different approaches to the subject. Unfortunately, in some countries, multiculturalism collapsed and did not justify itself. These are the most disturbing statements and tendency. If this is really the case, this is a serious matter of debate. And in Azerbaijan, I think, we prove with our own policies and the state of society that multiculturalism is developing. It lives, strengthened, has deep roots, and is the only way for human development in the future” (<http://www.president.az/>).

As in all branch of our state’s life, intercultural relations and policies in the ethno-professional branch have achieved unprecedented success. At a time when there are quite complex political processes in the world, widespread economic crises and depressions, military conflicts, social and geopolitical conflicts are at the height of danger, Azerbaijan is not only an example for many developed countries, but also a model for many developed countries (Orucov, 2012b).

Council of Europe Council of Ministers of Culture Meeting held for the first time in Baku on the initiative of President Ilham Aliyev and the Ministers of Culture of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation were also invited. The event was of great political significance. For example, the Baku Declaration on the development of intercultural dialogue was initiated by Azerbaijan at this conference, which was attended by senior representatives of 48 countries, 8 international organizations and several international NGOs. In 2009, at the initiative of Azerbaijan, the Ministers of Culture of the Council of Europe were invited to the 6th Conference of Ministers of Culture of Islamic Countries in Baku. Thus, the “Baku process”, which provides for the development of dialogue between civilizations, has been established. This process promotes understanding, dialogue and tolerance among cultures and the establishment of respect and mutual understanding between cultures by supporting peace and tranquility forces to reduce religious and cultural tensions between nations and pursues such goals.

“The Baku Process” further stimulated the holding of the Summit of world leaders in Azerbaijan, intercultural dialogue and Baku International

Humanitarian Forums. Gradually the process has become a global phenomenon. Addressing the 65th session of the UN General Assembly in 2010, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev announced the next year the World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue in Baku. The Decree of President Ilham Aliyev has held the World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue every two years in Azerbaijan. So far, 3 World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue has been held in Baku. (I Forum 7–9 April 2011; II Forum May 29 – June 1, 2013; III Forum May 18–19, 2015). These forums were implemented in partnership with UNESCO, the Alliance of Civilizations of UNO, the Council of Europe, the North-South Center of the Council of Europe, ISESCO and the UN World Tourism Organization. Other important events in the Baku process are the World Religious Leaders' Summit held in our country on April 26–27, 2010, four International Humanitarian Forums (2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014) and 2011. The 7th Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations held on April 27th. By the way, holding the last event in Baku is of great importance for the further growth of the authority of the state of Azerbaijan, as well as recognition and promotion of the historical and cultural heritage of our people worldwide. At the same time, it expresses the interest of the world community to the unique multicultural model of Azerbaijan. In this sense, Ilham Aliyev has not mentioned in vain: "I think it is dangerous to present multiculturalism as a concept that has no future. On the contrary, if we stop our efforts, the world will be worse".

Numerous forums, conferences and meetings have been held in recent years under the leadership of Ilham Aliyev in the branch of promotion of the ideas of tolerance and multiculturalism. Among them the International Scientific Conference on "The Role of Religion and Belief in a Democratic Society: Exploring Ways to Combat Terrorism and Extremism" (Baku, 10–11 October 2002), "Religion and Democracy: Theory and Historical Practice" (Baku, June 21) 2004), International Conference on "Heydar Aliyev and Religious Policy in Azerbaijan: Realities and Perspectives" (Baku, April 3–4, 2007), 6–7 November 2009, Baku Summit of World Religious Leaders (April 26–27, 2010), Intercultural Dialogue Forum (Baku 2011), with the motto "XXI Century: Hope and Challenges". International Humanitarian Forum (Baku, October 10–11, 2011), The First International Baku Forum "State and Religion: Strengthening Tolerance in a Changing World" (December 19–21, 2012), Baku International Humanitarian Forum (October 2–3, 2014) should be emphasized (Orucov, 2012c).

Conducting such events in Baku once again confirms that it is important for all people and communities to live in a dialogue and that the experience of Azerbaijan is useful for many countries around the world. President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev said that the current situation and historical experience in our country allow it: "The history and the past of Azerbaijan show that this is possible. Today, as an independent country, Azerbaijan is a member of both the Council of Europe and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. Azerbaijan is one of the few countries that is a member of both organizations and is also an active member. To connect civilizations, world religions, and cooperation, I believe that our country is making significant efforts. The most important thing is that these efforts are yielding results. If this was not so experience of Azerbaijan would not be interesting in this branch" (Niftiyev, 2015a).

The leadership of Azerbaijan is taking more effectively steps to institutionalize the strategic principles of our state in the field of multiculturalism. President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev has created the Service of the State Advisor on Interethnic, Multiculturalism and Religious Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan on February 28, 2014. Today, this service operates as an important body that seeks to fill certain gaps that relate to the relevant aspects of the ideological life of the country.

The next important step in the policy of multiculturalism is about the establishment of the Baku International Center for Multiculturalism, which was signed by President Ilham Aliyev on May 15, 2014. The main purpose of the establishment of this center is to preserve and flourish the centuries-old tolerance, ethnic and cultural, religious diversity in our country, to promote Azerbaijan as the center of multiculturalism and to study and promote existing multicultural models. The Center implements various projects to study and promote the experience of our country in the branch of interethnic, interfaith and intercultural relations.

From the tribunal of the Forum of Leaders of the 38th Session of the UNESCO General Conference in Paris on November 17, 2015, President Ilham Aliyev's policy is to expose Armenia's vandalism policy: "As a result of the occupation more than 600 historical and architectural monuments of our country, 22 museums with 40,000 exhibits and 10 mosques were destroyed.<...> As a result of the occupation more than 600 historical and architectural monuments of our country, 22 museums with 40 000 exhibits and 10 mosques were destroyed. Nevertheless, you can see the Armenian Church restored by the Azerbaijani government in the center

of Baku today <...> Armenians have destroyed our historical heritage, but they cannot destroy our will. They cannot destroy the will of grandchild and great-grandson of refugees and internally displaced persons who want to return home, who were born in Baku and other cities of Azerbaijan, who have never seen their historical land, but live with a great desire to return to their homeland” (Niftiyev, 2015b).

Within the framework of a successful political course, Ilham Aliyev signed an Order on January 11, 2016 to announce the Year of Multiculturalism in January 2016, with the aim of preserving, developing and widely promoting the traditions of multiculturalism in Azerbaijan. Later, on March 11, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan approved the “Action’s Plan for declaring the Year of Multiculturalism”. This important state document sets the priorities of the Government of Azerbaijan in this area. In fact, the adoption of a comprehensive program, such as the “Action’s Plan” in the multicultural sphere, not only emphasizes the importance of our country in this regard, but also shows the institutional improvement of the state’s humanitarian policy and brings it to a qualitatively new level.

One of the important issues is to bring up the younger generation in this spirit so that they can respect the different views, cultures and religions in society. From a young age, young people should learn to respect their peers, their national identity,

their religious views, and their outlook. Thus, people should not only be aware of the important aspects of multiculturalism, but also be able to represent them in their actions. In this sense, modern education has little in common. The promotion of multiculturalism among young people is also progressive. In this regard, the work carried out by the Knowledge Foundation acting under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan in this area can be appreciated as well.

Scientific-theoretical and practical significance of the research. The article can be used for writing scientific research papers, preparation of textbooks, manuals and other generalized works on the history of Azerbaijan, lectures, seminars and thesis writing in the relevant faculties of higher and writing graduation papers.

Conclusion. Thus, events in the world are one of the factors that have a profound effect on the controversial nature of the cultural environment. The adaptation features of ethnic and religious groups are different. Their living freely, without being assimilated, has become a precondition for the day as a head of stability and confidence. In this sense, modern multiculturalism is a matter that determines the state’s social and cultural strategy. Thus, the protection of alternative, pluralism, and democratic views is essential in overcoming various social conflicts and creating stable development.

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